

TRIBAL MEMBER NEWS



Tiffany Wisdom and her second-grade classroom dress up during Kansas Day. Students learned about Kansas history for the state's birthday on Jan. 29. (photos courtesy of Tiffany Wisdom)



Lynn Beets (Haskell professor), Elliot Bryant (Haskell senior, NASA Ambassador, Navajo), Sandra Begay-Campbell (engineer, Navajo), and Tiffany Wisdom (Haskell senior, NASA Ambassador, Siletz) get ready to speak at the NASA Pre-Service Teachers Conference in Alexandria, Va.



Tiffany Wisdom speaks at the NASA Pre-Service Teachers Conference.

Wisdom Finishes Student Teaching

by Tiffany Wisdom (tiffany.wisdom@yahoo.com)

I am at the end of the race for the School of Education Program at Haskell Indian Nations University. I have been student teaching full time since January in second grade.

I have been in that classroom since the first day of school in August while attending college classes. Throughout April, I will slowly give subjects back to the cooperating teacher to start teaching again.

I taught my students about Kansas history, amphibians and reptiles, presidents, spelling, math and the list goes on. I was able to not only educate my students on Native American history – past and present – but I also was able to shine light on my fellow teachers at the school.

For example, we were reading a book (that all second-grade classrooms read across Kansas) and the Osage people came to save this family. I presented to the entire second-grade teachers in the district on Osage Indians and appropriate curriculum to incorporate.

I did my research at the Haskell library, Native American Student Service for the School (JOM/Title VI) Program and the public library. I created my own curriculum to use for my students, such as the uses of a buffalo, Osages now and then, patterns on their clothes and reservation maps changing over time.

In most districts, the materials are so general and stereotypical. Natives **need** to start creating their own curriculum and posting it on the Web.

I have taken my Elementary Education – Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment Test and passed! I took the PLT – Principals of Learning and Teaching – which is required in almost all states to teach. I will receive my score right before I graduate in May. Now I am preparing to defend my standards and rationales before the School of Education Board, one of the last steps to be certified.

I would like to thank God for his wonderful blessing on my family and me during my education. There were rough times and good times. This testimony of wanting to quit but someone saying “Keep going, you are almost there” helped me through my years. And for all those who kept me in your prayers – thank you. I believe after I surrendered my whole self to God, he then started to reveal the knowledge and understanding I needed.

I would like to thank my dad, Thomas Stuart, for coming to share with my students about his 36 years working for GM Fairfax for Labor Day speakers. Also thanks, Dad, for coming to my classroom for all the special events.

Thanks to my husband, Mike; stepson, Jake; my brothers, Thomas and Tim Stuart; and my parents, Thomas and Marlene Stuart, for visiting my classroom during open house. Thank you to my Aunt Val and Uncle Larry Hibdon for visiting my classroom when you were in Kansas.

I have worked five years toward my degree in elementary education for myself, my family (Wisdoms, Stuarts, Rilatos, Butlers, Bens and Simmons), my ancestors and all the people who are unable to receive an education in this world. I invite you to my graduation on May 9, 2008, at 10 a.m. at Haskell Indian Nations University – Stadium in Lawrence, Kan.

“Jesus said to him, If you can believe, all things are possible to him that believes” – Mark 9:23

Hvm'chi

Wisdom speaks at NASA Conference

by Tiffany Wisdom

The NASA Pre-Service Teachers (PST) conference was held Feb. 14-15 in Alexandria, Va. This three-day conference was filled with motivating workshops and speakers, a career fair and fun.

I was selected two months ago by NASA to represent the Johnson Space Center (JSC) at the conference. I attended the NASA JSC Pre-service Teachers Institute (PSTI) last summer. After accepting the roll as a NASA Ambassador, I was asked to speak on behalf of the Johnson Space Center NASA PST Summer Institute 2007 in Houston, Texas. During this all-expense-paid trip, I was able to visit Washington, D.C., meet new educators and gain new knowledge.

The day before the conference, NASA had the ambassadors busy setting up for the conference. As a treat for all our work, the ambassadors had an opportunity to see the sights in Washington, D.C. We visited the Capital, White House, Washington Monument, Lincoln Memorial, and the Vietnam Memorial.

Sandra Begay-Campbell was the keynote speaker on the second day of the conference. She is a scientist and a tribal member of the Navajo Nation. She is currently a technical staff at Sandia National Laboratories.

Ms. Begay-Campbell was introduced by my good friend Elliot Bryant. He is from the Navajo Nation and a senior in the School of Education Program at Haskell Indian Nations University. The emcee was Lynn Beets, School of Education professor at Haskell. Mrs. Beets is the professor who helped Haskell with its attendance to NASA.

During my speech about my summer experience at the NASA PTI, I shared the three things that were beneficial to me: making standards-based lesson plans, touring the Johnson Space Center and learning new useful tools for the classroom.

I used hand motions with the entire crowd to get them involved with my presentation. As a teacher, I believe making the information memorable by using

my hands as a kinesthetic learner. I was able to encourage all students, especially Native students, to attend this summer institute at one of the six NASA locations in the United States. Approximately 800 students were in attendance and 20 Native American students.

It was an honor to be with Ms. Begay-Campbell, a famous scientist and Native sister. If you want to learn more about her as a scientist or show a short video to your classroom for **free**, visit <http://pbskids.org/dragonflytv/scientists/index.html> (look for Sandra Begay-Campbell, renewable energy scientist).

I learned about this source at the PBS workshop. I received so much information that I brought it back to my education club and posted it on the club's Facebook group – KNEA-SP Haskell Indian Nations University Chapter (www.facebook.com).

Haskell students stayed an extra day to visit the American Indian Smithsonian. The new exhibit, Native Women's Dresses, was a wonderful exhibit. This place made me feel so proud of my heritage and culture. I had a great time being a judge at the talent show, meeting new people, and representing the Johnson Space Center, Haskell Indian Nations University and the Siletz people.

If you have questions, are interested in attending the NASA Pre-Service Teachers Institute in the summer or are interested in other teaching resources, please e-mail me at tiffany.wisdom@yahoo.com. Hvm'chi