

Current NASEP coordinator, Carol Seanez has seen the program grow from her time spent as a NASEP student, college mentor, and now as coordinator. Carol has the opportunity to take the program further and celebrate the 10th NASEP cohort by focusing on tribal environmental research through Geo-science research projects focusing on water.

What NASEP was and is to me: As alumni, mentor, and now coordinator

When I think of NASEP, I think of family, because through the program I've met people who have become mentors and friends. During college, the mentors at the Office of Early Academic Outreach provided me opportunities to develop leadership skills and mentor others, which built my confidence to take leadership roles on campus and in the community.

Not only that, NASEP has become a part of families. I have seen past participant's siblings and cousins seek to be a part of NASEP after someone in their family participated. I think that is very special because that means the program impacted the life of a student enough for them to recommend it to others they cared about. As an example, the Allison Family from Mesa, AZ, has four children, three of whom have gone through our program. If that doesn't

speaking volumes, I will also add that they are die hard Arizona State fans, but regardless, they love NASEP so much that they speak fondly of the program to others. We hope to see their youngest daughter apply soon!



Among the first NASEP cohort in 2009, Carol shares, "NASEP allowed me to receive mentorship, gain leadership & supported me if I needed anything."

Photo by Amanda Cheromiah

Painting the NASEP family

- 3 Miss Native UA Royalty
- 1 Miss University of Utah Indian Woman Scholar
- 25% attend the UA
- 20% are Native SOAR college mentors

NASEP in the future

As coordinator, I plan to assess the program to see what improvements can be made based on student feedback. NASEP has changed from year to year, and we want to make sure we are evolving to meet the needs of our students. In addition, I'd like to see more programming to support our alumni. Steps have been taken through creation of an alumni Facebook group and listserv, so that internships, scholarships, and employment opportunities can be shared across cohorts. If we were working with an infinite budget, I'd like to see us make an impact of similar magnitude as the Alaska Native Science and Engineering Program (ANSEP). They have programming from middle school all the way up to a college bridge program for seniors who just graduated college.

Importance of water to NASEP

NASEP consists of 180 participants representing 22 different tribes. Within each tribe, there are undoubtedly stories about how precious water is to our existence. We are aware that the earth provides for us, but in order to do so, it must be nourished with water and light. Within our pre-assignments for our Geo-science research project, students from this year's cohort asked their community about the importance of water, and many have the same theme -- water is life.

180 NASEP participants represent 22 different tribes

- Aaniih
- Acoma Pueblo
- Cochiti
- Gila River
- Hopi
- Jicarrila Apache
- Lakota
- Makah
- Navajo
- Northern Arapaho
- Ogalala Sioux
- Paiute
- Pojoaque Pueblo
- Salt River Pima
- San Carlos Apache
- Shoshone
- Tohono O'odham
- White Mountain Apache
- Winnebago
- Yaqui
- Yurok
- Zuni

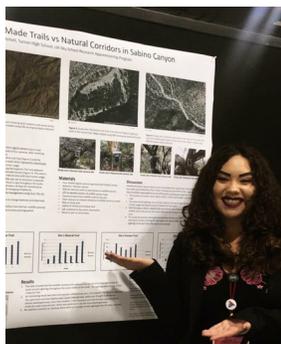
Traditional and personal views on the importance of water

Growing up next to my grandparents shaped my understanding and view of water in many ways. A lesson that I learned from them was to show gratitude for water by respecting and conserving it. One way I learned appreciation was by hauling water with my Cheii (grandpa) to his sheep, cows, llamas, and horses in Tsaile, AZ from Navajo, NM. If we stayed the night in Tsaile, we would haul water from the mountains. I remember these memories fondly because it was a fun experience that I had with my cousins and Cheii. I think this experience showed me how precious water is because of the lengths we had to go at times to get it. I also learned from my Masaní (grandma) about sustainability; she was not a wasteful woman, and conserved water religiously. To this day my mom and aunts don't use the dishwasher despite owning them because they say it uses too much water. My grandparent's values of sustainability have definitely trickled down through the generations.

Lastly, one teaching about water that stood out to me was that my cousins who are born for Tábaqahí (Water's Edge Clan) were told that they needed to give an offering each time that they approached an ocean. I'm not sure if this is true for all Diné, since I was never with my Cheii or Masaní when I was at the ocean, but that is something that I've taken to heart. This recognition process is part of showing gratitude and respect, and is important because of everything water does for us.



*"Over the Mountain" – Carol & her aunt sitting together during planting season in the Chuska Mountains.
Courtesy of Carol Seanez*



*"Through NASEP, I have gained more confidence in myself to go into the STEM field knowing other native youth are interested in the same goal. I have a passion for science, but NASEP has made me more aware on how I can use science to help improve my community and inspire other students working to reach their goals."
- Nadira Mitchell is Navajo & a Jr. at Tucson High School*

Applications due, March 16, 2018

For more information or would like to apply visit:

<http://nasep.arizona.edu/>

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NASEP