UCAR Listening Conferences

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It isn’t just who we hire…
• The science we do
• Where we do it
• Relationships we have
“Cold is what makes my language, my culture, my identity. What am I going to do without cold?”

Oscar Kawagley, Yupiak Elder
Professor, Univ. of Alaska, Fairbanks
Toward a more inclusive atmospheric science...

- UCAR becomes a participant in a research and/or education agenda that addresses larger issues important to under-represented communities with a weather and climate piece

- UCAR helps develop a diverse workforce, including future weather and climate researchers
First Step: Listening Conferences

• Partner with community leaders
• Focus on specific communities
  – Tribal Colleges (James Rattling-Leaf, Sinte Gleska)
  – Community Colleges (Oswaldo Garcia, San Francisco State)
  – Hispanic Serving Institutions (Aaron Velasco, UTEP, President of SACNAS)
  – Historically Black Colleges and Universities (Quinton Williams, Jackson State)
Listening Conferences

• Focus on academic community and leverage connections to industry, business, and government agencies

• Leverage NSF investment in NCAR as a resource to universities and colleges
Guiding Question:

• What are the top priorities for your institutions and the communities you serve?
• How do these priorities relate to climate and weather?
• How can UCAR/NCAR/UOP support these priorities?
Format: Step One

• Four meetings arranged in collaboration with partners
  – Guest list developed collaboratively
  – Held, like PACUR, in the community
  – Attended by Rick and/or Eric
  – Industry, Business, Foundations, Agencies also invited to listen

• Day One
  – Community leads the discussion, UCAR leads the listening

• Day Two:
  – UCAR and listeners articulates what they heard
  – All participants identify overlapping interests
Format: Step Two

• An inclusive meeting in DC
  – Articulate the overlapping interests
  – Identify potential collaborations between the four groups
  – Identify strategies for funding