
Tribal Air Monitoring Outlook

US EPA/R&IE/CIE



Tams Center

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Editor: Polly Hennessey

TAMS Learning Center



The TAMS Learning Center providing Tribal attendees air quality training courses.

The TAMS Learning Center began as part of a partnership concept between the Northern Arizona University Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals (NAU/ITEP), EPA and tribes. One of the goals of the Learning Center was to establish an enhanced environment that tribes would be proud to call their own. This concept included both “hands-on” and classroom components. The monitoring platform at the UNLV campus was originally built to help meet the hands-on needs; while shared EPA facilities for the classroom portion of courses minimally met the training needs. Better classroom facilities were always a goal for TAMS, but space was at a premium and during the past year the TAMS staff has made the best of a cramped and poorly ventilated converted greenhouse.

R&IE put in a request for additional space adjacent to its offices for a TAMS training facility. The space required needed to be versatile; one that would work with the several instructional methods that would be used: lecture format, computer based, hands-on with equipment, video, satellite-based, etc. Having a space designed and prioritized for TAMS meant that courses could be scheduled more easily and frequently, and that the training tools needed would be there. This would translate to more effective training for the students. Two individuals deserve credit for accomplishing the TAMS Learning Center goal: Dick Hopper, R&IE Deputy Director, for seeing the project through from the original request to completion in February 2003 and Greg Budd, former TAMS co-Director, who, through careful planning and special project funding received from EPA’s Office of Air and Radiation, brought to the Learning Center its state-of-the-art audio visual equipment, computers and varied presentation capabilities. According to Jed Harrison, Director, R&IE, “EPA and the tribes have a great thing going with the TAMS Center. Many of us associated with TAMS would like to see this successful model expanded to other environmental needs in Indian Country, like water or radiation. TAMS, and the Learning Center in particular, will continue to be an important campus for developing environmental expertise.”



Windy Morning
Mary Wyant

All involved in the origins of the Learning Center saw it as a two-tiered asset. One that met not only the technical and logistical aspects of a first rate training facility, but one that also provided a Native American theme which was consistent with the Learning Center being primarily a Tribal resource. In keeping with this theme, art depicting the various Native American tribes and artists was selected and displayed in the Learning Center. Future plans include exhibiting art and craft items that have been loaned or donated to the Learning Center from various tribes. In envisioning the completion of the Learning Center, Jed Harrison stated that he, "...believes the real strength of the TAMS Center are the instructional and support staff that develop and conduct the training and workshops. I hope that they enjoy using the Learning Center, because we've tried to provide them with the first rate facility they deserve."

If you are interested in using the TAMS Learning Center for a meeting or conference, please contact Lee Anderson at (702) 798-2559. Use of the Learning Center will be on a first-come, first-served basis.

TAMS CENTER IN ACTION



Lynn Karr, Desert Research Institute (DRI), demonstrates DRI's Met Tower for the Met 2 Workshop participants.



Kevin McNernan, Environmental Director, Yurok Tribe, instructs the Met 2 Workshop held at the Learning Center, May 2003.



Joe Hameed, TAMS Center, with an R&P PM2.5 Ambient Air Sampler.

The TAMS Center's involvement also includes identifying mechanisms for providing training and technology transfer on the use of the equipment to the Navajo Nation EPA Church Rock community members. Melinda Ronca-Battista of the TAMS Center worked closely with CRQA and CERMER to develop training modules for the scanner van and various radiation detection devices.

At the conclusion of the Church Rock Uranium Monitoring Project, a report will be issued along with the development of a Quality Assurance/Quality Control and monitoring design plan. If you have any questions concerning this project, please contact Annabelle Allison at (702) 784-8263 or email, annabelle.allison@nau.edu or Melinda Ronca-Battista at (480) 759-1544 or email, melinda.ronca-battista@nau.edu.



TAMS Center in Action



Brandy Toft, Air Quality Specialist from the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe, Minnesota, instructs the Quality Assurance Project Plans Course, held at the TAMS Learning Center.



Allison Johnson of the TAMS Center takes students on a tour of the Gravimetric Laboratory located on the University of Nevada-Las Vegas campus using the newly acquired NAU/TAMS van.



Joe Hameed, center, instructor for the TAMS Center, demonstrates air monitoring equipment to students at one of the PM/PM2.5 courses.