MVSK 2343: Muscogee Field Laboratory (A Reflection)
Project

- Comprehend scientific methodology to research.
- Students grow selected traditional indigenous plants.
- Analyze research data collections and interpret results.
- Compare modern times scientific findings related to vegetation health to that of historical documentation of the past.
Project:

• Course Objectives:
  - To expose College of the Muscogee Nation students to historical documents pertaining to initial European contact of the Muscogee Creek tribe.
  - their perspective of lifestyle
  - hunting
  - agricultural practices among tribal members
  - Engage the students in the process of scientific research
Research Planning

• NIFA/USDA Funded
• Two Instructors
• Grant review liaison
• Committee
Utilization of CMN Campus Resources

• For growing
• CMN garden center- raised beds-tvhvyo (gourds)
• Traditional No till garden
Assessment for Student Knowledge: Example Questions of Research Survey

- Student were asked a series of questions during the first and last week of the semester to determine depth of knowledge for the student.

- How does research benefit your educational experience?
- How do you think this classroom research experience will benefit your CMN educational experience?
- Are you aware of how nutrition relates to traditional foods?
- How would your research during the MVSK 2343 course benefit traditional foods?
### Data Based on Findings from the 2018-2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Number of students Whom Have Enrolled in the MVSK 2343 course (fall 2018-fall 2019)</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of student enrolled in MVSK 2343 Engaged in first time research experience</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of students recognizing a positive benefit being part of the classroom research experience</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of students who viewed classroom research experience as beneficial to CMN educational experience</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At the beginning of the semester recognition of nutrition and traditional foods</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At the end of the semester recognition of nutrition and traditional foods</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perspective towards MVSK 2343 research as beneficial towards traditional foods</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Student Feed Back
Limitations

• Time- Growing season limited amount of production
• Student Presentations- Not every students participates in the required presentation process.
• Limitations on Historical Documentation- Not every plant used as a food product has been thoroughly documented for food preparation technique and cultural significance.
• Other limitations: Occasional predator issues (deer, rabbits, and packs of goats) These concerns were reduced with fencing.
Goals for Future: Academic and Research

• Continue to set aside time for workshop session dedicated for historical literature documentation.
• Continue to set aside time for class time sessions for research ethics and scientific process.
Future Plans: Fall 2019

• Utilizing both NIFA and humanities grant, MVSK 2343 students in the fall will conduct research September-October.

• November the class takes a trip back to the Muscogee Creek homeland in Macon Georgia.

• Student field observations and comparisons of ecosystems within the Muscogee Creek tribal boundaries of Oklahoma and the areas of Georgia and Alabama.
Additional pictures

Figure 1. Three Sister Rows for Drought Resistant Plants (Hopi Corn, Tohono)