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Hamilton, Montana 59840
(406) 821-3535

Rhonda K. Whiting

SENATE STATE ADMIN.
EXHIBIT NO. 5
DATE 2-4-05
BILL NO.

EDUCATION

Juris Doctorate, 1993
University of Montana School of Law

Master of Education, 1984
University of Montana

Bachelor of Arts, 1975
University of Montana

TRIBAL AFFILIATION

Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes

POSTS OF HONOR

Assistant Administrator, National Outreach
Coordinator of Native American Affairs for the SBA,
Presidential Appointee (1998-2000); Racial Relations
Consultation, Presidential Meeting of Civil Rights
Leaders, Presidential Invitation (1997)

EXPERIENCE

2000-Present

Vice-President, Communications, S&K Technologies, Inc. Senior management position which involves a wide variety of public relations and communications activities, including publications development, web site administration, special events planning and implementation, writing, graphic design, media relations, frequent contact with employees at all levels

of the organization, Tribal, Federal and State governments, students and the general public. Supervisory responsibilities include all communications and internal network support staff and coordination and supervision of independent vendors and contracted consultants. Develop, write and coordinate training manuals, library of videos and film training aids, schedule training sessions within individual training programs and employee notification; initiate and facilitate the development of an intranet-based management information system to support the informational needs of the corporate management team. Perform lobbying functions at government levels, monitor the legislative progress of the local and national governments to gain insight into the government IT Services needs.

2004-2008

Board of Directors Montana Blue Cross/Blue Shield

1998-2000

Assistant Administrator (Presidential Appointee), National Outreach Coordinator of Native American economic development, including: overseeing (17) seventeen Tribal Business Information Centers (TBIC) including management of the TBIC's budgets – cumulative budget of \$100,000.00 dollars; training TBIC facilitators in financial management, information technology, human resources and staffing, quality management and public relations; providing critical support in developing and maintaining corporate infrastructure and management guidelines not only to the TBICs, but the businesses supported by the TBICs to ensure maximum corporate efficiency and profitability; establishing a National Native American Task Force; providing Cultural Diversity Training to Staff in Districts with TBICs or significant Indian population; raising funds from the private and corporate sector for operation of TBICs and liaison between Federal Agencies and Tribal Communities. Co-develop curriculum "Doing Business in Indian Country" which provided training in Indian Communities in 8(a) certification and HubZone certification. Worked as spokesperson for the SBA Native American program and handled

interviews with radio, print and TV media outlets. Provided key strategic advice to the White House and SBA staff and established effective communications between internal departments, regional divisions and key political decision makers.

1997 -1998, July

Owner, WANZI Communications
Consultant. Development and implementation of company policies to ensure quality management, effective utilization of internal infrastructure and diversity in human resources and staffing and public relations. Strategic political planning on National issues, with a focus on Native American issues. Projects completed include: Indian Child Welfare Act-National Legislative Education Project, Haskell Indian Nation University-Policy Review of Department of Instruction, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes-Welfare Reform (developing Tribal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Program), Missoula School Administrators-Diversity Training with emphasis on internal controls and development of human resources and quality of communications between internal departments and regional divisions; researched and re-established stated goals and performance targets and instructed the importance of strategic leadership for ensured success.

1997

Treasurer, Montana Democratic Party
Responsible for financial management, human resources and public relations; timely accounting practices and provisions utilized in balancing budget and filing PAC reports to state and federal agencies.

1996 - 1997, April

Political Director, Native American Outreach

Democratic National Committee
First national organizer of Native American vote for 1996, increased the Indian vote 35% nationwide. States with Native American populations had a 85% turnout for the Clinton/Gore ticket. Managed \$1,500,000 in donations to the Clinton/Gore campaign from over 54 Tribes nationwide.

1993 - 1996

Legal Counsel, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes
Represented Tribes in negotiations on Self-Governance Compacts and Annual Funding Agreements with Bureau of Indian Affairs and Indian Health Service. Advised Tribes on education issues for the Salish and Kootenai College, Two Eagle School and Impact Aid for public schools on the Flathead Reservation. Represented Tribal Health Department, including developing Mental Health Code. Represented Tribal Human Services Department, including development of Foster Care & Adoption Codes. Developed Cultural Resource Protection Program to allow Tribal assumption of State Historic Preservation responsibilities.

1994 - 1996

Legal Counsel, Montana Indian Political Action Committee
Staff Counsel for the Montana/Wyoming Tribal Leadership Council, prepared financial reports required by the Federal Election Commission.

1994 - 2002

Advisory Board Member, American Indian Graduate Center
Albuquerque, NM *President* 1998-99

1998 - 2002

President, American Indian Graduate Center
Albuquerque, NM
Gates Millenium Scholarship, oversight management, increased budget by 200%

- 1992 *Parliamentarian, White House Conference on Indian Education*
- 1987 - 1990 *Assistant Director, Native American Studies, University of Montana, Administered program in absence of Director: served on various campus committees; advised student club (Kyi-Yo Club); taught classes, advised students on funding sources, technical assistance and career planning programs.*
- 1988, 1990, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1996 *Statewide Advisory Board Member, Indian Vote Project*
Advised projects on Montana's seven reservations including voter registration and Election Day activities. Successfully assisted in raising the Indian vote 35% statewide.
- 1988 - 1990 *Chairwoman, Missoula County Democratic Party Missoula, MT*
- 1987 - 1988 *State Campaign Coordinator, Montana Jackson '88*
Coordinated activities in Montana's major cities and seven reservations, which included two major presidential candidate visits, voter registration, organizing rallies and Get Out To Vote projects. Statewide - MT
- 1987 - 1990 *Advisory Board Member, National Rainbow Coalition*
Assisted in revisions of national by-laws and policy decisions for the Coalition.
Chicago, IL
- 1987, 1989, 1991, 1993, 1995 *Lobbyist, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes*
Lobbied the Montana State Legislature for five sessions on issues including: Retrocession, Fish &

Game Agreement, Indian Education, Taxation and the Burial Site Protection Bill.

1986 - 1987

Instructor, U of M Native American Studies
Taught Native American Women's Seminar, Native American Art, Indian Education, Technical Writing, Native American Religion, Philosophy; Oral and Written Traditions.

1986 - 1991

State Executive Board Member, Montana Democratic Party
Chairwomen - Indian Issues Committee
Co-chair - Indian section, Montana Democratic Platform Convention.

1986, 1988, 1990, 1992, 1994

Volunteer - Get Out To Vote Project, Democratic Party, Missoula County
Missoula, MT

1984, 1986, 1988, 1990, 1992

Campaign Volunteer - Pat Williams for Congress, Missoula County
Missoula, MT

1984 - 1991

Executive Board Member,
Missoula County Democratic Party
Missoula, MT

1978 - 1993

Proposal Writer
Kyi-Yo Indian Club-IHS, Committee for the Humanities, Montana Indian Artist Project-Cultural Aesthetic Project, Indian Education-Harlem Public Schools, Missoula Public Schools.

CONSULTING

1998

Cultural Diversity Training
Missoula School District One, Administration
Missoula, MT

1997

Sexual Harassment Training
Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
Missoula, MT

1989 - 1994	Stay in School Program, Browning Public Schools Browning, MT
1988 - 1994	Bilingual Project, Arlee Public Schools Arlee, MT
1993	National Women's Conference Coordinator, KwaTaqNuk Resort, Flathead Nation

ADDITIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

Presenter/Speaker

1999-2000	"Doing Business In Indian Country" Conference. Raised \$25,000.00 from Handsel Foundation, Inc. for training and coordination HUBZone Workshop, National Congress of American Indian Palm Springs, CA
1999	"Diversity in Indian Country" 25 th Annual Minority Enterprise Conference Minneapolis, n
1999	HUBZone Training to Native American 8(a) contractors and Tribal Business Information facilitator Albuquerque, NM

- 1997
Racial Relations Consultation
Presidential Meeting of Civil Rights Leaders, White
House
Washington D.C.
- 1996
Panelist "Economic Discrimination" Chicago
School District
Chicago, IL
- 1996
Native American Vote
National Congress of American Indians
Phoenix, AZ
National Indian Education Association
Rapid City, SD
Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians
Yakima, WA
- 1995
Sexual Harassment in the Higher Education Setting
Salish Kootenai Community College, Pablo, MT
- 1993, 1995
Cultural Diversity, Martin Luther King Day
Salish Kootenai Community College, Pablo, M
- 1993
Commencement Speech
Two Eagle High School, Pablo, MT
- 1991
Cultural Diversity
University Center Regional Conference
University of Montana

Panelist (Summer Workshop) - Multi-Cultural
Training
School Education, University of Montana
- 1991
Reader - Frank Linderman Movie
Performing Arts, University of Montana
- 1990
Embracing Cultural Diversity
Social Work Department, University of Montana
- 1989
Civil Rights and Native Americans
Martin Luther King Day, University of Montana

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1988

Red in the Rainbow/ National Rainbow Coalition
Northwest Coalition Against Harassment, Missoula,

MT

1987, 1988

Civil Rights, U.S. Forest Service
Missoula, MT; Avery, ID; Hamilton, MT

PUBLICATION

Native American Reading Disability, Journal of American
Indian Education, Vol 25, No. 3, May 1986.

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REFERENCES

Page

Dr. Joseph McDonald, President
Salish Kootenai Community College
Pablo, Montana 59855
(406) 675-4800

Patrick Smith, Esquire-Specializing in Indian Law
Smith, Doherty & Belcourt, P.C.
815 East Front, Suite 3
Missoula, Montana 59802
(406) 721-1070

Lynn Cutler, Former Deputy Assistant to the President
Holland & Knight, PLLC
2100 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington D.C. 20037
(202) 223-3700

Kevin Gover, Former Assistant Secretary of Interior
Stephoe & Johnson
1330 Connecticut Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20036
(202) 429-3000

RHONDA WHITING

Rhonda Whiting was Vice President of Communications and Intergovernmental Affairs for Salish and Kootenai Technologies (S&K Technologies). She has worked for the company since January, 2001. The company is the largest information technology company in the state of Montana, with divisions in Montana, Georgia, Ohio, Washington and Texas.

Ms Whiting was formerly a Political Appointee under the Clinton Administration and served as Assistant Administrator of Native American Affairs for US Small Business Administration. She was responsible for the administration of the Tribal Business Information Centers nationally and Tribal Initiatives.

Rhonda has owned her own business, an Indian Women's consulting firm. The company, Wanzi, specialized in educational evaluations and assessments, legislative education, curriculum development and various other projects.

Ms. Whiting's education includes a BA in Education, M Ed and a J D. She taught Kindergarten, Elementary, High School and University classes.

Rhonda is the mother of three daughters and grandmother of five grandchildren,