

Goal #1

Increase the percentage of Native American 11th and 12th graders participating in career focused field trips designed to explore post-secondary options and career awareness increasing their employability in job markets from 60% in 2019 to 85% by 2022.

In the first year of the grant, we were able to take career/college readiness trips with Lake of the Woods and South Koochiching-Rainy River (Northome) school students. Our first planned trip to Camp Ripley was cancelled by the military because they felt our group of 19 students was too small.

Our second trip was to the greater Grand Forks area. We had two Native American (7.4% students of color) and 25 Caucasian students elect to participate from our three schools. We toured Crystal Sugar, University of North Dakota, and Northland Community and Technical College. In addition, we attended Northern Valley Career Expo.

Our third trip was to Roseau and Warroad for tours of industries in the area. We had four Native American students (14.8% students of color) and 23 Caucasian students choose to attend the trip. We toured Polaris Manufacturing, Karl Manufacturing, and Marvin Windows.

We had planned our next trip in March 2019 to take a small group of students on a tour of Itasca Community College and Iron Range Engineering. That trip was planned for the first day of the Covid shut-down so we were unable to reschedule.

In 2020, our second year of the grant, we were unable to conduct any tours with our partner schools due to Covid restrictions.

In our third year of the grant, we were able to schedule our first trip to Grand Forks for the Northern Valley Career Expo for October 27, 2021. At this time, I only have participation numbers from Kelliher and Northome. We had 22 students from Kelliher and 3 from Northome. Kelliher offered the trip to all students in 10th grade. Of the 30 Kelliher students, only 22 attended. Six of the students who attended were Native American (27%) and 16 were Caucasian.

While we attempted to make the trips accessible by leaving after the morning busses arrived and after students ate breakfast. We provided lunch at Pizza Ranch, bussing to Grand Forks, and supper at Culver's on the way home. Students only had to have transportation home in the evening. Our goal of increasing participation from 60% of Native American students to 85% in 2021 was not reached in any of the three years. With the trip in October 2021, we did have 6 of our 11 Native American students participate in the trip, a percentage of 55%.

