

# Community

## MIHS Teacher Participates in Unique Science & Technology Program

*“Students will benefit from his involvement”*

**Submitted Article**  
*Menominee Indian School District*

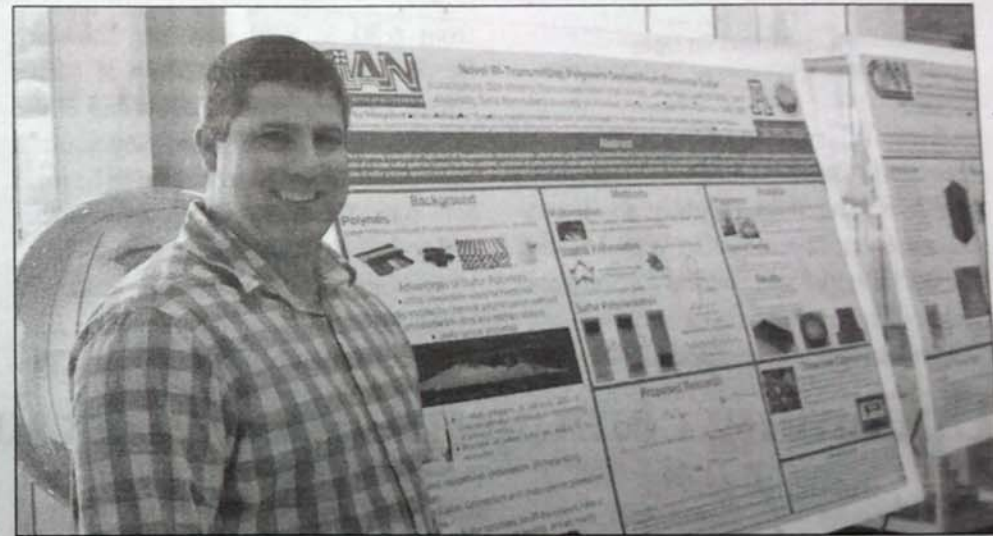
September 15, 2015 (Keshena, WI) MIHS general science and chemistry teacher, Dan Moreno, had a unique opportunity this summer; an opportunity that will benefit his students for years to come. He participated in an innovative, six week program at the University of Arizona called “Research in Optics for K-14 Educators and Teachers” or ROKET for short. The National Science Foundation-funded program was hosted by the Center for Integrated Access Networks (CIAN) at the University of Arizona.

The program was designed for educators of Native American students to participate in a hands-on research project in a top-tier research laboratory at the University. Moreno worked with internationally renowned scientist and professor, Dr. Jeffrey Pyun. The educators also participated in Native

American directed classes and workshops to further apply and enhance their understanding of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) topics.

“It was an honor to be invited to this program,” said Moreno. “It was an incredible learning experience and now I can take that information back to the classroom so our students can benefit from it as well.” As part of the program, Moreno received a budget to purchase supplies for his classroom for the 2015-2016 school year.

Moreno will apply his experiences in the classroom through a lesson plan investigating the chemistry of dyes. His class will use spectroscopy to identify traditional plants used for natural dyes, including the wood sorrel plant used for yellow dye in Menominee culture. “Students will then be able to analyze and describe the chemical composition of natural and synthetic dyes as well as comparing and contrasting their differ-



*Submitted Photo*

**Menominee Indian High School teacher, Dan Moreno, recently participated in a unique, culturally-based, STEM research and training opportunity.**

ent chemical compositions,” Moreno explained.

“Our students will directly benefit from Mr. Moreno’s interest in continuing to expand his own learning and education,” said MISD Superintendent

Wendell Waukau. “This was a cutting-edge STEM program that incorporated Native American culture and now our students will be carrying out their own research. Everyone benefits from a program like this one.”