

Francis, Ronald - Salt Lake City, UT

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NATHANIEL TODEA RECEIVES NATIONAL ENGINEERING RECOGNITION

Nathaniel Todea, NRCS State Hydraulic Engineer, recently was recognized as the 2008 Most Promising Scientist/Engineer by the American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES) at their 30th anniversary conference in Anaheim, California. This recognition was also reported in *NRCS This Week* at

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/news/thisweek/2008/111908/home.htm>. Nathaniel serves on the NRCS National Civil Rights Committee as American Indian Male representative. He has recognized a fundamental commonality between the NRCS mission, Navajo ideology, and his personal beliefs about the importance of harmony between people and their natural environment. He not only is committed to excellence and high quality work as a hydraulic engineer but also as a recruiting cadre member for NRCS. He earned his M.S. in Civil Engineering from the University of New Mexico and a B.A. in Anthropology from Fort Lewis College.



AISES (<http://www.aises.org/>) mission statement is to increase substantially the representation of American Indian and Alaskan Natives in engineering, science and other related technology disciplines. State Conservationist of California, Ed Burton (shown with Nathaniel in the accompanying photo), Noller Herbert, NRCS Director for Conservation Engineering, and the NRCS AISES recruiting cadre members were at the Honors Banquet to celebrate the presentation of the award to Nathaniel. Over 900 college students attended the Honors Banquet and had an opportunity to hear about Nathaniel and what he does for NRCS. A "Shinning Moment" for NRCS.

Nathaniel was nominated by NRCS National Special Emphasis Program Manager for American Indian Alaska Natives, Dr. Carol Crouch and received letters of recommendation from the following state conservationists: Joyce Swartzendruber, Maine; Sylvia Gillen, Utah and Roylene Rides at the Door, Washington. Nathaniel competed against engineers from across the Nation. The criteria for the Most Promising Engineer or Scientist was evaluated on the following: uniqueness and or innovation of contributions to organization; leadership abilities and/or initiative; professional and technical

achievement to date; potential for advancement; involvement with the American Indian/Alaskan Native community and presentation of nomination package. Furthermore the nominee must be a professional engineer or scientist with less than five years experience after earning his/her last degree. Finally, the candidate's early technical contributions should already indicate a promising career. Dr. Crouch said Nathaniel is a fine example of our leadership for the future. Interestingly enough, past recipients have been in academia or the corporation sector. This is the first time a Civil Engineer or federal employee has been recognized for this award.

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