



**Sandia  
National  
Laboratories**

# **Tribal Colleges and Universities/Advanced Manufacturing Network Initiative**

## **Phase II Sandia Technical Assistance**

### **FY21 Q4 Progress Report**

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Energy Storage Technology and Systems Department

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## ACRONYMS AND DEFINITIONS

Abbreviation	Definition
ABET	Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology
AIHEC	American Indian Higher Education Consortium
AM	advanced manufacturing
AMNI	advanced manufacturing network initiative
BMCC	Bay Mills Community College
CAD	Computer Aided Design
CCCC	Cankdeska Cikana Community College
COVID-19	corona virus disease 2019
EAB	Engineering Advisory Board
ENR	Engineering
GPS	Global positioning system
MSIPP	Minority Serving Institution Partnership Plan
NPC	Navigation Pointing & Control
NNSA	National Nuclear Security Agency
NTU	Navajo Technical University
R&D	research and development
ROV	remotely operated vehicle
SKC	Salish Kootenai College
STEM	science, technology, engineering, and mathematics
TCUs	Tribal Colleges and Universities
TMCC	Turtle Mountain Community College
UTTC	United Tribes Technical College

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

The National Nuclear Security Agency (NNSA) initiated the Minority Serving Institution Partnership Plan (MSIPP) to 1) align investments in a university capacity and workforce development with the NNSA mission to develop the needed skills and talent for NNSA's enduring technical workforce at the laboratories and production plants, and 2) to enhance research and education at under-represented colleges and universities. Out of this effort, MSIPP launched a new consortium in early FY17 focused on Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs) known as the Advanced Manufacturing Network Initiative (AMNI). This consortium has been extended for FY20 and FY21. The following report summarizes the status update during this quarter.

## **2. TRIBAL COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES—ADVANCED MANUFACTURING NETWORK INITIATIVE**

The overall goal of the AMNI consortium is to establish a network of TCUs with essential advanced manufacturing (AM) facilities, associated training and education programs, and private sector and federal agency partnerships to both prepare an American Indian AM workforce and create economic and employment opportunities within Tribal communities through design, manufacturing, and marketing of high-quality products. Some examples of high-quality products involve next generation electrical grid components such as mechanical energy storage, cabling for energy distribution, and electrochemical energy storage enclosures. Sandia National Laboratories (Sandia) is tasked to provide technical advising, planning, and academic program development support for the TCU/American Indian Higher Education Consortium (AIHEC) Advanced Manufacturing Project. The TCUs include Bay Mills Community College (BMCC), Cankdeska Cikana Community College (CCCC), Navajo Technical University (NTU), Salish Kooteani College (SKC), Turtle Mountain Community College (TMCC) and United Tribes Technical College (UTCC). Sandia worked closely with NTU and AIHEC to provide a meaningful AM Summer Institute for the summer 2020. The goal of the program is to make American Indian students aware of career opportunities in advanced manufacturing science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) . Sandia provides technical assistance to each of the TCUs regarding their current AM activities. The following provides a brief status update on Sandia's contributions to each of the TCUs this quarter.

### **2.1. Bay Mills Community College**

Bay Mills Community College (BMCC) is a two-year tribal college chartered by the federally recognized Bay Mills Indian Community of Michigan. The school is in Brimley, Michigan. Bay Mills' R&D focus area is on composite materials, thermoplastic fiber and resin, design and optimization through finite element analysis, and material characterization.

The COVID-19 restrictions played a major role in delaying plans to visit Bay Mills for outreach and R&D assessment activities. However, conversations with Bay Mills are on-going regarding advanced materials and characterization.

On Nov 16, 2020, Sandia engineers, Stan Atcity and Don Bender (Principle System Engineer in the System Surety Engineering department) provided technical assistance on analyzing composite materials and highlighting Sandia's interest in this technology. Sandia's interests include any technology objective entailing composite material development or modeling. No technical assistance collaboration took place during this quarter.

### **2.2. Cankdeska Cikana Community College**

Cankdeska Cikana Community College (CCCC) is a tribal college in Fort Totten, North Dakota on the Spirit Lake Reservation. CCCC is focused on remotely operated vehicles (ROV), built using advanced manufacturing techniques, for environmental sensing and data analysis. Students at CCCC utilize Solid Works and Solid Professor software tools, and 3D prototype printing. No technical assistance collaboration took place during this quarter.

## **2.3. Navajo Technical University**

Navajo Technical University (NTU) is a tribally controlled postsecondary career and technical institution in Crownpoint, New Mexico. Two smaller campuses are in Chinle, Arizona and Teec Nos Pos, Arizona. The NTU campuses are located on the Navajo Reservation. NTU's activity is focused on AM metal parts, certification of 3D metal printed parts, and inspection methodologies and techniques including equipment operation and optical metrology including testing and characterization of materials.

Sandia manager, Karen McDaniel and technologist Deidre Pine, a Computer Aided Design (CAD) and Drafting Specialist, out of the Tester Development & Use Control Design Department, provided an information session at the NTU campus on February 21, 2020. The presentations focused on a high-level overview of Sandia, background on Tester Development & Use Control Design department, Creo 3D modeling, 3D printing, and mechanical and electrical design concepts. Ten NTU students and three faculty members attended the meeting. Student contacts were made, and future collaborations are on-going.

Stan Atcity continues to lead the Engineering Advisory Board (EAB) for NTU. Stan has been serving as Chair of EAB since 2014. Since the receiving of the Accreditation Board of Engineering and Technology (ABET), the NTU EAB function has been focused on sustaining the ABET accreditation and strategically expanding programs to include other disciplines like Chemical and Mechanical Engineering. NTU is the first TCU to obtain such a significant milestone. The spring 2020 meeting was held via teleconference on June 11, 2020. The fall meeting was held on October 15, 2020 via teleconference meeting. The spring 2021 meeting was held via teleconference on April 08, 2021. From spring 2020 through spring 2021, COVID-19 restrictions were still in full force at the university so face-to-face meetings were restricted. No technical assistance collaboration took place during this quarter.

## **2.4. Salish Kootenai College**

Salish Kootenai College (SKC) is a tribal college based in Pablo, Montana that serves the Bitterroot Salish, Kootenai, and Pend d'Oreilles tribes. The SKC campus is on the Flathead Reservation.

SKC encourages students to become technicians, engineers, and scientists by providing training to use advanced manufacturing equipment in its digital fabrication laboratory. SKC's AM program is focused on computer control and monitoring and digital fabrication. The students at SKC utilized their expertise in computer control and monitoring to build submersible ROV, which they used for ecological research. The SKC AM team worked closely with SKC's Wildlife and Fishery's STEM program to monitor various fish species in a nearby lake. Their advanced-manufactured ROV proved so useful in monitoring fish species that they built an additional submersible ROV for future ecological research.

In spring 2021, the Sandia team was planning to travel to SKC to get project updates and provide outreach activities at nearby high school, but the trip was cancelled due to the COVID-19 situation. No technical assistance collaboration took place during this quarter.

## **2.5. Turtle Mountain Community College**

Turtle Mountain Community College (TMCC) is a tribal college located in Belcourt, North Dakota. TMCC was founded by the Turtle Mountain Band of Ojibwa in 1972. There are over 25,000

enrolled members, 34 percent of whom live on or near the Tribe's 86,989 acres. One of TMCC's major focus area is on AM ROVs for environmental sensing and characterization. Furthermore, TMCC is increasing its work in material science and 3D printable materials.

TMCC held a teleconference with Steve Burger and Anup Parikh, both mechanical engineers from Sandia's Robotics & Counter Robotics department, on January 09, 2020. The conversation focused on design considerations for an environmental sampling module that can be mounted externally to a variety of unmanned vehicles. Additionally, Sandia provided guidance on global positioning system (GPS) design approaches and data logging techniques.

No technical assistance collaboration took place during this quarter.

## **2.6. United Tribes Technical College**

United Tribes Technical College (UTTC) is located in Bismarck, North Dakota (ND). It was established in 1969 by an association of ND's Native tribes and offers certificate programs and two-year degrees in over 20 programs of study. UTTC's Pre-Engineering program was notified on September 24, 2020, that they were the recipient of a grant from AIHEC and the NNSA's AM Initiative. Ms. Alexa Azure, a faculty member at UTTC, is the principal investigator for the grant. Since the notification, Ms. Azure began working with the other five TCUs under the MSIPP program to design laboratories and develop associated curriculum for their AM activities .

One of the courses offered at UTTC is ENR 116 Introduction to Engineering, which covers a variety of engineering disciplines. Specifically, this course covers ethics, systems, indigenous engineering, and introductions to useful software such as Matlab and CAD. Additionally, professional engineers are invited to the classroom, via the web due to COVID-19 restrictions, to discuss their work and journey to where they are now.

On September 17, 2020, Dr. Stan Atcity joined the class to discuss his journey from being raised on a reservation to becoming a professional engineer at Sandia. There were four students in the class, three males and one female. The students represented Tribes from Three Affiliated Tribes (Mandan, Hidatsa, Arikara Nation), Standing Rock Sioux, Fort Peck, and Winnebago of Nebraska. The students asked many questions and were genuinely interested in learning more from Dr. Atcity.

On September 16, 2021, during his spring 2021 visit to UTTC, Dr. Atcity took time to visit with a Pre-Engineering student during class. This student will be graduating in May 2022 and plans to transfer to University of Nebraska-Lincoln to pursue a BS degree in either Chemical Engineering, Electrical Engineering, or Physics. Due to the student being unsure of the next steps in her academic journey, the instructor reached out to Dr. Atcity to discuss his journey from the reservation to the National Laboratory. Additionally, Dr. Atcity discussed what he does as an Electrical Engineer. The presentation and subsequent discussion provided a perfect opportunity for the student to connect with Dr. Atcity as an indigenous professional and mentor.

General discussions on overall program at UTTC is on-going.

### 3. 2020 TRIBAL COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES—ADVANCED MANUFACTURING TECHNOLOGY SUMMER INSTITUTE

The original plan for the 2020 TCU AM summer institute was that it would be held on the Navajo Technical University (NTU) campus, but due to COVID-19, the institute was conducted remotely. Sandia, with close coordination with NTU, provided the following lectures. The institute hosted sixteen American Indian students representing six TCUs. The following provides a brief overview of the topic areas.

#### 3.1. Soft Skills

The soft skills lecture was provided by Marie Capitan, a Diversity Workforce Specialist whose is a member of the Navajo Tribe. Marie provided a lecture on June 30, 2020 entitled, “What I Need to Know About Inclusion and Diversity”. The lecture covered key inclusion and diversity topics, which encouraged student engagement and participation. These topics included how to be our authentic selves, how to cultivate inclusion in a workplace, understanding the four dimensions of diversity, how and why it’s important to listen effectively, how to be an ally for other when the situation arises, and the importance of having a diversity conversation at work or in work groups. At the end of the presentation, the students were asked to answer one of three questions: 1) what was one key insight I had?, 2) what was one thing I learned that I did not realize before?, and 3) what is one thing I will do differently as a result of what I heard today? The following is a summary of the students’ comments to the question of their choice. Their responses suggest they found the learning beneficial, relevant, and actionable.

##### 3.1.1. One key insight I had was?

- *To be understanding and listen.*
- *To be more kind and more approachable and to be an active listener rather than be opinionated.*
- *Everyone tends to have assumptions or bias towards others before learning anything about them.*

##### 3.1.2. One thing I learned that I did not realize before?

- *The more we can have a conversation; it gets easier to talk about the topic. Which is a relief to not hold all that in.*
- *That is hard to talk about!*

##### 3.1.3. What is one thing I will do differently as a result of what I heard today?

- *I will try to keep more of an open mind to differing views; and be less headstrong and set in one way or another.*
- *Don’t judge others.*
- *To better my listening skills.*
- *I will try to listen better and not change the subject to talk about me.*
- *To hear another’s side of the story and beliefs; to practice being an active listener and to take it in so I can expand my perspective on the world.*
- *To be more approachable.*

### **3.2. Additive Manufacturing**

Shawn Whetten, a member of Sandia's technical staff in the Coating & Additive Manufacturing Department, provided two lectures. The first lecture was on May 22, 2020 entitled, "Overview of and Design for Additive Manufacturing". This lecture provided an overview of common additive manufacturing technologies and design principals that need to be considered when utilizing AM. This lecture also walked through the design steps for a 3D printed part to reinforce the design principals. The second lecture was on May 25, 2020 entitled, "Applications of Additive Manufacturing". This lecture taught how AM is used in various research disciplines at Sandia and showed exotic uses of AM in industry. The purpose of this lecture was to teach students that AM is much more than 3D printing with a MakerBot and encourage participants to think outside the box 3D Modeling.

Justin Mulligan and Deidre Pine, both out of Sandia's Tester Development & Use Control Design department, provided information on Creo 3D modeling, 3D printing techniques, and mechanical and engineering design concepts. Justin and Deidre are scheduled to provide a lecture on July 2, 2020. Deidre Pine is a member of the Navajo Tribe.

Justin is passionate about additive manufacturing (AM), which he regularly utilizes to support the tester group. He gave a virtual presentation on the design of an additively manufactured tester enclosure. He showed how he uses AM in a design of a tester currently used in the field, noting AM design considerations. The students were very interested in the presentation and asked several questions over voice and text chat. Deidre focused her presentation on how to create 3D models and assemblies using the 3D modeling software, Creo. The benefits of Creo were presented along with examples of how to use the tool. The students asked questions during the presentation and were very active in the chat room.

### **3.3. Mock Interviews**

The summer institute provided a number of mock interviews to provide students a unique opportunity to practice interviewing skills. These are typically done in an environment similar to an actual face-to-face interview, however, due to COVID-19 these interviews were conducted virtually. Dylan Moriarty, a geoscience engineer at Sandia and a member of the Navajo Tribe, conducted the interviews on July 10, 2020. He interviewed two students: Nick Bittner of CCCC and Terril Lee of NTU. Dylan provided valuable feedback throughout the interviews and encouraged them to ask questions along the way. This was time well spent and both students made it clear they appreciated the format.

## 4. 2021 TRIBAL COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES—ADVANCED MANUFACTURING TECHNOLOGY SUMMER INSTITUTE

Sandia worked closely with the AIHEC and provided guidance regarding the 2021 summer institute program held at NTU. The program started with four students representing SKC and CCCC; however, only two completed the program. The eight-week program which started June 14 and ended August 16, 2021 was divided into two sections. The first three weeks were held virtually with online lectures and a completion of SolidProfessor course module, and the final five weeks were conducted on-site at NTU, where the students worked on projects within the NTU AM laboratory. Sandia provided the following contributions.

### 4.1. Soft Skills

Marie Capitan, a Diversity Workforce Specialist in the Sandia's inclusion and diversity organization, conducted a workshop on June 24, 2021 entitled, "*What I Need to Know About Inclusion and Diversity*". There were four students who participated. The presentation covered essential inclusion and diversity topics that encouraged student engagement and participation. These topics included: being authentic, cultivating inclusion, understanding the four dimensions of diversity, listening effectively, being an ally, and engaging in a dialog. The presentation was held virtually but that did not hinder student participation. At the end of the presentation, each student was asked to answer one of three questions: 1) what was one key insight I had, 2) what was one thing I learned that I did not realize before, and 3) what is one thing I will do differently as a result of what I heard today. The following provides a verbatim summary of responses to the question of their choice.

#### 4.1.1. One key insight I had was?

- *I didn't know it was not normal to be allyship. I assumed it was normal.*
- *I help run programs, getting people to work together by accomplishing a common task. These hard discussions are easier to hear after you achieve something together.*
- *Your presentation was most valuable, technical skill is needed; the soft skills help balance that out.*
- *This is important as a minority. We are fortunate to have like you as a teacher.*
- *The lab is so receptive and affected by the global environment that is happening and we are receptive to it.*

#### 4.1.2. One thing you will do differently as a result of what you heard today.

- *Being an introvert and thinking of it differently.*
- *I will speak out more for others and to be an ally, not just to my demographic.*

### 4.2. Additive Manufacturing

Justin Mulligan, a product design engineer in Sandia's Tester Development & Use Control Design department, gave a presentation at NTU on the design of an additively manufactured tester enclosure used at Sandia. There were eight students who attended the presentation. All were very interested and asked multiple questions. While on campus, Marcie Vandever, a MSIPP summer intern at Sandia, gave Justin a tour of the NTU fabrication lab which gave a better understanding what technologies the students are familiar with.

#### **4.3. Sandia Enterprise**

Daniel Redhouse, a technical staff in the Applied Nuclear Technologies department, provided a presentation on Sandia's history, workforce demographics, intern demographics, lab budget, internship and job opportunities, American Indian community on-site, and what a job in nuclear engineering entails at Sandia. The four students who attended the presentation were very inquisitive and in-depth question about nuclear engineering and nuclear reactors.

#### **4.4. Mentoring Program**

This year's program included a hybrid mentoring program which was designed to engage the hands-on experience at NTU with a national laboratory. The national laboratory role is to provide project needs and help approve and guide projects to completion. In addition, the national laboratory mentor provides insights on career paths and job opportunities within the national laboratory complex. Melissa Teague, a senior member of technical staff at Sandia in the Energetic Component Production Science & Technology department, was paired with Gavin Parisien, an undergraduate from Turtle Mountain Community College. Melissa is a ceramic materials engineer. Melissa leads a rapid prototype facility where she executes short term internal mark quality component production and provides technical insights on glass to metal sealing. In the early stages of the summer institute, Melissa was informed that Gavin was dismissed from the program and unfortunately, Sandia's hybrid mentoring program at NTU has also ceased.

#### **4.5. Sandia Tour**

Part of the summer institute program includes technical tours at national laboratories. Sandia was planning on giving a tour late July 2021 but the emergence of COVID variants posed an increased risk for students and thus hosting was canceled.

## 5. SANDIA NATIONAL LABORATORIES SUMMER INTERNSHIPS

### 5.1. 2020 Summer Internship

Sandia was ready to hire six American Indian summer interns as of January 2020. However, due to the COVID-19 issue, only three students had projects that qualified for remote internship. Additionally, Sandia was ready to hire three summer interns, but one did not fulfill all requirements. The following provides a quick summary of the two students that were hired, their schools, and departments.

**Table 1. Summary of FY2020 Summer Interns**

#	Student	Colleges & Universities	Sandia Department	Funding Source
1	Sarah LaVallie	North Dakota State University/Turtle Mountain Community College	Electric Power Systems Research	MSIPP
2	Victoria Charley	Navajo Tech University	Tester Development/Use Control Design	MSIPP

Sarah LaVallie is a member of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa from Dunseith, North Dakota. She is currently pursuing a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering at North Dakota State University (NDSU) and is expected to graduate May 2021. She attended the Turtle Mountain Community College prior to attending NDSU. Sarah's summer project was focused on performing exploratory data analysis of solar photovoltaic production. She determined the relationship between extreme weather events and photovoltaic energy production by comparing various types of weather data (temperature, wind speeds, etc.) for various photovoltaic locations within a given time period. The following was Sarah's impression of her experience.

“My remote internship at Sandia this summer was very much a learning experience for me. Not only did I develop new skills and gain insight into an area that I’m interested in, I also gained experience working in a remote environment. Participating in a remote internship posed some new challenges, such as giving presentations virtually and maintaining communication with my mentors despite never seeing them face-to-face. As a result, I feel more confident in my ability to remain flexible and adapt to unprecedented situations. Overall, this was a really memorable and positive experience and I’m grateful to have this opportunity!”

Victoria Charley is a member of the Navajo Tribe and from Thoreau, NM. She is pursuing a B.S. in Electrical Engineering at Navajo Tech University. Victoria was a tester development and use control designer. She developed 3-D models, assemblies, and drawings from 2-D sketches. The 3-D models were developed using commercial-of-the-self parts which was used to expand the Computer Aided Design library ensuring faster and easier production of parts. The following was Victoria's impression of her experience.

“My time at Sandia National Laboratories was very challenging, educational and fun. From the first day and throughout my internship, I was welcomed, educated and challenged. I was impressed to see that there was a high number of indigenous professionals that worked at Sandia as well. My overall experience at Sandia National Laboratories was met with many professionals that were willing to aide and educate the future engineers, such as myself. SNL offered an intense program that made you think outside the box, become independent and become part of a team that strived for excellence.”

## 5.2. 2021 Summer Internship

Multiple discussions took place with various Sandia managers to discuss how Sandia could support the goals and focus of the MSIPP program in November and December 2020. As a result, Sandia posted seven summer internship positions in six different departments for the 2021 summer interns, which Sandia successfully staffed with TCU students. Six of the seven positions were funded by MSIPP and the seventh position was fully funded by the weapons program. The following provides the list of TCU students and their respective universities and departments.

**Table 2. Summary of FY2021 Summer Interns**

#	Student	Colleges & Universities	Sandia Department	Funding Source
1	Marcie Vandever	Navajo Tech University	02477: Tester Development/Use Control Design	MSIPP
2	Isnala Roan Eagle <sup>a</sup>	Cankdeska Cikana Community College/North Dakota State University	02477: Tester Development/Use Control Design	SNL Weapons Program
3	LaSheena Ramone	Navajo Tech University	5326: Inertial Systems & Avionics II	MSIPP
4	Jerral Lauryn	United Tribe Technical College	5322: NPC & System integration, (Navigation Pointing & Control)	MSIPP
5	Khalil Grant	United Tribes Technical College	6533: Unmanned Systems & Autonomy R&D	MSIPP
6	Victoria Charley	Navajo Technical University	8823: Concentrating Solar Technology	MSIPP
7	Trevor Thomas	Turtle Mountain Community College	9321, Cyber Security Technologies,	MSIPP

Isnala Nanjin Roan Eagle is a student from CCCC who was a 2019 Sandia summer student intern, returned and was hired again as a 2021 summer intern in Sandia's Tester Development & Use Control Design department. This internship was fully funded by the weapons program. The department manager has since hired Isnala as a year-round student as of early August 2021. This is a huge success for the MSIPP program and it demonstrates sustainability of the program.

Marcie Vandever is a member of the Navajo Tribe and is entering her senior year at NTU majoring in Industrial Engineering and minoring in Advanced Manufacturing Technologies. As a 2021 summer intern, she worked in Sandia's Tester Development & Use Control Design department as a mechanical design technician where she modeled various 3D parts using Creo Parametric CAD software and applied geometric dimensioning and tolerancing techniques. The following provides Marcie's impression of her experience.

“My experience with Sandia was a very rewarding experience. Team members within my department were very helpful. My manager was Karen McDaniel, who ensured I had all the resources available to me to make my internship as smooth as possible. We would have 1 on 1 meetings to keep updated and talk about any concerns or just anything in general. My mentor was Deidre Pine who taught me to be patient learning with this new CAD software, she showed me how to create my drawings and all the details that go into the drawings. Deidre showed me a little of the 2D work by showing me some things about wiring diagrams. Deidre was very encouraging throughout my internship, she would check on me, how things were during my internship and outside of internship. Deidre explained my overall health is very important and comes before the work I was doing. It was talks like these that I would have with my mentor and my manager that made me feel important, like a member of the team. Both my manager and mentor were very encouraging, they took the time out of their schedules to help teach and guide me through this internship and for that I am beyond grateful.”

LaSheena Ramone, is a member of the Navajo Tribe. She graduated with a BS in Electrical Engineering from NTU in May 2021. Her near term ambition is to pursue a master's degree in electrical engineering. As a 2021 summer intern, she worked in Sandia's Inertial Systems & Avionics department and her work focused on developing a tester for diode performance evaluation. The following provides her impression of the program.

“Overall, this internship experience was better than expected. One thing this experience taught me was that I can do this work. That self-doubt that I had lingering went away. Once I started working and started to get things rolling, I have gained all the confidence that I belong here and that I can do it. If couldn't do it or if I didn't know the answer, my mentor or my manager assured me that it was okay, and they could assist me in finding that answer. The internship was remote but with that constant communication, it did not feel like it. One thing that I really like was all the people higher than me, it didn't matter what department they came from, they all showed that they really care and want us to be successful.”

Jerral Murray is a member of the Lakota Sioux of the Miniconju band and is enrolled in the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe. She graduated from UTTC with an Associate of Science in Pre-Engineering. She will be transferring to NDSU and plans to pursue BS in Mechanical Engineering. As a 2021 summer intern, she worked in Sandia's Navigation, Pointing and Control & Systems

department where she developed three-dimensional plots inertial measurement unit acceleration data to calculate position and velocity values. The following is her impression of the program.

“In my opinion, the program was a great resource in learning as a person and of gaining new experience in a workplace that would benefit me and carve the path to success for me in the future. Valuable time learning through the program at Sandia National Laboratories. I highly appreciate the opportunity of learning given to me and I’m grateful for having participated in this internship from what I have gained.”

Khalil Grant is a member of the Crow Tribe and is currently pursuing an associate in pre-engineering at UTTC. He plans on attending a four-year institution in Mechanical Engineering. As a 2021 summer intern, he worked in Sandia’s Unmanned Systems and Autonomy department where he characterized the Oculus Quest headset and its associated 3D mapping software. The following is his impression of the program.

“I enjoyed every bit of the Sandia experience and am more than grateful for the opportunity. Hopefully, after I receive bachelor’s degree, I can come back as a full-time employee.”

Victoria Charlie is a member of the Navajo Tribe and currently a senior NTU pursuing her BS in Electrical Engineering with a concentration in power and energy. As a 2021 summer intern, she worked in Sandia’s Concentrating Solar Technology department. She researched, designed, programmed, modeled, simulated, and analyzed ganged-PV systems and sodium test loops and documented this in a report. The following provides Victoria’s impression of the program.

“My experience as an intern with the department and with MSIPP (Minority Serving Institution Partnership Program) was very challenging, intense, exciting and fun. My mentors guided me in techniques to use to help solve problems by researching, creating, designing, simulating, analyzing data and writing to communicate effectively and clearly. From Test Loops to solar panels to writing abstracts, I feel that I now have the tools needed to continue to pursue a master’s degree and return to Sandia National Laboratories in the future.”

Trever Thomas is a member of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa. He is currently attending TMCC with expected graduation date of May 2022 in Cybersecurity and Data Privacy and Network Administration. As a 2021 summer intern, he worked in Sandia’s Cybersecurity Initiatives department where he supported the Tracer Forensic and Incident Response Exercise (FIRE) program. He assisted in developing multiple attack scenarios and was also involved in virtual computer & hardware identification and virtual environment preparation. He was grateful to be able to apply his skills learned in college, did not realize the commonality of simulated attacks in corporations to test software, and gained experience with the Colfax program in virtual machine deployment. Overall, he was grateful for his experience at Sandia through the MSIP program.

Isnala Nanjin Roan Eagle, is a member of the Oglala Sioux Tribe. He received his Associates in Pre-Engineering from CCCC and is currently pursing BS Mechanical engineering at NDSU. His ultimate goal is to earn a Ph.D. in engineering. As a 2021 summer intern, he worked in Sandia’s Tester Development & Use Control department where developed a graphical user interface using MATLAB App Designer. Isnala’s app makes correlations between mass and position data (including

image processing) of accelerometers. He also evaluated various Python code programs using Git software, which tracks changes to any files and is useful for coordinating documents among programmers. This is what Isnala thought of the program.

“My internship this summer was very different compared to my first one in 2019 due to the pandemic circumstances and working remotely. However, I was still able to contribute to the team I am supporting and able to learn practical engineering skills. I also believe that my ability to work independently was greatly improved as I would be the sole driver to produce deliverables despite being remote. I was still able to meet with other Sandians (Staff and interns) and interact with them on a frequent and comfortable basis. I think getting my first internship with Sandia through MSIPP really propelled me into getting more opportunities such as my year-round internship now.”

## 6. CONCLUSION

The Sandia team provided three lectures and participated in project-based mentoring program for the AM summer institute coordinated by NTU during the summer of 2021. Sandia was actively involved in the formulation of the AM summer institute. Discussions with each of the respective TCUs regarding various technical assistance is on-going.

Sandia hired its first MSIPP American Indian summer intern during the summer of 2018. In 2019, Sandia hired three summer interns and in 2020, Sandia hired two summer interns. The 2020 summer interns worked remotely due to the COVID-19 issue. In 2021, Sandia hired seven summer interns from TCUs—six of which were funded by MSIPP and one was funded by the weapons program. This is the largest number of MSIPP TCU students ever hired for the summer. The intern funded by the weapons program was previously at Sandia as a 2019 MSIPP summer intern and is now a year-round intern.

Sandia's distinguished member of technical staff Stan Atcity continues to chair the NTU Engineering Advisory Board activities. Spring meetings were held on June 2020, October 2020, and April 2021 via teleconference. The fall meeting is scheduled for Oct 2021.