Intern Panel Participants: Rusty, Digital Archiving (NASA GSFC); Asia Leavitt-Miguel, Business Development (ASRC Federal); Roberta Glenn, Geography (USDA/ASRC Federal); Lance Foust, Corporate Communications (ASRC Federal); Savanna, Aephis (USDA/WINS); Robert, Aephis (USDA/WINS); Winston, Animal plant health (USDA/WINS)

What drew you to STEM fields?
- Winston: Wanted to learn about tribal law- but realized the deficiency in environmental law so decided to intern to gain more professional experience in the area while in school.
- Roberta: Climate change is important to Alaska so I decided to pursue geospatial sciences
- Rusty: I’m studying communications so im not really in STEM, but I do see the technological advances being made and the impact they are having on the way we communicate with one another
- Robert: I received a bachelors in landscape architecture, masters in natural resources so environmental law seemed like a relevant next step
- Lance: opportunity- that’s where the jobs are and I can see that there is a big need for technology
- Asia: I’m currently undeclared and exploring so I haven’t been hooked on a STEM field just yet

Name a challenge and/or an accomplishment of your internship thus far?
- Rusty: I’m the 1st person in this internship so my mentor and I are learning as we go
- Savanna: challenge East vs. West very different attitudes
- Roberta: Big cities, hard to navigate, using metro was a big accomplishment
- Winston: 1st wk hard to learn the language and dynamics of the office place, using past experiences to navigate the workplace
- Lance: ASRC Federal government contractor wide-range quarterly newsletter to work with folks across the various government contracts has been rewarding.

How did you find your internship opportunity?
- Someone came into my calculus class to let me know about various internships, and we also had employees from NASA come by.
- Learned from students who participated in WINS before
- Learned about internships through ASRC

How to attract you to work for federal government?
- Wanted to come to DC and make some money
- Public service is a great way to reach native americans, they want other opportunities besides military
- Loan repayment & telework
- Experience, I was looking for a new experience, seeing a new place and how other people live

What are some hindrances you see to joining the federal government?
- Lots of hoops and paperwork to get through
• Education gap
• Communication – a big issue, it’s hard to really know standards, rules and regulations, etc.
• Rules – can be daunting to know about so much protocol and responsibility
• Technology throughout government is outdated and could be improved

**Are there any ways that you can see the federal government partnering with native country?**

• NASA partners with tribal colleges and teach them about intern and professional opportunities
• USDA supports rural organizations and groups, helps people recognize that the do care about rural communities and utilize partnerships

**How do we, at the federal level, and you, the students, inspire others to pursue STEM?**

• Fascination that there are things have yet to be discovered
• How to use science degree to help out with issues at home, i.e. climate change
• Seeing role models in science
• Its ok to be smart! 😊
• Give back more than you’ve taken
• I was scared of science but inspiring young women and engaging them to explore other opportunities in STEM is very rewarding
• Mentors! Especially if they don’t have anyone in their community to look too, also when the students have to leave their family/community.

**What would an agency need to do to entice you to come work for 10 years?**

• An exciting job opportunity
• What am I going to learn? How would I be able to utilize that experience for the rest of my life
• By providing opportunities to stay connected to culture/tribes/communities + a way to give back
• Have a community
• Let them know about the impact you’re making just by being present and being the voice for your culture and native country overall

**Native American support groups; do they help? Are they even a factor? Do they exist?**

• I think they would be a great influence, harder to adjust when there isn’t anyone else going through your same transition
• Helps professionally as well as personally
• Helps to continue networking and know that there are others out there going through the same experience
• When moving to a new area and leaving home it is helpful to have others relate to your experience
• Shows that natives can be successful and you have someone to go to with questions and decisions especially because we often cannot turn to family and community – the first and sometimes only person from family to go outside

**What advice could you give to younger generations?**

• Take advantage of opportunities, look for opportunities specifically for native American students
• Although my tribe is fairly conservative but I was told to take chances so tell them to get out of comfort zone especially professionally. It will help you grow
• Imagine yourself outside, learn from professionals, seek advice from those before you
• Make it a learning experience and think about what you can take back home with you
**What did you do for fun while you were here?**
- Museums – Free!
- AISES hike, getting out and exploring
- Good food
- Soccer games, concerts, sporting events

**What do you want to do before you leave?**
- Visit the library of congress and get her library card
- Meet the president? 😊
- Find a good mentor
- Attend UNITY the tribal youth gathering at the white house, will be nice to see 800 native students gathering together
- Go up to the top of the Washington monument
- Would like to meet/exceed my expectations of this trip
- Find a few leads on how to come back to work out here

**Closing thoughts? Words of wisdom?**
- I did not know that so many organizations and agencies were working in native country, it is really great to know
- It would be good to have better word get out about opportunities – would like to see future continuation/progress of opportunities for students
- Networking is importance, reach out to youth, sometimes you may need to be the first person to say something/initiate the conversation
- Whole experience is very overwhelming, it was good to have someone to check-in and make sure you know about how to advantage of opportunities
- Networking is the key to future, we’re all different students but we have same goals and face a lot of the same challenges. WORK TOGETHER
- Thank you, for the chance to speak. Entry-level positions are often overlooked when it comes to opinions.
- A general appreciation that a lot of people are working to the native voice out.