

Subject: 2-15-14 eBlast from Utah NRCS



April 15, 2014

NRCS RECOGNIZED FOR SUPPORT OF AMERICAN INDIAN STUDENT SUMMIT

The American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES) held the annual Leadership Summit, March 20-22, on the Santa Ana Reservation near Albuquerque. NRCS was a Circle of Support Sponsor at the Aventurine Level and for a third year provided sponsorship and a leadership session. A recognition award for the NRCS support was presented (see accompanying photo) by AISES CEO Sarah Ecohawk (Pawnee) to Utah NRCS Hydraulic Engineer Nathaniel Todea (Diné), representing NRCS.



Nearly 150 students from 48 college chapters across the U.S. and Canada attended the two-day meet. Todea organized a virtual interactive session titled "Being Anchored in a STEM Field". An all-American Indian panel participated in the session. The session was based on the book "*The World is Flat*" by Thomas Friedman. The concept of a shrinking world was reinforced by the level of live "Tweets" and other social media encouraged during the session. One of the presenters, IT Entrepreneur Gage Hutchens (Tsalagi-Cherokee) participated virtually via Skype. Presenter Serra Hoagland (a PhD student from No. Az. Univ.) said, "One of our main points was to emphasize the importance of indigenous viewpoints in a flat world and that their contribution is critical, not only to the health

and survival of our planet but our Native communities well. I was impressed and humbled by the students questions and their comments both during and after our session and I am confident that this next generation of young native scholars is destined to do many good things for Indian Country."

AISES is a national nonprofit organization which nurtures community development by bridging science and technology with traditional values. Through its educational programs, AISES provides opportunities for American Indians and Alaska Natives to pursue studies in the science, engineering, and technology arenas. AISES' ultimate goal is to be a catalyst for the advancement of American Indians and Native Alaskans as they become self-reliant and self-determined members of society. For more information about AISES go to www.aises.org.

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