EXHIBIT 9
DATE 1-17-05
HB HB137

MONTANA INDIAN EDUCATION ASSOCIATION ----RESOLUTIONS 2004

RESOLUTION 2004-04: Increase graduation rate of American Indians to 80%: MIEA supports efforts to increase the graduation rate of American Indians from Montana's Public Schools to 80% and asks the Office of Public Instruction, Board of Public Education, Tribal Schools in Montana, and other educational organizations (MACIE, MSBA, MEA/MFT, MISBA, etc.) to assist in developing solutions to this issue through policy development, advocacy within their leadership roles, and other strategies that will lead to increasing the graduation rate of American Indian students from the state's public school system to 80%.

WHEREAS: The MONTANA INDIAN EDUCATION ASSOCIATION (MIEA) is a duly constituted Education organization sanctioned by the membership which includes educators of Indian children and adults, parents/guardians, school board members, tribal government and state government leadership, reservation and urban Indian representation, educational organizations, and other interested individuals in Montana, and

WHEREAS: The MONTANA INDIAN EDUCATION ASSOCIATION has been organized to represent, protect and advance the views of the Indian education community as outlined in MIEA's constitution, and

WHEREAS: Only 51% of the American Indian students who attend public schools in Montana graduate from high school in a 4-year period compared to 80% graduation rate for white students in Montana (this is based on cohort of those that enrolled as freshmen compared to graduates 4 years later of same group that shows the following: 1,399 Indian freshmen in 1998-99 and 719 or 51% graduated in 2001-2002 compared to 11,896 White freshmen in 1998-99 and 9,537 or 80% graduated in 2001-02.

WHEREAS: Over a six year period in public schools on/near Indian reservations in Montana, from starting with 1994-95 freshmen to 1998-99 freshmen and following those cohort groups through to graduation in 1997-1998 to 2001-2002 Show respectively that 5,153 Indian Freshmen enrolled in these 6 years and 2,476 or 48% graduated in this 6-year timeline.

WHEREAS: Over a three-year period (in Urban Schools – Great Falls, Helena, Missoula, Billings, Havre) starting with Freshmen in 1996-97, 1997-1998, and 1998-1999 and checking this cohort groups graduation rate 4 years later in 1999-2000, 2000-2001, and 2001-2002 respectively shows a total of 768 Indian Freshmen enrolled and 401 or 52% graduated

WHEREAS: The graduation rate of all American Indian students in Montana's Public Schools has decreased in the past six years from 58% in 1996-1997 compared to a 51% graduation rate in 2001-2002, and

WHEREAS: The low graduation rate for American Indian students is a major barrier to economic development that needs a well trained and skilled labor force for success, not graduating from high school greatly limits the opportunities available to Indian students in continuing their education in post secondary training, seeking gainful employment, and creates barriers to future success, and

WHEREAS: MIEA finds it unacceptable to have a 48% graduation rate for American Indian Students in our public schools on and near our reservation communities,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: MIEA will continue to advocate for new opportunities and change in the educational systems that will allow Indian students to meet or exceed the 4-year graduation rate of their non-Indian peers of 80%.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: MIEA supports efforts to increase the graduation rate of American Indians from Montana's Public Schools to 80% and asks the Office of Public Instruction, Board of Public Education, Tribal Schools in Montana, and other educational organizations (MACIE, MSBA, MEA/MFT, MISBA, etc.) to assist in developing solutions to this issue through policy development, advocacy within their leadership roles, and other strategies that will lead to increasing the graduation rate of American Indian students from the state's public school system to 80%.

ATTEST: **MONTANA INDIAN EDUCATION ASSOCIATION**

-- (signed)--
Secretary, MIEA

--(signed)--
Chairperson, MIEA

CERTIFICATION: I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the Montana Indian Education Association in a duly called, noticed, and convened convention, assembled the 4th day of April 2004, with a quorum present and voting in favor.

--(signed--)
Secretary, MIEA

(If a signed copy of the resolution is needed, please contact Carol Juneau, [illegible], 338-5689)

MONTANA INDIAN EDUCATION ASSOCIATION ----RESOLUTIONS 2004

RESOLUTION 2004-18: Additional staff in OPI to support increasing graduation rate of American Indian students: MIEA requests the Office of Public Instruction to add an additional position who will coordinate efforts within OPI as well as with Tribal Education Programs, and other resources to provide support to our state's public schools on strategies to reduce the barriers and help increase the graduation rate of all students, particularly American Indian students.

WHEREAS: The MONTANA INDIAN EDUCATION ASSOCIATION (MIEA) is a duly constituted Education organization sanctioned by the membership which includes educators of Indian children and adults, parents/guardians, school board members, tribal government and state government leadership, reservation and urban Indian representation, educational organizations, and other interested individuals in Montana, and

WHEREAS: The MONTANA INDIAN EDUCATION ASSOCIATION has been organized to represent, protect and advance the views of the Indian education community as outlined in MIEA's constitution, and

WHEREAS: The majority (97%) of grades K-12 American Indian students in Montana are enrolled in public schools and

WHEREAS: The graduation rates between White students and American Indian students in Montana's public schools show a wide disparity using the enrollment of high school freshmen and comparing it to the graduation data four years later of that particular class:

82% Graduation Rate for White Students
50% Graduation Rate for American Indian Students

WHEREAS: Montana's public school system must structure its educational systems and provide opportunities for Indian students graduate at parity with all other students in Montana, and

WHEREAS: The long-term impacts to the majority of students as well as their families who dropout out of school are a lifetime of low salaries, unemployment and underemployment, and other barriers that comes with lack of education,

WHEREAS: This is an educational need in Montana that must be provided with adequate support and priority by the Office of Public Instruction in its goal of improving the educational achievement of all Montana's students,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: MIEA requests the Office of Public Instruction to add an additional position who will coordinate efforts within OPI as well as with Tribal Education Programs, and other resources to provide support to our state's public schools on strategies to reduce the barriers and help increase the graduation rate of all students, particularly American Indian students.

ATTEST: **MONTANA INDIAN EDUCATION ASSOCIATION**

-- (signed)--
Secretary, MIEA

--(signed)--
Chairperson, MIEA

CERTIFICATION: I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the Montana Indian Education Association in a duly called, noticed, and convened convention, assembled the 4th day of April 2004, with a quorum present and voting in favor.

--(signed--)
Secretary, MIEA

(If a signed copy of the resolution is needed, please contact Carol Juneau, , 338-5689)