

Subject: 3-15-12 eBlast from Utah NRCS



March 15, 2012

### NRCS SPONSORS AMERICAN INDIAN LEADER SUMMIT

NRCS was a full circle of support sponsor at the National American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES) Leadership Summit, held recently on the Santa Ana Reservation near Albuquerque. Nathaniel Todea, NRCS hydraulic engineer from Utah, organized and participated in two sessions at both the college student and professional sessions. The college session was titled "Reading the Stars (Laws) --Traditional Ecological Knowledge for Leadership" and the professional session was titled "Intertwining Leadership Competencies and Traditional Ecological Knowledge".

The college session that include more than 100 undergraduates and graduate students from 33 colleges nationwide and from Canada. Dr. Carol Crouch, Oklahoma district conservation and National American Indian Program Manager, and Richard Vigil, NRCS management analyst from Utah, contributed to both sessions facilitated by NRCS. The accompanying photo (top) shows Richard Vigil speaking to the group. Norm Vigil, New Mexico assistant state conservation for programs, provided perspectives from his heritage at the professional session.



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](http://www.aises.org).

"The summit was great", said Todea and added, "I remember sitting down with an electrical engineer, mining engineer, economics, and physics students and discussing efficiencies of systems, resources

needed to develop systems and the need for more efficiencies; it was great seeing brainstorming and being part of the conversation.”

*Periodic news reports from NRCS Utah*



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