

Francis, Ronald - Salt Lake City, UT

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## AMERICAN INDIAN SCHOLARSHIP READING BIG SUCCESS

Representatives from the Bureau of Land Management (1), Bureau of Reclamation (4), University of Utah (1), and NRCS (17) all participated recently in the American Indian Science and Engineering Society Scholarship (AISES) reading and ranking at the Utah NRCS State Office. The scholarship ranking and reading was made for the A.T. Anderson Scholarship which is one of five scholarships that AISES provides. It is estimated that 75 to 100 scholarships will be awarded this school year. Undergraduates will receive \$1000 and graduate students will receive \$2000.

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 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](http://www.aises.org). Typical students are enrolled to become a biologist, natural resources specialist, environmental scientist, geologist, business manager, archaeologist or engineer.

NRCS Hydraulic Engineer Nathaniel Todea reports the reading was a success. The AISES organization provided the ranking sheets, copies of college transcripts, personal essays, and letters of recommendation. The students were ranked on the above documents as well as GPA, academic record, career plans, extracurricular activities, leadership, awards, recognition, work experience and overall impressions. Todea said "I was impressed with the turn out, attendees overall positive comments, quick turnaround of reading/ranking that only lasted for 1.5 hours, and I hope participants learned something new about current American Indian issues." Plans are being made to have another scholarship reading next year, hopefully in one of the Area offices.



NRCS participants (and others so noted) are shown in the accompanying photo (left to right): Melanie Green, Teresa Wilde, Marie-Celesta Gonnella, Christene Staley, Marnie Wilson, Julie Nelson, Laurie Hofmann, Karen Fullen, Beverly Fentor (University of Utah), David Hanson, Nathaniel Todea, Jonathan Tufuga, Hue Dang, Ryan Pierce, Shane Green, Brad Perry (BOR), James Huggard, Gayla Pressett, Travis James, Larry Walden (BOR), Heidi Hadley (BLM), Kent Sutcliffe, and Stan Powers (BOR).

 Periodic news reports from NRCS Utah

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**Sylvia Gillen, State Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service**

125 S. State St., Salt Lake City, UT 84138; (801) 524-4550; (801) 524-4403 - fax; [www.ut.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.ut.nrcs.usda.gov)

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