

Subject: 3-19-10 eBlast from NRCS



March 19, 2010

NRCS PARTICIPATES IN NATIONAL AMERICAN INDIAN SCIENCE & ENGINEERING FAIR

NRCS was a major sponsor at the March 11-13 National American Indian Science and Engineering Fair in Albuquerque. More than 258 5th through 12th grade students participated in the learning event sponsored by the American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES). Volunteer judges reviewed subject disciplines that included engineering, animal science, plant science, environmental



science and earth science. 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. Typical students are enrolled to become biologists, natural resources specialists, environmental scientists, geologists, business

managers, archaeologists or engineers.

Among the NRCS employees on hand to support the event were Carol Crouch, Oklahoma District Conservationist and collateral duty National Special Emphasis Program Manager American Indian Program Manager (SEPM-AIPM), and Nathaniel Todea, Utah State Office Hydraulic Engineer and National Civil Rights Committee American Indian Male Representative. They presented NRCS American Indian Alaska Native Employee (AINAEA) and Oklahoma Tribal Conservation Advisory Council (OTCAC) \$100 cash awards to six students in Earth & Planetary Sciences, Environmental Sciences, and Plant Sciences. Special thanks go to Oklahoma, Utah, and New Mexico for providing personnel to attend and help American Indian youth pursue dreams in science and technology. Eight students who were awarded Grand Award winners will be advanced to the International Science Fair in hopes of advancing to the International Science Fair. The accompanying photos show NRCS employees (top) attending the event, and the eight Grand Award winning students who advance to

the International Science Fair. Photos and report were provided by Utah NRCS Staffer Nathaniel Todea (second from right).

 *Periodic news reports from NRCS Utah*

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