A partnership that includes Valley City State University, Sitting Bull College, and a group of five K-12 schools has been formed to improve math and science proficiency at Native American K-12 schools in North Dakota. The partnership has been funded by a $360,000 grant from the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction.

Under the partnership, Sitting Bull College and VCSU will deliver a 10-day professional development institute during the summer of 2011 to equip up to 40 K-12 teachers at Native American schools with the very latest research and trends in STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) Education. A series of one-day follow-up workshops will increase the depth of understanding, expand instructional options, and help these teachers implement curriculum from the summer institute.

A group of faculty will conduct the Institute and the follow-up workshops. Up to eight VCSU faculty will participate from the departments of STEM education and elementary education plus the Great Plains STEM Education Center and the Prairie Waters Education and Research Center. Sitting Bull College will also have eight faculty members involved from math, science and elementary education. Scientists from the NDSU Electron Microscopy Lab, the North Dakota State College of Science Nanoscience program, as well as private corporations with expertise in GIS and GPS systems and instruction, will also participate.

Dates and locations for the Summer Institute and follow-up workshops have not been announced.