



## **11th Annual State of Montana Conference - 2008**

### ***Montana Large River Ecosystems-Tribal College Collaborations***

The 11th Annual State of Montana NSF EPSCoR Conference was held May 5-6, 2008 in Billings, MT. Over 30 participants from MSU, UM, Montana Tech, and all seven tribal colleges met and discussed ways to move the Large River Ecosystems research initiative forward and support the tribal colleges in their work. The conference was opened with a prayer by Dr. Richard Littlebear, President, Chief Dull Knife College. Two guest speakers shared their ideas and information Michael Ceballos, Director, Native American Research Laboratory at UM and Rich Moy, Water Management Bureau Chief, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation of the State of Montana, both provided lots of discussion for the conference.

Sara Young, EPSCoR tribal college liaison, estimated that this was the first time in 13 years that all seven of Montana's tribal colleges had come together for a research conference. Drs. Tony Walters and Denise Barnes of NSF also attended the conference. A pre-conference field trip to two tribal colleges, Chief Dull Knife College in Lama Deer and Little Big Horn College at Crow Agency gave participants an opportunity to see facilities and equipment and meet with students participating in the research conducted.

#### Presentations were given by:

Mark Young, MT NSF EPSCoR Director

Ric Hauer, MT NSF EPSCoR Co-Director

Michael Ceballos, Director, Native American Research Laboratory at UM

Denise Barnes, Program Director, NSF EPSCoR

Rich Moy, Water Management Bureau Chief, Department of Natural Resources  
and Conservation of the State of Montana

Bill Woessner, LRE Lead

#### Tribal Colleges:

Blackfeet Community College – Pam Atkins

Chief Dull Knife College – Bob Madsen, Rick Stiff and Bill Stiff

Fort Belknap College – William Bell

Fort Peck Community College – Glenn Black and Chris Martinez

Salish Kootenai College – Bill Swaney

Stone Child College – Eric Shulund

Little Big Horn College – Mari Eggers, Sara Plagameier and Crescentia Cummins