



The Northern Plains Undergraduate Research Center

<http://www.usd.edu/npurc/>
NSF-URC (CHE-0532242)

Eight public, private, and tribal colleges in the upper Great Plains comprise the Northern Plains Undergraduate Research Center (NPURC) with the mission to effect a regional transformation in the role of research into an integral part of the entire four years of the undergraduate chemistry curriculum. Project elements include:



□ **Student-directed Research Support**

- Incorporation of research projects in first-year teaching laboratories
- Week-long *Introduction to Research* workshops
- Intensive summer-long research experiences for freshman and sophomores
- Communication opportunities/attendance at professional symposia and conferences
- Research opportunities for advanced students

□ **Faculty-directed Research Support**

- Grant Writing Workshops and internal review of grant proposals
- Increase in infrastructure/research capacity and technical support



The Northern Plains Undergraduate Research Center **Introduction to Research Workshops at Tribal Colleges** NSF-URC (CHE-0532242)

A main project element of the *Northern Plains Undergraduate Research Center* (NPURC) is the *Introduction to Research* workshops. Workshops, which introduce research and science training and emphasize hands-on activities, are open to all students in NPURC. They last for one week (fulltime) and are presented by at least two faculty members. Student participants are paid a \$500 stipend. Topics previously explored include: Ethanol Production, Ionic Liquids, Nanoscience, and Natural Products Chemistry. More than half of the workshops have been conducted at Tribal Colleges where science infrastructure is limited. Student response has been enthusiastic. Broadening participation by Native American students in the Northern Plains region, at least at this basic level, appears to be simply a matter of providing opportunity for high quality experiences.



Clockwise: Attendees at workshops/symposia held at Fort Berthold Community College (New Town, ND), Sinte Gleska University (Mission, SD), University of South Dakota (Vermillion, SD), and Ponca State Park (Ponca, NE).