




ENCOURAGING EXCELLENCE

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ISSUE 33

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Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska
Substance Abuse Counselor - Winnebago, NE



Words of Wisdom
Nothing good comes easy! You have to sacrifice and work hard! In the end it will all pay off!

SEPA SCIENCE EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP AWARD
Supported by the National Institutes of Health

Nebraska
NebGuide.org

Featured Role Model

To learn more about our programs, visit our website:
www.unmc.edu/sepa

Newsletter Committee
Shrawan (Sam) Kumar
Maurice Godfrey
Kim Soper
Liliana Bronner

SEPA PROGRAM 2024

Dr. Maurice Godfrey, Professor and Dr. Liliana Bronner, Assoc. Professor
SEPA Program Co-Directors

First, all of us on the UNMC SEPA team would like to offer our most sincere CONGRATULATIONS to our very own Liliana Bronner who is now Dr. Liliana Bronner, Ph.D. She has been working on her doctorate for some time while running this and many other programs. Her hard work has been paying off for years. She is truly a role model for all the students, at all grade levels, with whom she works.

Liliana, Congratulations from all!

This past school year we were able to make some long-awaited visits to some of our partner schools and hope that the next school year will allow for even more.

The summer of 2024 will be filled with a wide variety of programs for students and teachers. Details and dates are in the newsletter.

There is one program that we'd like to highlight, and that is our Middle School Health and Science Fun Camp. The camp will run from June 1 to June 7. The bulk of the program will be in conjunction with the Youth Enjoy Science Program at the University of Oklahoma in Norman, OK. Students and chaperones will be driven from Omaha to Oklahoma (and back) in a very comfortable tour bus. The program itself will run from the evening of June 2nd to the morning of June 6th. We are all very excited to provide students with a brand-new adventure.

SEPA Team Members Visit Partner Schools Enemy Swim Day School & UMÓⁿHOⁿ Nation Public School

On February 15, 2024, SEPA team members, Dr. Kumar and Dr. Godfrey, visited Enemy Swim Day School, where 47 middle and high school students participated in a poster presentation showcasing various science projects. These projects included experiments such as smoking bubbles, dry ice experiments, creating bouncing balls, designing cars, producing elephant toothpaste, and developing ecosystem charts and food chain energy pyramids. During the event, our team members provided valuable support and advice to students on innovative project designs.



These projects showcased the exceptional capabilities of the students and contributed to their overall development, enhancing skills necessary for success in their careers. The science posters and anchor charts created by the students serve as valuable references for middle school students to reinforce the science concepts they have learned.

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Visits to Partner Schools in February and March 2024

SEPA team members also participated in insightful discussions with administrators, teachers, and students regarding various SEPA (Science Education Partnership Award) summer programs that we are currently organizing.

These programs are meticulously designed to ignite excitement about science among students and provide them with valuable insights into future career opportunities in the field. Dr. Godfrey shared information about the diverse range of activities and workshops planned as part of these programs, aiming to inspire students and foster their interest in scientific exploration.

During the visit, Drs. Godfrey and Kumar actively interacted with students, encouraging them to participate in these enriching summer programs. He emphasized the importance of hands-on learning experiences and how these programs can significantly contribute to their academic and personal growth.

Overall, the visit served as an excellent opportunity to connect with the Enemy Swim Day School and UMÓ^{HO} Nation Public Schools community and promote the SEPA summer programs as valuable resources for students interested in pursuing careers in science.



Upcoming ISPARK Summer Program for High School Students Explores Research & Careers in the Health Sciences

The I-SPARK Program is geared to encouraging, guiding, mentoring, and inspiring high school students from populations traditionally underrepresented in science, such as the American Indian/Alaska Native (AIAN), Black/African American, and Hispanic/Latino/a to pursue higher education. The goal of the program is giving students an understanding of basic laboratory procedures and techniques to be competitive applicants for college and other summer research internship programs. There are only 12 Spots available so be sure to register early!



July 1 – July 26 2024, 10 AM - 3 PM each day <https://bit.ly/ispark-summer>

The following topics will be covered during this multiple week summer program.

- **Lab Safety and Chemistry 101** – take part in a variety chemistry experiments about the elements that make up our universe and daily lives. Study the structure of atoms, molecules, and the periodic table of elements.
- **Neuroscience Clinical and Lab Research** – discover this cutting-edge field of research and medicine which provides important insights into understanding the mind in health and disease.
- **Computer Science – Artificial Intelligence (AI)** – Transforming the world - learning about Applied Computer Science, Mosquito Surveillance-use of AI in Cyber Security, Health Care and Ethical Issues. Computer Science Career and Job Opportunity.
- **Professional and Personal Development** – One day per week will be spent learning about yourself and focusing on important skills that will give you an edge before you start college.
- **Perks: No cost to Attend.** A lunch and transportation are provided daily for students in the Omaha-Metro area. Students receive a stipend for their participation.
- **Want to Register?**
 - 1- Fill out the Online registration form found at: <https://bit.ly/ispark-summer>
 - 2- Supplemental registration materials: (page 2) parent permission form can be found at this link if you would like to fill out a PDF version: <https://bit.ly/isparkreg24>



Email: sepa@unmc.edu Phone: (402) 559-4365

This program is funded by an NIH contract #75N95021P00249 from the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) and the National Institute of Neurological Disorder and Stroke (NINDS)



SEPA Program: Find Your Future Career Shadowing Exploration for High School Students

Monday, June 24 - Friday, June 28, 2024

This upcoming opportunity will help students **explore careers** that provide services for children and adults with developmental disabilities or movement dysfunctions.

Students will get shadowing experience and learn about a “day in the life” of some of the following professions:

- Speech Language Therapy – Speech pathologists help children and adults communicate independently. They offer services that include assessment and treatment of individuals with disorders affecting speech, language, voice, cognition, and swallowing.
- Physical Therapy – Physical therapists promote independence, increase participation, facilitate motor development and function, improve strength and endurance, enhance learning opportunities and ease challenges with daily caregiving for people with developmental disabilities or movement dysfunction
- Recreation Therapy – Recreational therapists uses play, recreation and leisure activities to improve physical, cognitive, social and emotional functioning
- Genetics – Geneticists help individuals and families understand the diagnosis, treatment and management of a genetic or metabolic disorder. They offer advice on recurrence risks and future family implications, in addition to helping parents gain an understanding of what may have caused the anomaly
- Psychology – Psychology behavioral health specialists provide clinical services for a wide variety of behavioral, social-emotional, developmental and physical, and cognitive disabilities in infants, children, and teens. They provide intensive training experiences in psychological evaluation, treatment, and research with children, adolescents, and their families.
- Pediatric Feeding Disorders – Feeding disorder professionals focus on understanding the cause of **a child's feeling problems, while considering medical history, oral and motor skills, nutrition, and behavior.** Their goal is to teach a child to eat like other children and promote appropriate weight gain and growth.
- Neurodevelopmental & Related Disorders – Neurodevelopmental specialists are professionals dedicated to improving the health of children who have, or are at risk for, neurodevelopmental and other related developmental disabilities (DD), including autism spectrum disorder (ASD). They work closely with others from a wide variety of professional disciplines to ensure high levels of interdisciplinary clinical competence.
- Developmental Disabilities – The developmental medicine team serves infants, youth, and adults for a variety of developmental, behavioral, mood and emotional disorders, including Autism Spectrum Disorders, ADHD, developmental delay, learning problems and anxiety. They promote independence, self-determination, productivity, integration, and inclusion of individuals with developmental disabilities and provide supports for families.
- Motion Analysis & Virtual Reality Lab - This program provides diagnostics and treatments – who have disorders of walking. Advanced blend of engineering, biomechanics and brain imaging to quantify movement disorders and inform treatment strategies for individuals with cerebral palsy and other movement disorders.

Where:

Munroe-Meyer Institute
6902 Pine St.
Omaha, Nebraska 68106

When:

June 24-28, 2024

Each day will run for 6.5 hours
9:00 am – 3:30 pm (M-F).

Participation Perks

- No cost to attend
- Get fun health career shadowing experience
- Lunch provided
- Receive a stipend of \$250 for attending all exploration sessions

To Confirm Your Participation:

Return registration forms and parent permission by May 28th

Registration forms available at:
<https://bit.ly/fyfreg2024>

Mail registration forms to:

FYF Shadowing
983075 Nebraska Med Center
Omaha, NE 68198-3075

Questions?

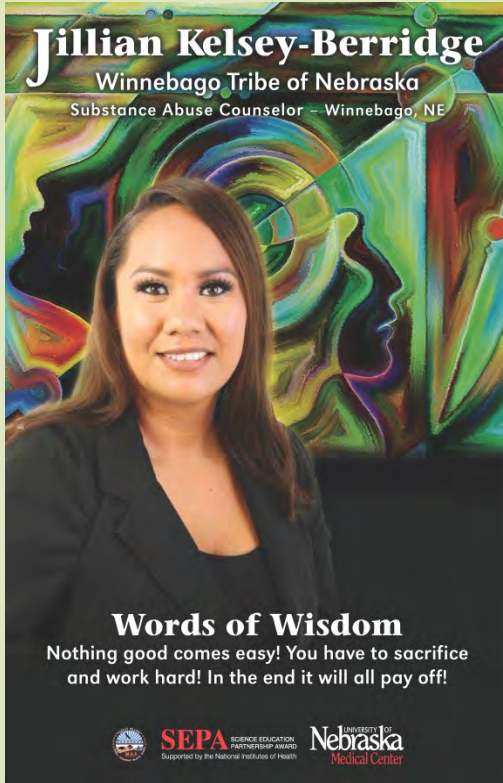
Email: sepa@unmc.edu





Role Model Poster Project

The Role Model Poster Project features Native Americans in many health and science professions. Each poster includes the name, photograph, and tribal affiliation of the person featured. Additional information for teachers include: education, benefits, motivation, special job skills, and words of wisdom. These posters proved to be a great source of inspiration and motivation to the students and teachers. There are currently ten sets of posters and each set features five tribal members.



ANNOUNCEMENTS / UPCOMING EVENTS

1. **SEPA Board Meeting**
Marriott Riverfront Hotel, South Sioux City
Date: Friday, April 19, 2024
Time: 10 AM - 2 PM
 2. **Wagner School Visit to UNMC**
Date: Friday, April 26, 2024
Time: 10 AM - 3 PM
 3. **SEPA Health and Science Fun Camp**
University of Oklahoma, Norman, OK
Date: June 2 - 7, 2024 (*Arrive in Omaha June 1st*)
 4. **Career Exploration & Shadowing For High School Students**
UNMC-Munroe-Meyer Institute, Omaha, NE
Date: June 24 - 28, 2024
 5. **SEPA Teacher Workshop**
Marriott Riverfront Hotel, South Sioux City
Date: June 11 - 13, 2024
 6. **Indigenous Summer Program for advancing Research Knowledge (I-SPARK)**
UNMC, UNO, Creighton, Omaha, NE
Date: July 1 - 26, 2024
 7. **SHPEP-WISH - UNMC**
Date: July 7 - 12, 2024
- Email us with your questions: sepa@unmc.edu

Health & Science Fun Camp for Middle School Students June 2-6, 2024 at University of Oklahoma, Norman, OK



SEPA has a long-standing commitment to outreach initiatives, spanning several years. Our diverse range of programs cater to K-12 students, offering a valuable opportunity to introduce them to the wonders of science from an early age. By engaging students in hands-on activities and interactive learning experiences, we aim to foster a lasting interest in science and inspire them to consider future careers in the field.

This year, we are thrilled to announce our upcoming summer camp, scheduled to take place at the University of Oklahoma in Norman, OK, from June 2nd to June 6th, 2024. Our meticulously planned program features a series of immersive, hands-on science activities designed to provide students with the best possible learning experience.

Registration for the camp will commence in April 2024. This will offer students the chance to secure their spot in this exciting educational opportunity. We look forward to welcoming students and igniting their passion for science during this enriching summer camp experience.

For Registration forms, download the camp flyer

<https://bit.ly/24sepa-campflyer>

SEPA Teacher Workshop June 11-13, 2024

The Brain: Understanding Executive Function and Its Importance for Student Success

The next SEPA teacher workshop will address Executive function which is a set of mental skills that include working memory, flexible thinking, and self-control. We use these skills every day to learn, work, and manage daily life.



Trouble with executive function can make it hard to focus, follow directions, and handle emotions, among other things.

When: June 11-13, 2024

Where: Marriott Riverfront Hotel in South Sioux City

UNDER APPROVAL FOR 1-HR OF GRADUATE CREDIT WITH SIOUX FALLS UNIVERSITY!

Promo Flyer: <https://bit.ly/sepa2024TWflyer>

Registration: <https://bit.ly/sepa2024workshop>

Registration Deadline May 15

Email sepa@unmc.edu with questions