AMSFCC Steering Committee Meeting notes – 3/30/2012

Here is a short recap from today’s meeting

Today’s meeting attendees: Asia Beder, Beverly Bradley, Lisa Busch, Paula Cullenberg, Barbara Morgan, Ida Hildebrand, Lökí Tobin, Sheila Cameron, Katie Straub, David Tallman

Meeting Topics/Tasks:

1. Welcome to David Tallman, UAS biology professor, to the steering committee.

2. UAF Fisheries BA and BS rural and Alaska Native student enrollment stats: Katie Straub, UAF Fisheries internship coordinator and steering committee member explained some of the recent student statistics (attached). Numbers have been growing since 2007, including Alaska Native and rural enrollment. Last couple of years Alaska Native enrollment has dropped off a bit.

   Discussion: It would interesting to get similar information could be gathered for different campuses and degrees. Big issues: Retention and being able to have someone physically there to interact with the students. Dave Tallman noted that UAS possibly may be joining with UAF to provide the undergraduate fisheries program. What could be done by the Coalition and other organizations to help with numbers? Katie mentioned – Tutoring, Encourage students to explore their interests, Sessions to help students succeed in school.

3. Kawerak’s Caleb Pungowiyi Scholarship
   Lökí Tobin, coordinator of the new scholarship program for Kawerak joined us to tell us about this opportunity. Funded by the Oak Foundation to get more students from the region involved in the marine sciences in memory of Caleb Pungowiyi.
   - Focus on Bering Strait, Northwest Arctic, and Arctic students
   - Both for undergraduate and graduate students
   - $5,000 a semester for two years with the possibility of providing six students a semester with scholarships
   - Funding for this scholarship program is for ten years
   - Also wanting to work on internship program and travel grant program
     o Internships to integrate students into possible jobs post school
     o Travel program would bring students back to their communities for the summer so they can share their experiences and help mentor others who have similar interests
     o For more information, contact Loki Tobin at cpp.spec@kawerak.org

4. An Alaska Marine Science and Fisheries Career Coalition sponsored internship?
   Paula and Lisa Busch presented further about the idea that the Coalition could sponsor internships for coastal and Alaska Native students interested in fisheries and marine science. The Coalition could find and place interns if it had funding, or could find and place an intern in an organization that had funds and was looking for someone.

   Discussion: Demand is there – ADF&G had over 140 applicants for 13 positions. UAS could see in increase in internship opportunities in their labs after next summer; Oceans Alaska could find intern possibilities; Paula is waiting to see if NOAA has funds; Luki said she is reviewing funding possibilities with Rose; Ida said that she would be willing to float the idea to some Native corporations if we could draft a letter. **Action item: Lisa and Paula will draft a letter explaining the program and encouraging funding ($5,000 per student per internship).** See attached concept paper.
5. New VISTA volunteer after Asia’s year is up. The Coalition has one more year to have a VISTA volunteer (a 3-year funded project). The VISTA volunteer does not have to stay in Anchorage and could be placed with any of the Coalition’s program partners. Requires very little money, mostly just need an office space and computer for the VISTA. Could start as early as mid July if a description can be posted to the AmeriCorp website soon. Anyone interested in the next VISTA should let Paula know.

6. Steering Committee Updates:
   - Barbara Morgan – Oceans Alaska (community shellfish research center in Ketchikan) is almost up and running.
   - Sheila Cameron – ADF&G had 140 applications for 13 internship positions. Working on hiring students and about 50% are Alaska residents.
   - David Tallman – ANSEP extending to Southeast Alaska in the fall and starting to focus on marine biology. There are lots of new opportunities developing with that.
   - Ida Hildebrand. – CRRC’s K-12 curriculum should be finished in August. They are working with week long camps for the summer.
   - Lisa Busch – Sitka Sound Science Center is finishing up its killer whale re-articulation and getting ready to reopen the center. Note for coalition members: UAF Professor Shannon Atkinson is willing to bring the Dem Bones program (Dem Bones stands for Distinctive Education in Motion, Biodiversity of Nature and Environmental Stewardship) to other schools or centers if requested and you can support her. She will help your community re-articulate a marine mammal. You can reach her at 941 894 8664 or atkinson@sfos.uaf.edu

Lisa mentioned that Idaho State is scanning Arctic Marine Mammal bones and they are NSF funded to go to communities to do the work. SO, if you have a marine mammal that is not yet in their database they will come. They were very cool and interested in community engagement.


Asia will send out a doodle to help plan our next meeting which will be sometime in May. Also a newsletter is in the works. If you have something you want included in it please contact Asia as soon as possible.