Loni Nelson, Former MURI Student, Leads Efforts to Start New SACNAS Chapter at Idaho State University

The Society for Advancement of Chicanos/Hispanics and Native Americans in Science (SACNAS) recently held their annual National Diversity in STEM Conference on October 11-13, 2018 in San Antonio, TX.

Loni Nelson, a former MILES Undergraduate Research and Internships (MURI) student at Idaho State University (ISU) and Fisheries major who worked with Dr. Antonio Castro in fall 2017 (under the Idaho EPSCoR MILES program), attended the event along with other ISU representatives. She will be serving as President of the newly established SACNAS chapter, which was recently approved by the Associated Students of Idaho State University (ASISU).

SACNAS is dedicated to fostering the success of Chicanos/Hispanics and Native Americans, from college students to professionals, in attaining advanced degrees, careers, and positions of leadership in STEM. The ISU student chapter will now aim to become an approved national SACNAS chapter and join 115 current chapters located at numerous universities throughout the United States. SACNAS is the first student chapter in Idaho.

Other ISU SACNAS participants included Sonia Martinez (ISU STEM Diversity Outreach Coordinator), and Dr. Julia Martin (ISU Biological Sciences faculty and SACNAS faculty advisor). In addition to Loni, the other student participants included Maria Marez, Adolpho Andazola Carmona, and Stephanie Vera, who all received travel awards from the Office for Research Outreach and Compliance.

The student participants, who are all first generation college students, also have big plans for their future with all four planning on attending graduate school.

To learn more about SACNAS and its mission visit:

https://www.sacnas.org/who-we-are/mission-impact/