

Nebraska Department of Education

March 2009



“We live this lie of the color-blind society, and people say, ‘I don’t see race,’ as though ignoring our differences is a good thing. I think that’s a real flaw.”

Emily Bernard, associate professor of English and US Ethnic Studies, University of Vermont, *Glamour*, October 2008

Written by Carol Rempp

Now why on earth would I be including a quote from *Glamour* magazine in an educational newsletter? I don’t even usually buy *Glamour*! Well the headlines about hair, skin and body secrets for 20, 30, & 40 year olds intrigued me. My happy surprise after discovering those secrets was finding the article that was the second of a three part panel discussion on race. The article was titled “Do You Have Friends of Other Races?”

I thought about this and thought well of course I do. I am both Native American and Irish American and have many friends who are Native American and of European descent. Then as I read I was enlightened. It really got me thinking about the diversity in my group of friends and do we really even think of our diversity. Most of my closest friends are white or Native American, Catholic or Christian, and we all grew up in small Nebraska or South Dakota towns.

As the article went on there was discussion about why these panelist may or may not have much diversity in their friend sets and the fact that they are all from New York City made a little bit of difference in the opportunity to have diverse friends but not whether or not they actually did have diverse friends. The comment at the top of this article was towards the end when there was discussion about the comfort level of others around diverse groups. One panelist told a story of how the husband of a friend “shushed” his son for asking her why the color of her palm was different from his. The lady wasn’t offended. She saw it as an opportunity to share with the child but



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY
NEBRASKA**

the father was clearly uncomfortable with the discussion of different colors of skin. He said we shouldn’t see color. The above quote was her reply.

There was also discussion about whether or not women everywhere had the opportunity to have a diverse friend set and even if you have the opportunity do you or don’t you take it. I wondered about our Nebraska schools. Our schools in a lot of the state are not diverse and some that have a few Native American or Hispanic or African American students among a small student

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Nebraska-rich in history It's not just any state

Once considered uninhabitable due to the prairies and Sandhills until the Homestead Act of 1862, Nebraska was life to only a handful of settlers. Their lives were bleak except for religious services and barn dancing for social events. The prairie winds howled the silence of Nebraska.

The first Europeans known to see Nebraska was Frenchman Etienne Veniard de Bourgmont (1714), the Mallet brothers (1739) and Pedro de Villasur (1720).

Slavery in Nebraska

In 1820 the North and South agreed Missouri could be the slave state and there would be no slaves in Nebraska or Kansas. No one reported to live here but a few "Indian" and fur traders/trappers..



When Nebraska settled to have a government, fierce disagreements between the North and South over slavery resulted in a passed effect that new land should be slave or free as settlers voted. The people never voted for slavery. In 1855 thirteen slaves resided in Nebraska. Most lived around the Nebraska City area. Some of this was due to the Underground Railroad which ran by Falls City.

Rich with Heritage

Nebraska, named after the Native American meaning "flat water", saw wagons of families representing Czech, Swiss, German, Russian and Danish. Communities were built around these ethnic groups.

African Americans

First attempts of African American settlers were in Omaha after the Civil War. Most moved to Franklin County in 1871 with the second wave settling in Harlan County around 1889.

Tom Brown, a slave of a Missourian man came for a Buffalo Hunt in 1842. He escaped and returned to Nebraska in 1907. Tom was written into history as one of the first slaves/African Americans in Nebraska.

But record show Sally Bayne was credited with being the first FREE African American settler in 1855. Sally settled in the Omaha area.

Native Americans

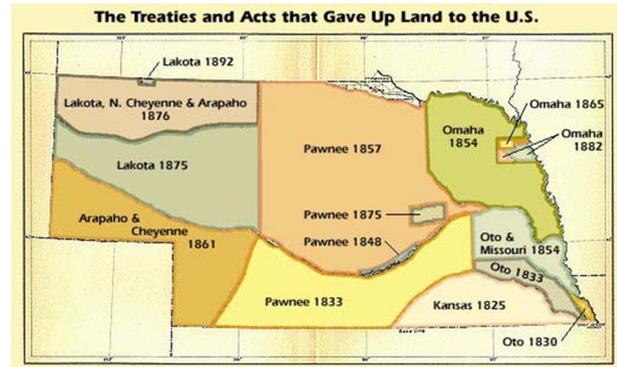
In the years leading up to the Homestead Act passage, separate treaties of Native American tribes gave up land to the U.S. Government for Nebraska. This brought about an explosion of European settlement.

Census for the year 1898-1914 listed five "civilized" tribes, Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Creek, Seminole, and Mississippi Choctaw and 40,000 in population.

The reported population size is so small considering the heritage Native Americans have given Nebraska and the Midwest.

Native American lived in Nebraska as far back as A.D. 1400 after locating several hundred archeological settlement sites.

European trade of horses and iron proved beneficial.



The Indian Industrial School at Genoa was the fourth non-reservation boarding school established by the Office of Indian Affairs.

Over twenty tribes and ten states represented the school which opened in 1884. Their mission was to educate and teach Christianity. Students also studied harness making, carpentry, tailoring, and shoe repair.

Mexican Americans

The history of the migrated Mexican people in the United States is unique. It is said, "the first Mexicans "did not come to this country, but that this country came to them."

The United States expended their boundary in 1848. This parcel of land, about the size of Mexico reported 100,000 Spanish speaking individuals.

Two massive migration moves since 1900 brought most to Nebraska via the railways. The Mexican Americans today are descendants of these moves.

Coming from Kansas City as railroad workers, the trains traveled through Omaha, Lincoln, Kearney Ogallala and Scottsbluff, rail workers stayed to work in the sugar beet fields or slaughtering houses. They did not come with the intentions of settling here but working for a short period of time.

Did you know????



McRib Sandwich has a Nebraska connection?

Professor Roger Mandingo from

the University of Nebraska received a grant to create the process binding small pieces of meat in different shapes aka restructured meats. His results are also the dinosaur-shaped chicken nuggets.

Nebraska is the birthplace of the Reuben sandwich, the Runza (1949-Lincoln) and Swanson TV dinners (1954 – Omaha) and Spam (Fremont).



The **first homestead** claim in the United States was in Nebraska. Daniel Freeman claimed land by

Nebraska has more miles of rivers than any other state. We also have most underground water reserves in the continental U.S.

Sidney is the Black Hills Gold Rush starting point.



Modern rodeo originated in Nebraska.

William, "Buffalo Bill" Cody, a resident of North Platte, staged a rodeo-type event in 1882. The Old Glory Blowout was marks the successful Wild West show



Dr Harold Edgerton, Aurora, invented the strobe light.

911 system, used nationwide was developed and first used in Lincoln

Cozad Nebraska is on the 100th Meridian where east meets west.

The Sandhills is the largest grass-covered sand dunes in the Western Hemisphere. Only the Sahara and Arabian deserts have bigger areas of sand.

1986 Nebraska was the first state to have two women running against each other for governor.

Union Pacific's Bailey Yards (North Platte) is the largest rail classification complex in the WORLD.



Busiest Interstate McDonald's—York

Niobrara keeps moving. In 1857 it was along the Missouri but kept moving due to ice jams and flooding. In 1970 they finally found their permanent spot.



Illegal to go whale fishing in Nebraska

The Niobrara River is one of the top canoeing rivers in the country with 90 waterfalls.

Kearney is geographically dead center between Boston and San Francisco.



Nebraska has more miles of rivers than any other state. We also have most underground water reserves in the continental U.S.

With statehood in 1867, the Legislature approved \$25 to **design a new seal**. Guidelines said a blacksmith with a hammer and anvil was to be the focal point.



Thurl Ravenscroft from Norfolk was the voice of Tony the Tiger and a host of Disney movies.

Indian Museum Going Public

National Museum of the American Indian has 800,000 objects.

The museum went digital in January to give students, teachers and scholars, the opportunity to see their collection. Over 5,500 items and photos are currently showcased on their website. The site is fascinating and captivates you to explore. The collection is divided into subgroups of Kids Stuff: Toys and Games; Contemporary Arts; Famous Individuals; Footwear; Headgear; Basketry; Pottery and the Thisba Hutson Morgan Collection. Search, discover and explore at <http://www.nmai.si.edu/>

Leading to Reading

Seward Memorial Library believes in starting to read early. In conjunction with Concordia University, their literacy council developed the Learning to Read postcard program.

It is a 61 part set of postcards sent to parents from birth to age five. The cards explain different reading development skills and suggestions to reading to your child. Currently over 200 youth are registered for the postcard program.

A website has been developed to explain the program, tips for parents and to sign up. www.friendsofsewardlibrary.com/leading.htm

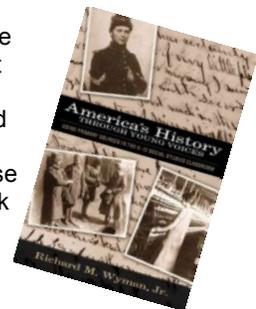


From NIEA Library
www.neia.org

The Multicultural Resource Series: Resources for a Multicultural Classroom.

This second volume in the series "Resources for a Multicultural Classroom" helps teachers develop creative ways to integrate multiculturalism into every curriculum, from science to literature. This annotated resource guide presents K-12 teachers with an extensive listing of print (biography, poetry, anthology, essay, fiction, research, and history), film and video, and electronic resources. National and state organizations are listed in each chapter and can provide extensive cultural and informational resources to support school-based programs. Chapters are: (1) "American Indian and Alaska Native Resources"; (2) "Asian and Pacific Islander Resources"; (3) "Black Resources"; (4) "Hispanic Resources"; (5) "Multiracial/Interracial Resources"; (6) "Gender Resources"; (7) "Disability Resources"; and (8) "Sexual Orientation Resources." Appended are an index of films, an index of film distributors, and an index of list serves and e-mail forums

America's History through Young Voices contains primary sources written by young people from twelve periods of American history. The history presented here is of ordinary people, not that of empire-builders, kings, and presidents. The diaries, letters, and essays are narratives, thus engaging students in the story of history. Specific instructional strategies were developed for each of the primary sources based upon the five categories of historical thinking skills. Teachers thus have both the primary source (content) and instructional activities (skills) for use in the classroom. Chapter One presents a general introduction to historical sources. This book is intended for teachers and students in elementary, middle, or secondary social studies who wish to emphasize the teaching and learning of American history using primary sources.



[Libri Foundation: Books for Children](#)

The Libri Foundation Books for Children Grants donate new, quality, hardcover children's books for small, rural, public libraries across the country. Maximum award: new, quality, hardcover books. Eligibility: Libraries should be in a rural area, have a limited operating budget, and an active children's department. The average total operating budget of a Books for Children grant recipient must be less than \$40,000. Deadline: April 15, 2009.

[/www.librifoundation.org/apps.html](http://www.librifoundation.org/apps.html)

HHS' SAMHSA FY 2009 APPLICATIONS FOR STATE/ TRIBAL YOUTH SUICIDE PREVENTION GRANTS NOW AVAILABLE

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Center for Mental Health Services is accepting applications for fiscal year (FY) 2009 for State/Tribal Youth Suicide Prevention Grants.

The purpose of this program is to build on the foundation of prior suicide prevention efforts in order to support States and tribes in developing and implementing statewide or tribal youth suicide prevention and early intervention strategies, grounded in public/private collaboration. It is anticipated that 18 grants will be awarded in the amount of \$500,000 for three years each. Applications are due by April 17, 2009. For more information:

www.sprc.org/news/index.asp

White House Internship Program

The White House Internship Program provides a unique opportunity to gain job experience and an inside look at the life of White House staff while building leadership skills. This hands-on program is designed to mentor and cultivate today's young leaders, strengthening their understanding of the Executive Office and preparing them for future public service possibilities.

In addition to normal office duties, interns will supplement their learning experience by attending a weekly lecture series hosted by senior White House staff, help at White House social events, and volunteer in community service projects.

"This program will mentor and cultivate young leaders of today and tomorrow and I'm proud that they will have this opportunity to serve," said President Obama. "I look forward to working with those that are selected to participate and I want to commend all who apply for their desire to help through public service to forge a brighter future for our country."

White House Internships are full-time unpaid positions and participants are responsible for arranging their own transportation and housing for the duration of the program.

[Click here for the White House link with more information and application.](#)

Indian Health Service (IHS) has announced an estimated \$14.0 million will be available for FY 2009 awards for the **Indian Health Professions Preparatory, Indian Health Professions Pre-graduate and Indian Health Professions Scholarship Programs**, [Full details / application requirements](#)

The **Health Professions Preparatory Scholarship** awards are made to American Indians (Federally recognized Tribal members, first and second degree descendants of Tribal members, and state recognized Tribal members, first and second degree descendants of Tribal members), or Alaska Natives who:

- ✓ Have successfully completed high school education or high school equivalency;
- ✓ Have been accepted for enrollment in a compensatory, pre-professional general education course or curriculum; and

The **Health Pre-graduate Scholarship** awards are made to American Indians (Federally recognized Tribal members, first and second degree descendants of Tribal members, and state recognized Tribal members, first and second degree descendants of Tribal members), or Alaska Natives who:

- ✓ Have successfully completed high school education or high school equivalency; and
- ✓ Have been accepted for enrollment or are enrolled in an accredited pregraduate program leading to a baccalaureate degree in pre-medicine, pre-dentistry, pre-podiatry or pre-optometry.

The **Indian Health Professions Scholarship** may be awarded only to an individual who is a member of a Federally recognized Indian Tribe or Alaska Native as provided by section 4(c) and 4(d) of the IHCA. Membership in a Tribe recognized only by a state does not meet this statutory requirement. To receive an Indian Health Professions Scholarship, an otherwise eligible individual must be enrolled in an appropriately accredited school and pursuing a course of study in a health profession as defined by section 4(n) of the IHCA.

Gallery of Stars

Our nominations and gallery grows each year. Star your Native American students.



Multicultural/Diversity and
Native American Education
More information: 402-471-4677



Native American Student
Nominations forms, guidelines and
photo requirements are
available at
www.nde.state.ne.us/nativeamer

All students will be published in our
Gallery of Stars book.
Deadline September 10 (firm).



Facing the 21st Century
 Strength from our Past
 Hope for our Future

Diversity in Education
 Chadron State College
 September 21, 2009

Native American Symposium
 Winnebago Public Schools
 November 2, 2009

Nebraska Department of Education



April 17-19, 2009 * Norman, Oklahoma*

Register and information at

www.indianeducation.org/conference

* date/location change

Native American Advisory Council Meetings

Wayne State College
 Student Activities Center
 April 14 5:00-7:00 p.m.

Chadron State College
 North Platte Room
 March 31 5:00-7:00 p.m.

June 10-12, 2009
 Elkhorn Public Schools
 Elkhorn Ridge Middle School

"Kid Whispering" Pre-session sponsored by the Nebraska Department of Education. Presenters/trainers, Dr. J. C. Chambers and Mark Freado. Pre-session is FREE with early registration ending April 24.
www.nebraskamiddlelevelacademy.org/

or follow on twitter@ MidlLevelAcademy



<http://www.nde.state.ne.us/cspd/Conference/index.htm>

Reclaiming Youth Seminars

Summer in the Black Hills
 Life Spaces: June 15-19
 Person Brain Model Training: June 18-19
 Circle of Courage (June 20)
 Reclaiming Youth Conference (June 20-23)
 Response Ability Pathways (June 24-26)
 Developmental Audit (June 24-26)

www.reclaiming.com



National Association of
 State Directors of Migrant Education
41st Annual National Migrant Education Conference
 May 3-6, 2009 San Antonio Texas
<http://www.nasdme.org>

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population seem to have the mindset that they're just like the rest of us. They're doing okay. We don't pay attention to different colors of skin. And therefore we don't really consider whether or not we are meeting their educational needs. Why should we when they're just like us?

I think back on my own educational experiences. My older brother was one grade level ahead of me. For the most part we both did okay in school. Of course back then I didn't know anything about learning styles of Native American students. As I reflect on information I am sharing with teachers these days I often wonder how much better he would have done in school if someone along the way would have paid attention to the fact that he was a Native American boy? I wonder would it have

made a difference?

Glamour magazine may not be a leading educational journal but the October 2008 article on friends sure did get me thinking about education. Do we say we don't see color because it makes us feel like we are being equitable to all students or politically correct or do we say that because it's easier? As the quote says, maybe it really is a flaw. Perhaps instead of being worried about our differences we should be celebrating them and finding understanding in how they create a much richer life palate. As we celebrate the birthday of Nebraska in the month of March I challenge you to also celebrate and teach your students the rich cultural diversity that has been part of Nebraska, is part of Nebraska, and is one of the things that makes Nebraska truly "The Good Life."

Strategic Planning ...Our Next Move



We have set numerous dates and locations for your community and educational input from Chadron to Norfolk to Wayne and back to Lincoln. Meetings begin March 31 and conclude in May. Select your meeting location NOW and register. The goal of the Nebraska Department of Education Multicultural/Urban and Native American Education Office is to support districts across the state with increasing student achievement, providing quality professional development, and developing cultural competency in educators and students.

- 7 dates from March 31 to May 28
- 5 regional areas in Nebraska

Register online and download brochure at

<http://www.nde.state.ne.us/nativeamer/StrategicPlanning.html>

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