

Technical Progress Report

Quarterly Report

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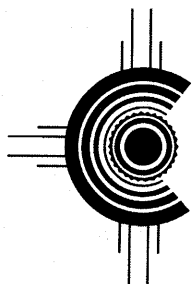
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Abstract

Since the departure of intern Jacqueline Agnew, efforts were concentrated on finding a suitable candidate for the vacant internship position at the National Transportation Program in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

After completing an extensive search and interviews, Byron Yepa, a member of Jemez Pueblo, was selected to fill the internship vacancy.

During this reporting period Mr. Yepa was familiarized with the National Transportation Program facility, staff and procedures.

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List of Graphical Materials

Not applicable.

Executive Summary

During this reporting period efforts were concentrated on finding a suitable candidate to replace the vacated internship position at the National Transportation Program in Albuquerque, New Mexico after the departure of Jacqueline Agnew.

After completing an extensive search and interviews, Byron Yepa, a member of Jemez Pueblo, was selected to fill the internship vacancy.

Intern Byron Yepa began his internship on June 12, 2003. Initially, Mr. Yepa was familiarized with the National Transportation Program facility, introduced to staff and was set up on the computer system.

He began educating himself by reading a book which focused on the Nevada Test site and its impact on Indian Tribes. He is helping in the development of a geographic information system (GIS) project and will assist other departments with their projects. At the time of this report he was waiting for new software to aid in the development of that project.

Experimental

Not applicable.

Results and Discussion

The CERT Tribal Internship Program is part of the education and training opportunities provided by CERT to accelerate the development of American Indian technical professionals available to serve Tribes and expand the pool of these professionals. Tribes are severely impacted by the inadequate number of Indian professionals available to serve and facilitate Tribal participation and support of the energy future of Tribes, and subsequently the energy future of the nation.

By providing interns with hands-on work experience in their field of study two goals are accomplished:

1. The intern is provided opportunities for professional enhancement.
2. The pool of Indian professionals available to meet the needs of Tribal government and Tribal communities in general is increased.

The internship program is a bridge enabling American Indian undergraduate and graduate students to transition into the technical and professional workforce. In crossing this bridge, Indian students have access to intensive professional training, mentorship and practical experience in a wide range of scientific, technical and policy areas.

Conclusion

It is expected that Mr. Yepa will gain valuable experience in this professional environment under the tutelage of experienced professional practitioners.

References

Not applicable.

Bibliography

Not applicable.

List of Acronyms and Abbreviations

Not applicable.

Appendices

Bi-Weekly Report – June 12 through June 27, 2003

Greetings, please allow me to introduce myself. My name is Byron R. Yepa and the new CERT intern. I am from the Pueblo of Jemez, which is located approximately, 50 miles northwest of Albuquerque, NM. During the month of December 2002, there were a couple of significant events that took place in my life. First of all, I obtained my Bachelor's of Arts in Geography with a minor in Native American Studies from the University of New Mexico. A couple of weeks later, I was appointed to serve within the traditional government as a War Captain's aide at the Pueblo of Jemez. This appointment changed my plans from pursuing on to graduate school. I decided to pursue some more classes to take advantage of a student employment position with the National Park Service during the Spring 2003 semester. I enrolled to obtain my second Bachelor's degree in Political Science, but as so late, my former Geography professors have been encouraging me to enter the graduate program. My initial plans are to apply to the graduate program and with successful admission, enroll in a limited amount of credit hours. I hope these few lines have allowed you to get to know who I am.

The past couple of weeks here at the United States Department of Energy – National Transportation have been great. The staff members that make up the National Transportation Program have been very friendly and helpful in getting me familiarized with their office and procedures. In the following paragraphs, it will summarize each week that I have been working here.

The first day of work was full of security checkpoints. Because of the intense security, the badge office was the first place to go. Mary Currans, who is the Division Secretary, escorted me to obtain my badges and to register my vehicle for decals. Without her help, I would have had no idea of who to talk to and see at these two offices. The day concluded with a tour of the National Transportation Program facility and the introduction to staff members. My initial start date was on June 12, 2003. On June 13, 2003, I had to complete training for computer usage, setting up e-mail, login passwords, and setting up voice mail. All these tasks took up most of the day.

During the first week of work, I was reading literature that focused on the National Transportation Program. There is a book that I have started reading, which focuses on the Nevada Test Site and the involvement of Native Americans. Another piece of literature that I read was the handbook on how to conduct business meetings and other correspondence with Native American tribes. I also attended a meeting with Judith Holm and Steve Hamp at the Alliance for Transportation Research on the UNM campus. We have developed a project that deals with geographic information systems (GIS). In order to complete the project, we met with a couple of managers to see if I could utilize their GIS software to complete my projects for the summer. I would also be assisting them with some of their projects as well.

The second week consisted of reading literature. About the middle of the week, I updated a database that contained the contact information for some of the tribal leaders that this office has contact with on a regular basis. The later part of the week it consisted of examining data that was in correlation with the GIS project. My first initial contact with the CERT took place this week as well.

In closing, the projects that I have been given to complete are pending right now due to the availability of the proper software. As soon as everything is set up within the next couple of working days, then I should be able to utilize my skills.