

Native Network Launches New Website for Native People, Organizations

By Nicholas Belgard

Oct. 12, 2009, marked a very special day as www.NativeNetwork.org announced the official launch of Native Network 2.0, the world's No. 1 online community created for First Nations Native, Aboriginal, and Indigenous Peoples, Tribal organizations, businesses, and affiliates across the globe.

If you are familiar with MySpace or Facebook, you will feel right at home, finding many similar features including photo albums, music, video, classified ads, blogs and events.

We have been hard at work in our initial phase of development and will roll out many new features in the coming months, including custom profiles, na-

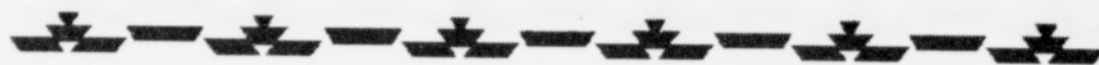
tive network mobile, business directory, advertising, RSS feeds, maps, games and much more.

Please check out the site, browse around and become part of the network by using the "Signup today!" link on the home page.

We are very excited about the future of Native Network and thank you all for

your support. Thanks for checking out the new site. We look forward to meeting you all at www.NativeNetwork.org.

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AISES Comes to Portland with Speakers, Career Fair, Pow-Wow and More

By Tiffany Wisdom

The American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES) Conference was held this year in Portland, Ore., on Oct. 29-31. I had the opportunity to chaperon Nez Perce youth – Stella Penny and Morgan Sublett.

We listened to powerful speakers, toured the Portland State University (PSU) campus and Native American Student Center, and attended educational workshops and a career fair.

One of the speakers was Winona LaDuke, an enrolled member of the Mississippi Band of Anishinaabe (Ojibwe). This Harvard graduate ran for vice-president with Ralph Nader in 1996 and 2000.

Winona spoke about current problems and what we can do about them. As a green activist, she promotes the use of windmills, solar panels and even cars that run on grease by using them in her life and helping others to use them.

She shared about the abundance of nutrition in traditionally grown foods for diabetics and all people.

"Winona LaDuke seemed like she really believed in what she was doing," said Stella.

Many other famous speakers and guest were at the conference, including John Harrington, first American Indian in space, and Sandra Begay-Campbell (Navajo), principal member of the technical staff at Sandia National Laboratories, where she leads technical efforts in the Renewable Energy Program to assist Tribes.

It was good to hear Nez Perce Elder Horace Axtell and Nez Perce Tribal member Solo Green speak and lead our youth.

Among the familiar faces at AISES were Dave Hatch (Siletz), a volunteer, and Bob Tom (Grand Ronde) as the pow-wow emcee. I met Jennifer Sanchez (Grand Ronde and Siletz) and learned about her experience at PSU during our tour.

Sapsik'walá Project

I visited with my good friend and Haskell University alumni Elliot Bryant (Navajo) and other students in the Sapsik'walá Project at the University of Oregon. All of them were from the Southwest, so we talked about the rich Siletz culture and the opportunities they have while they are in Oregon.

The Sapsik'walá Project benefits so many Native communities and children. I was proud that our Tribe donates and supports this program. We were all able to attend the teaching workshops sponsored by IBM.

There were 500+ booths at the career fair. Companies such as NASA, 3M, IBM, Boeing, Intel, Motorola, Navy, USDA, GE, Bonneville Power Administration and Google were recruiting for young innovative minds.

Post-secondary institutions such as Harvard, Yale, University of Oregon, University of Idaho and Northwest Indian College also were recruiting.

A special thanks to Auntie Shirley Walker (Siletz Honorary Whip Woman)



Stella Penney (Nez Perce), Tiffany Wisdom (Siletz), and Morgan Sublett (Nez Perce) participate in the AISES Pow-Wow 2009 in Portland.

Courtesy photo from Tiffany Wisdom

for your hospitality at your house. I had a great time with our future leaders and was able to see that we have gifted youth who can lead a thriving community.

"The best part of the conference was meeting so many new Native people. It

was so interesting to learn about other cultures. I came back home with so many new friendships and ideas. It was so inspirational to think about things our own Tribe could do to better our Mother Earth and our own people," said Morgan.

Wisdom Participates in Native Awareness Month on Nez Perce Rez



Courtesy photo from Tiffany Wisdom

Tiffany Wisdom (Siletz) teaches traditional games to elementary students on the Nez Perce reservation after telling our Tribal stories.

By Tiffany Wisdom

The Nez Perce reservation has had various presentations from the east side to the west of the rez. This year, assemblies were given for Orofino and Kooskia. Cultural Awareness Fairs were given in Lapwai and Kamiah.

At the Kooskia Native American Cultural Awareness assembly, I had the pleasure of inviting and participating with the Lapwai youth and area NP Elders words of wisdom – Steve Reuben and Lydia Angle. The Native students at the school also had the opportunity to pow-wow dance.

Class presentations were given by Jim Spencer (Nez Perce and our counselor), Roger Amerman (Choctaw, University of Oregon graduate) and me, completing research on the Wampanoag Natives who inhabited the Massachusetts area where the European colonist first settle and had the so-called "Thanksgiving."

Check out the website www.plimoth.org/ to learn about the true thanksgiving and the similarities to our Siletz ways and the East Coast Natives.

I learned a lot to make the Thanksgiving celebration at our school appropriate and a true remembrance of our country's past.

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