Sloan Indigenous Graduate Partnership (SIGP) Program

- Assist American Indian and Alaska Native students to succeed in graduate study in the sciences, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields.

- The Sloan Foundation funds Master’s and Doctoral degree scholarships for American Indian and Alaska Native students.

- Goal: to strengthen and expand successful initiatives to recruit, train, and graduate American Indian and Alaska Native students in STEM disciplines.
  - Montana (UM, MTech, & MSU), Purdue, Arizona, & Alaska
A philanthropic, not-for-profit grantmaking institution based in New York City.

Established in 1934 by Alfred Pritchard Sloan Jr., then-President and Chief Executive Officer of the General Motors Corporation, the Foundation makes grants in support of original research and education in science, technology, engineering, mathematics and economic performance.

Fund major areas such as basic research; public understanding of science, technology, and economics; digital information technology; and STEM higher education
Why is SIGP important?

American Council on Education, 2015

Degree Aspirations

- Total doctorates awarded 2013: 52,760
- Total doctorates in STEM: 36,937
- Doctorates to AI/AN: 119 (0.23%-- down from 149 in 1992)
- Doctorates to AI/AN in STEM: 59 (0.16%)

Sloan History and Numbers in Montana

- Began in 2005 with UM and Tech with MSU joining in 2011.
- Graduated in the Program. M.S. students – 20 at UM, 7 at Tech, and 3 at MSU. Ph.D. – 6 at UM.
- 26 students are currently in the Sloan Program in the MUS with 5 new students for this year.
- Current Stipend is $20,000 for the Masters Degree and $40,000 for PhD as a supplement to current TA/RA/GA.
- The MUS provides one “baseline”, fully funded, student per year. In the past, this was 2 baseline students every year (Sloan requirement).
Program Activities

• Professional development with Monthly student meetings.
• Encouraged to apply for the NSF Graduate Research Fellowship.
• MUS joint meeting each semester.
• SIGP joint meeting at American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES) national meeting every fall.
• SIGP experience and success helped MSU and UM win a major NSF grant: Pacific Northwest-Circle of Success for Mentoring Opportunities in STEM (PNW-COSMOS), an alliance also including Washington State University and University of Idaho
  • MTech and SKC are involved as partners of UM.
Student Presentation

- Lisa Lone Fight, Montana State University
- Shanara Spang-Gion, Montana Tech
- Ranalda Tsosie, University of Montana
Thank You – Contact Information

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