



Website Updates:

- SBC News Release*
- Mid-Year Reports*
- Link for USDA Video*

Follow-Up of Mid Year Meeting:

Goal: A news article in May.

Highlights:

President Vermillion– 1

Announcements:

- No Conference Call May 5.*
- USDA CSREES Partner Video Released May 1.*
- Closing Event SBC June 29-July 1*

NRE Partners:

- FBCC**
- ISU**
- NICC**
- NDSU**
- SBC**
- SGU**
- SDSU**
- UNL**

USDA IFAFS GRANT 2001-2005

Laurel Vermillion Named Sitting Bull College President

Congratulations to Laurel Vermillion, NRE Steering Committee member, for her appointment as the new president of Sitting Bull College. She assumed this responsibility May 1.

Laurel has been in the position of interim president for the past few months, filling the vacancy left by Ron His Horse is Thunder when he was elected to head the Tribal Council in October 2005.

Robert Gipp, chairman of the Board of Trustees for Sitting Bull College, who has been supportive and involved with the NRE project, made the announcement after several candidates were considered. "Although the candidate pool was strong, it is Dr. Vermillion's education and past work experience at Sitting Bull College that will lead us into the future and continue to help us grow," said Robert Gipp,

The press release from Sitting Bull College (see NRE website) gives Laurel's response to being named president and highlights her educational qualifications and administrative experiences:

"Its exciting because I feel the board of trustees has recognized that one of their own is fully capable of taking over the organization," Vermillion said. "I've lived my whole life here on the Standing Rock Reservation and I know the people."

Vermillion exemplifies the critical role tribal colleges' play among many Reservation communities. She started her academic career as a student in 1973 at Sitting Bull College, and then called Standing Rock Community College. From there, Vermillion matriculated to the University of North Dakota and completed her Bachelor of Science degree in 1980 and her Master's of Education in Administration degree in 1992.

In 1995, Vermillion joined the Sitting Bull College family of administrators, where she held the vice president of academics position for four years. In 1999, she became vice president of operations while also pursuing her doctorate degree in Teaching and Learning-Higher Education. In August 2005, Vermillion completed her doctorate degree and continued



President of Sitting Bull College, Laurel Vermillion

to lead the college's operations until hired as president.

Vermillion believes Sitting Bull College can be the role model to many pilot programs serving the impoverished Native Americans living on and off the Reservations, across the U.S. "This role modeling includes developing partnerships with other tribal colleges," Vermillion said.

Harold Crawford, Co-Director of NRE, points out "Laurel has experience working with NRE Tribal College partners, Fort Berthold Community College, Sinte Gleska University, and Nebraska Indian Community College as well as an "open door" to continue partnerships with Iowa State University, University of Nebraska, South Dakota State University and North Dakota State University. These partnerships will help her achieve her goals as president."

Laurel has participated with NRE from the proposal writing stage, through the organizational, mid-year and annual meetings, the Washington, DC trip, and, along with Linda Hugelen will host the NRE Closing Event at Sitting Bull College.

We wish Laurel every success as she takes on the top administrative post at Sitting Bull College.