

May 6, 2002

SUBJECT: Letter of Mutual Benefit

TO: W.H. Blackburn, Ph.D.
Area Director

THROUGH: Gerald Combs, Ph.D.
Center Director

Henry C. Lukaski, Ph.D.
Research Leader

James G. Penland, Ph.D.
Research Psychologist

FROM: Jacqueline S. Gray, Ph.D.
Research Psychologist

I have been invited to attend the 15th Annual Indian Psychologists and Graduate Students Conference and Retreat in Logan, UT June 21-25, 2002 to serve as a McNair Scholar Mentor. I am also the current Secretary of the Society of Indian Psychologists of the American Psychological Association. As such, it is important for me to attend the conference since the Annual Business Meeting of the Society occurs during this conference.

This conference is the largest meeting of American Indian and Alaskan Native psychologists in the United States. It is an important opportunity to meet with other psychologists working in Indian Country especially with the interest of the Grand Forks Human Nutrition Research Center in conducting research among American Indian Tribes in the Northern Plains.

My participation in this conference will be mutually beneficial to the Agricultural Research Service, the Society of Indian Psychologists and the Indian Psychologist and Graduate Students Conference by allowing for a better understanding of Indian related issues in research and the needs in Indian Country. This will apply to the ARS-sponsored research I plan to do with Native Americans and allow for networking and building of collaborative relationships with other American Indian Psychologists. Since there is interest in conducting research with American Indian subjects at the Grand Forks Human Nutrition Research Center it is important to make these connections and understand the concerns of native people and professionals. This conference provides an excellent opportunity to achieve these objectives.