2015: Year in review

**Lunches:** Food brings people together. Spring semester our program hosted lunch for our students once a month. This provided an opportunity for our students to get to know other native students in the College of Forestry and Conservation. It also provided an opportunity to share information about campus and community events. One of the best parts of the lunches was it got our undergraduate and graduate students talking. They shared their experiences in academics, research, and work. Our undergraduate students also benefitted by being able to ask our graduate students about their reasons for pursuing graduate degrees, the process of applying for graduate school, and their funding.

This fall we also invited guests from across campus and within our community. We were fortunate to have Kevin Kicking Woman (Tribal Outreach Coordinator, College of Humanities and Sciences), Nathan Domitrovich (Office of Student Success), Darlene Samson (TriO), Roberta Steele (Rocky Mountain Research Station, U.S. Forest Service), Kelly Webster (UM Writing Center), Brian Chaffin (faculty, College of Forestry and Conservation), and Shonna Trowbridge (Director of Student Services, College of Forestry and Conservation).

**Signage:** To help make our college a more welcoming place for our native students and give them a sense of belonging, we are working on tribal signage within our building. Tribal languages will be posted alongside other signage in the building. (moose and wolf).

**Native Cultural Competency Series:** There are many other people within the College that have direct contact with students. Interactions with staff, faculty, and administrators can have a significant impact on our students. Our program collaborated with the College of Humanities and Sciences to provide professional development opportunities for the people within our students’ academic support system specifically related to developing cultural competency for working with native students. We offered a Native Cultural Competency Series consisting of four workshops developed around questions staff and faculty had regarding serving native students.

**Indigenous Peoples Day:** I worked with the Associated Students of the University of Montana and the Missoula City Council to pass resolutions acknowledging the second Monday of October as Indigenous Peoples Day. Read the [UM resolution](#).

In 2005, a seed was planted and the Native American Natural Resources Program (NANRP) within the College of Forestry and Conservation was started to provide support and help foster success among Native American undergraduate and graduate students. Since then the program has recruited students, provided tutoring, offered individualized advising, and mentored Native American students. The program was dormant for one year (2013-2014).

Beginning in the spring of 2014, NANRP became active again and has started to provide those same services to Native American students in the College of Forestry and Conservation. The NANRP has worked to provide activities and opportunities for our students within our college and also increase the awareness of native students and native student issues across campus.
Student updates

This summer one of our students, Avery Old Coyote (Crow, Salish, Nez Perce) worked at Lolo National Forest as the Nez Perce Trail Interpreter. He also worked for NANRP this fall as a work study student and helped develop the tribal timelines for our Tribal Tree Cookie project.

This summer another of our students, Roberta Arnoux (Blackfeet) was hired by the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation Service. She has continued to work for them part-time as their tribal liaison. Read about a tree planting at Blackfeet College on Arbor Day, organized by Roberta (Glacier Reporter, Sept. 2015).

This spring Dylan DesRosier (Blackfeet) graduated with his master’s degree from the CFC. Shortly after graduation he was hired by The Nature Conservancy, returning home to East Glacier to work as a land protection specialist. This spring Casey Ryan (Salish) also earned his master’s degree from the CFC. He was hired by Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribe’s Natural Resources Department.

This spring Jennifer Harrington (Chippewa) earned her bachelor’s degree from CFC. She was awarded a fellowship through the Sloan Indigenous Graduate Program and will be pursuing her master’s degree under the advisement of Dr. John Goodburn in our College of Forestry and Conservation.

Spring potluck: Bonner Park (May)
At the end of spring semester we had a potluck to celebrate the end of another academic year. We had students, staff, faculty, and an administrator from the college attend.

TCU visits: This spring I visited four tribal colleges in Montana. Blackfeet Community College, Chief Dull Knife College, Little Bighorn College, Fort Peck Community College. Two of the tribal college visits were in collaboration with Aaron Thomas (Chemistry/ISEE), Ke Wu (Mathematics), Roy Lee Bundy (American Indian Student Services), Nathan Domitro维奇 (Office of Student Success), and Holly Wright (UM Financial Education Program).

Veteran’s Day: Native Americans hold veterans in high regard. As the smallest ethnic group in the American population, Native Americans on a per capita basis provide more members to the Armed Forces than any other population sector. We collaborated with the Native American Studies Department and American Indian Student Services to host a Native American veteran’s recognition at the Native American Center (with help from the UM VETS office). The CFC also acknowledged our college’s veterans by posting submitted pictures of our vets and feeding them a lunch to thank them for their service.

Upcoming activities - spring 2016

In addition to providing support services for our college’s Native American students, I have worked with other programs across campus to address diversity and Native American issues. I have been active in the Diversity Advisory Council, DiverseU planning committee, and the American Indian Student Development Council. I am an institutional steering committee member for the COSMOS program which provides mentoring opportunities for Native Americans in graduate STEM programs. I also attended the American Indigenous Research Association annual conference.

This spring semester we will again be awarding our Distinguished Native American Alumni Award. We are seeking nominations for this award; please submit your nomination to Ruth Swaney ruth.swaney@mso.umt.edu.

We are also working with the Blackfeet ledger artist, John Pepion, to create a logo for our program. We are also recruiting students for a paid internship at Yellowstone National Park. The interns will work with NPS employees and volunteers.

American Indian Heritage Day: In celebration of American Indian Heritage Day I worked with the Missoula City Council to issue a proclamation acknowledging American Indian Heritage Day. The College of Forestry and Conservation partnered with spectrUM and SciNation to set up exhibits outside of our building that day. Over 100 children from Missoula schools participated.

American Indian Heritage Month: In celebration of American Indian Heritage Month we hosted two American Indian professionals in the field of natural resources to give seminars about the work they do: Roberta Arnoux and Loretta Stevens.

Resources for Native American Students at UM
American Indian Student Services www.umt.edu/aiss; 406-243-6306
Kyijo: Native American Student Association hs.umt.edu/kyijo
American Indian Gateway www.umt.edu/agiw; 406-243-6787
Native American Studies Program hs.umt.edu/nas; 406-243-5831
Payne Family Native American Center hs.umt.edu/ncps
Native American Center of Excellence: Skaggs School of Pharmacy health.umt.edu/naceo
Indigenous Research and STEM Education www.umt.edu/grad/irsec
TRIO Student Support Services www.umt.edu/trioss; 406-243-5032
We provide students with mentoring and advising assistance

We give students a place to belong

We help students find jobs

Native American student enrollment in the CFC has been on a steady increase since the inception of NANRP in 2005. Fifty-four percent of the college’s Native American students transfer here from another school; 35% come from tribal colleges.

Recent graduate Casey Ryan working on his thesis research at Lubrecht Forest.

Native American NATURAL RESOURCE PROGRAM
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406-243-5521
www.cfc.umt.edu/resources/nanrp