

1994 Program Update: FALCON Board Meeting October 2019

- **25th Anniversary – 1994 Land-Grant Institutions**
USDA will issue a press release to congratulate the 1994 Institutions on the October 20th signing of the land-grant legislation. We will seek opportunities to promote 1994s' work through the year through USDA blogs.
- **Scholarship Programs**
 1. **USDA 1994 Tribal Scholarship**: On August 27, 2019, a Federal Register Notice was posted describing the program and requesting responses through October 24, 2019. Please plan to write to recommend how USDA can strengthen our scholarship.
 - Note that the 2018 Farm Bill enables recipients of the USDA 1994 Tribal Scholarship to have non-competitive conversion.
- **Memorandum of Agreement**
USDA sent a memorandum of agreement to AIHEC for review. USDA maintains its request to discuss solutions to 1994 presidents' concerns.
- **Agriculture Curriculum**
USDA collaborated with AIHEC and 1994s to develop an Agribusiness Certification Program curriculum. As of May 2019, one student had finished the required academic credits and sought a summer internship/apprenticeship program with the Farm Service Agency (FSA). The student is interested to pursue a career with FSA.
- **Agriculture Research Service (ARS) –NASSLE** provides 1994 students an opportunity to learn about the breadth of agricultural research that is done in the ARS laboratories on behalf of farmers and the general population to support a robust food supply that is safe and nutritious. ARS will pair students with researchers based on mutual interests. ARS hosted six students in the summer 2018 for the Native American Students Summer Learning Experience (NASSLE). Two students returned for summer 2019 for a month of training. Next year, ARS will host students for 8 weeks. We will help ARS recruit for upcoming summers.
- USDA has been hosting a series of **National Community Prosperity Summits** to foster hope and opportunity, create wealth, and build assets in communities across the country. A major focus is on the White House Rural Prosperity Taskforce's recommendations emphasizing e-connectivity, quality of life, workforce development, innovation and technology, and economic development. Subject matter experts from across the federal government will:
 - Assist communities in the development of local prosperity councils to foster hope and opportunity, create wealth and build assets;
 - Illustrate successful practices for developing key partnerships;
 - Connect attendees to USDA and other relevant federal programs;
 - Model success for communities and future generations of communities.

From these national summits will be state and tribal-specific summits. One Summit was held at Sitting Bull College in August 2019 for Standing Rock communities. USDA leadership from headquarters, and the States of North Dakota and South Dakota participated. In follow-up Local Prosperity Councils will be developed and the USDA will work with them to host meetings and workshops. We plan to request participation of 1994s in Washington, Montana, New Mexico, Wisconsin, and Oklahoma.

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