



Salish Kootenai College



P.O. Box 70
Pablo, MT 59855
Ph. (406) 275-4800
Fax (406) 275-4801

February 9, 2011

Honorable Walter McNutt
Chairman, Appropriations Committee
House of Representatives
Montana Legislature
PO Box 200400
Helena, MT 59620-0400

Dear Chairman McNutt and Appropriations Committee Members:

I have been teaching at Salish Kootenai College for over 17 years. Over those many years, I have seen many our students move from the GED to the PhD, to employment and to tax payers in the state of Montana. Many pf our students are non-beneficiary students who receive only the Pell Grant. I am writing you write to ask the Legislature to provide SKC full funding of \$3,024 per non-beneficiary student per year, just like the last year two years.

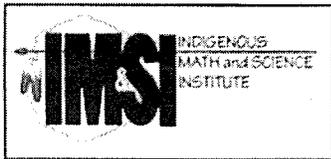
I am concerned that tuition for non-beneficiary students may have to be increased if the Legislature cuts the current level of funding of \$3,024 per non-beneficiary student. If tuition were raised, it would cause a financial hardship on many of these students.

All non-beneficiary students and families pay Montana state taxes and I believe the Legislature should provide adequate funding for non-beneficiary students so that we can continue to receive the quality education that SKC provides. Maintaining non-beneficiary funding at the \$3,024 level is the right thing to do.

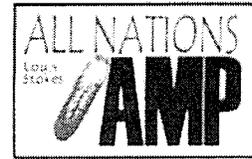
Sincerely,

Lori Lambert, PhD, DS

Lori Lambert
PO Box 387
Pablo, Montana



All Nations Louis Stokes
Alliance for Minority Participation
Salish Kootenai College



February 8, 2011

House of Representatives
Attention Chairman McNutt and
House Appropriations Committee Members
PO Box 200400
Helena, MT 59620-0400

RE: Non-Beneficiary Fundin

Dear Chairman McNutt and Committee Members:

On behalf of the Salish Kootenai College's Indigenous Math and Science Institute (IMSI) I would like to advocate for the support of non-beneficiary funding from the state of Montana at the minimum level of \$3,024/student. IMSI has several programs that work in collaboration with other Montana institutions of higher learning.

The All Nations Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation Program, a National Science Foundation (NSF) Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) program, under the IMSI umbrella provides research opportunities, stipends, and other benefits to STEM students from the Montana State University – Bozeman (MSU-B), Montana State University – Northern (MSU-N), and University of Montana – Missoula (UM-M), in addition to Rocky Mountain College and the six other Tribal Colleges in the state.

The Tribal colleges in this state serve communities where attending college would otherwise be a great burden and hardship. We urge the state House Appropriations Committee to maintain the current level of non-beneficiary funding so that SKC and the other tribal colleges can maintain the same level of quality education for all students.

Thank you for your consideration. I can be reached at 406-275-4996 or by email steve_dupuis@skc.edu.

Sincerely,

Steve Dupuis
Indigenous Math & Science Institute Director
Salish Kootenai College



Salish Kootenai College



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Pablo, MT 59855
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House of Representatives
Attention: Chairman McNutt and
House Appropriations Committee members
P.O. Box 200400
Helena, MT 59620-0400

Dear Chairman McNutt and Committee Members:

Good afternoon. I have been a member of the SKC Non-beneficiary pool for 8 years in one capacity or another. I started college in 2003, graduated in 2009 and am currently employed full time by SKC. Through my tenure I have served on 3 national champion basketball teams, 2 terms as student body president 8 years as student tutor, 5 years as Career Exploration coordinator, and have earned an Associates degree in business management and a bachelors in Business Entrepreneurship.

I know that students at SKC are treated for their skills, and abilities rather than their status. I also know that as a non-beneficiary student SKC grants me the same opportunities as any other student. Because of these two fundamental facts I would request that SKC be granted the full amount of funding for Non-beneficiary students.

In my own personal experience, I would not have been able to attend college if not for SKC. I was tied into my parents company and did not have plans to pull away from that endeavor. After my time at SKC I was able to assist their business in smooth operations, and now allow myself to grow in my own capacities as a young entrepreneur.

I understand that budgets are tight; I am well aware that the state of the economy is one that requires us all to tighten our belts and strive to cut inefficiencies. However, I do not believe that a cut in a college's ability to hold and educate students, regardless of status, is a wise choice during these difficult times. The future is in the children and the young professionals. Invest our countries funds into the heart of this great nation, into the innovators, and the dedicated. My classmates and I are the future; we are the best investment in stability imaginable.

Thank you

Andrew Zimmer
Career Exploration Coordinator
Salish Kootenai College



Salish Kootenai College



P.O. Box 70
Pablo, MT 59855
Ph. (406) 275-4800
Fax (406) 275-4801

House of Representatives
Attention Chairman McNutt and
House Appropriations Committee Members
P.O. Box 200400
Helena, MT 59620-0400

Dear Chairman McNutt and Committee Members:

Hello. I am writing to ask for your support of funding for the Non-Beneficiary students here at Salish Kootenai College. I believe you are all aware that SKC receives funding for each eligible tribal member student and descendants from the tribal college community act. This amounts to about \$4,500 per student. However, we do not receive any funding for our non-member students, except a small increase in their tuition costs.

SKC is located midway between Missoula, home of U of M and the college of technology, and Kalispell, home to Flathead Valley Community College. The enrollment at SKC at any given time is about 70% American Indian and 30% non-Indian. Our non-member students come from all the communities on the reservation. Some come with intention of getting an Associates or Bachelors degree, some come to complete a couple years of pre-requisites before they transfer to some other college in the Montana University System. Some are retired folks, who come because they have the time and a special interest in some course work we offer. Others are housewives who want to take some classes in preparation for seeking a degree later after their children are grown. they are our friends and neighbors. SKC has an open enrollment policy. We believe that diversity is our greatest strength, and welcome their choice to join our SKC family.

In the past the legislature has supported funding for these students in the \$3,000 - \$3,500 range. I asked that you give strong consideration to, and please provide funding again for these deserving students and SKC. These students will always be welcome here, but it does place an increased financial burden on SKC when we do not receive the funding requested.

Thank you



Roger McClure
Director of Career Services
Salish Kootenai College



Salish Kootenai College



P.O. Box 70
Pablo, MT 59855
Ph. (406) 275-4800
Fax (406) 275-4801

Date: February 8, 2011

To: Honorable Walter McNutt
Chairman, Appropriations Committee, House of Representatives
Montana Legislature
Helena, MT 59620-0400

From: Carol L Baldwin, PhD
Psychology Department Head
Salish Kootenai College
Pablo MT 59855

Re: NON-BENEFICIARY STUDENT FUNDING

Dear Chairman McNutt and Appropriations Committee Members:

I am the Department Head of the Psychology Program at Salish Kootenai College. Our department offers a Bachelor of Arts degree as well as an Associate of Arts degree in Psychology. Currently we have 70-75 active majors (signed up for courses this quarter), and another 25-30 who are not enrolled this quarter, but are on the active advising list. One fourth to one third of these students are non-beneficiary students.

The psychology degree offers students a broad educational background in the human services fields. Students who live in rural areas are able to attend school without having to move to a bigger university town, such as MSU or UM. Many of these students are struggling to pay the bills (due to low-paying jobs, single parenting, lack of opportunity in rural areas), and the affordable education they receive at SKC is a boon to the community and to Montana at large.

It has come to our attention that the Montana Legislature and House Appropriations Committee is considering cutting non-beneficiary funding by over 50%. I am writing to request that you refrain from doing this, and instead provide full non-beneficiary funding as you have done in the past.

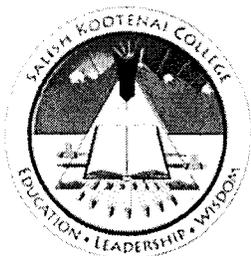
Students work hard to succeed at SKC. There have been times when we (as faculty advisors and mentors) have had occasion to help students out with such basics as food, electric bills or flat tires. It is easy to be unaware of how close to the line students live - in an environment like this, a slight rise in gas prices can make the difference between coming or not coming to class. This is ordinary reality for many of our students. Hence, you can easily imagine that a cut in non-beneficiary funding, with its concomitant rise in tuition, will preclude many good students from continuing to pursue their education.

Please do not cut non-beneficiary funding!

Respectfully submitted,



Carol L Baldwin



Salish Kootenai College

Nursing Department

58138 US Hwy 93, PO Box 70
Pablo, MT 59855

Phone: (406) 275-4909
Fax: (406) 275-4806

February 8, 2011

Honorable Walter McNutt
Chairman, Appropriations Committee
House of Representatives
Montana Legislature
PO Box 200400
Helena, MT 59620-0400

Dear Chairman McNutt and Appropriations Committee Members:

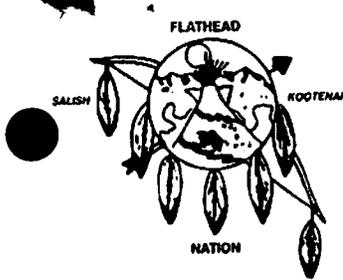
As the Director of the Nursing Program (both associate and bachelor degrees), I am concerned about the sustainability of the program in the event the non-beneficiary student funding is reduced or eliminated. The nursing program relies heavily on grant funding; however, federal grants are becoming increasingly difficult to obtain. Salish Kootenai College has graduated hundreds of nurses since its first nursing graduation class in 1990. I would hope to continue in this tradition, but your fiscal support is essential.

I am concerned that tuition for non-beneficiary students may have to be increased if the Legislature cuts the current level of funding of \$3,024 per non-beneficiary student. Salish Kootenai College graduates nurses who wish to stay in the area and work in small rural hospitals. With an increase in tuition, many of these students will no longer be able to afford college, thereby quite possibly reducing the number of nurses who want to work at our rural hospitals.

Please give mindful consideration to appropriations. Thank you for your commitment to the future healthcare of our Montana citizens.

Sincerely,

Lisa M. Lackner, RN, MSN, PhD
Director of Nursing
Salish Kootenai College
PO Box 70 58138 US HWY 93
Pablo, MT 59855



A Confederation of the Salish,
Upper Pend d'Oreilles
and Kootenai Tribes

**THE CONFEDERATED SALISH AND KOOTENAI TRIBES
OF THE FLATHEAD NATION**

P.O. BOX 278
Pablo, Montana 59855
(406) 275-2700
FAX (406) 275-2806
www.cskt.org



A People of Vision

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February 8, 2011

Joint Appropriations Subcommittee on Education

Dear Honorable Chairman Hollandsworth and members of the Joint Appropriations Subcommittee on Education:

RE: Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes support for full funding for Non-Beneficiary students attending Tribal Colleges

This letter is written to address the issue with Salish Kootenai College (SKC) and all Colleges of Montana, in their efforts to secure \$3,014.00 for each full time non-beneficiary student attending one of our State's local community colleges.

Non beneficiary students are very important to Tribal Colleges as they provide diversity and perspective to the intellectual dialogue that is encouraged in each and every classroom. The sharing of knowledge and perspectives at the local level is a benefit to all students as we empower students to contribute to their local communities.

There is a richness and an expanded opportunity for education when our classrooms are filled with diverse community members with different backgrounds. This is what America is based upon – a melting pot of ideas which enables us to learn and thereby strive for excellence.

Our Tribal College is extremely proud to open our doors to all students in our community. However, we must be able to sustain that opportunity financially. In our efforts to provide this opportunity for expanded learning, it is very important to have full funding for the non-beneficiary students.

I sincerely hope that you will do all you can do to see that the full appropriation is made for all full time non-beneficiaries.

In the last fiscal year, this program provided over \$500,000.00 to our Tribal College, SKC. These funds enable the college to offer expanded work force development programs.

These expanded work force development programs benefit the larger community as students enter the work force with expanded skill sets.

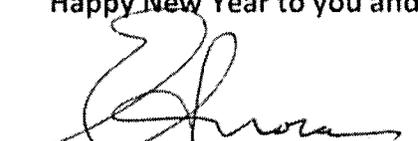
The benefit of quality work force development is to the Tribal and non-Tribal community alike. Work force development is economic development!

SKC offers educational services to over 1,100¹ students who believe in the benefits of post secondary education. To reduce the financial support necessary to provide a quality education experience "short changes" the quality of the education they receive.

The reduction of this financial support when Montana is experiencing a brain drain (*students going elsewhere for educational purposes and for work*) does not serve the State of Montana well. It is a disservice to the student and sends the wrong signal to the greater business community, many of which depend on the local community colleges for workforce development and training needs.

Please sustain full funding for the non-beneficiary students who attend local community colleges. Our communities are enriched by their experience and education. I want to thank you in advance for your continuing support to enrich the lives and educational experience of Montana's Citizens! This is a good investment in future of Montana.

Happy New Year to you and your family and best regards,



E.T. "Bud" Moran, Chairman
Tribal Council

Copy - Tribal Chairman Communication:

Joint Appropriation Subcommittee on Education

Vice Chair: Sen. Debby Barrett

Sen. Bradley Hamlett

Sen. Bob Hawks

Sen. Llew Jones

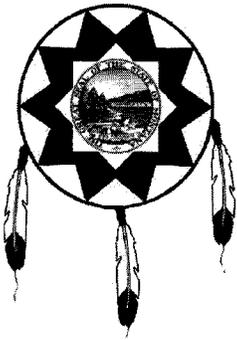
Rep. Robert Mehlhoff

Rep. Ryan Osmundson

Salish Kootenai College Board

SKC College President, Dr. Ross

¹ SKC Facts at a glance – 2010 – 2011



**MONTANA
AMERICAN
INDIAN CAUCUS**

ADDRESS:

PO Box 200500
HELENA, MT 59620
PHONE: 406.444.4722
FAX: 406.444.4362

SENATE MEMBERS:

SHANNON AUGARE
SHARON STEWART-PEREGOY
JONATHAN WINDY BOY

HOUSE MEMBERS:

TONY BELCOURT
LILA EVANS
CAROLYN PEASE-LOPEZ
STERLING SMALL
FRANK SMITH

CAUCUS STAFF:

LUKE WALAWANDER

February 9, 2011

The Honorable Roy Hollandsworth, Chair, and Members of the Joint Appropriations Subcommittee on Education

Sen. Debby Barrett Rep. Robert Mehlhoff
Sen. Bradley Hamlett Rep. Ryan Osmundson
Sen. Bob Hawks
Sen. Llew Jones

Dear Chairman Hollandsworth:

The Montana American Indian Caucus expresses its support for full, reinstated, tribal college assistance regarding non-beneficiary student funding.

Montana's tribal colleges are experiencing a rising number of students who are enrolling, both Indian and non-Indian. In FY10, 273 non-Indian students attended tribal colleges throughout the state, which as a result of their non-beneficiary status, added \$825,946 to tribal college operational costs.

Because our tribal colleges provide education for *all* students, many tribal colleges have student bodies that consist of significant numbers of non-Indians who incur greater costs to support their education, yet, still receive the same superior quality of education as their Indian counterparts.

Without non-beneficiary funding, tribal colleges are positioned with having to subsidize postsecondary education for non-Indian students. Moreover, other institutions of higher education across Montana receive state-support; without non-beneficiary funding, tribal colleges, which are open for enrollment to students state-wide, do not.

We have been informed that the current appropriation of \$917,000 was cut by 50% to \$458,500. Certainly, we appreciate the past efforts of the legislature in providing funds to tribal colleges regarding this issue; however, we argue that this proposed budget cut amount will not be sufficient to adequately help defray costs associated with rising numbers of non-beneficiary tribal college students.

We certainly recognize the fiscal issues of Montana, but urge you to find some way in resources available to reinstate the 50% budget cut, and provide full funding for tribal colleges to be able to appropriately and adequately fund non-beneficiary students.

With Sincere Support, we are

Sharon Stewart-Pegoy
Shannon Augare
Carolyn Pease-Lopez
Tony Belcourt
Frank Smith
Sterling Small

February 9, 2011

Chairman Hollandsworth

Education Appropriations Subcommittee

Montana Legislature

Dear Chairman Hollandsworth and Members of the Education Appropriations Subcommittee,

I am writing this letter of support for the Office of Public Instruction and their staff's work in aiding Conrad School District #10 to implement Indian Education for All.

We rely on the OPI staff to work with our teachers to deliver relevant instruction and curriculum that fulfills our district's commitment to Indian Education for All.

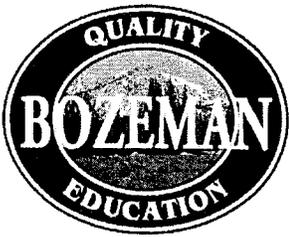
As an English teacher at Conrad High I had the chance to partake in Conrad's 2009 Ready-To-Go-Grant offered through IEFA and OPI. The grant helped four other teachers and me to gain a deeper understanding for Indian Education in Montana. The grant allowed us to feel comfortable teaching a subject, which is both culturally sensitive, but at the same time essential to the education of every Montanan.

On a personal level IEFA and the OPI staff have made me a better teacher. The numerous professional development workshops and conferences have strengthened my ability to instruct my students from a multi-cultural level. I have benefited from both the curriculum the staff has worked so diligently to develop and made professional contacts I can use to enhance my classroom for my students.

Our district benefits from the funding the State provides to support OPI staff, and we urge you to fully support OPI's Indian Education for All staff and programming.

Sincerely,

Kendall J. Griggs – English/Art instructor – Conrad High School



Bozeman Public Schools
404 West Main Street
P.O. Box 520
Bozeman, MT 59771-0520

Robin Arnold
Grants Coordinator
Phone (406) 522-6027 Fax: (406) 522-6091
robin.arnold@bsd7.org

February 6, 2011

Education Appropriations Subcommittee
62nd Legislative Session

Dear Chairman Hollandsworth and members of the Education Appropriations Subcommittee,

I am writing this letter to express my support for full funding for the work the Office of Public Instruction does to support our district's implementation of Indian Education for All.

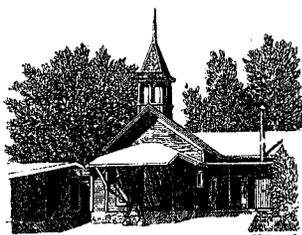
As Grants Coordinator for Bozeman School District #7 and Assistant Principal at Emily Dickinson Elementary, I know firsthand how much we rely on the OPI to support our district's commitment to provide relevant, engaging curriculum and school-based activities related to Indian culture and history.

The funding the State provides to support OPI staff makes it possible for us to benefit from their first-rate professional development supports, and allows our district to provide students access to high-quality Indian Education for All.

Sincerely,

Robin S. Arnold
BSD7 Grants Coordinator
Emily Dickinson Assistant Principal

Lolo School District #7
11395 Highway 93 South
Lolo, MT 59847



District Office: 406.273.0451
Middle School Office: 406.273.6141
Elementary Office: 406.273.6686

www.lolo.k12.mt.us

"Learn Today, Lead Tomorrow!"

Fax: 406.273.2628

February 9, 2011

Chairman Hollandsworth
Education Appropriations Subcommittee
Montana Legislature

Dear Chairman Hollandsworth and Members of the Education Appropriations Subcommittee:

Please accept this letter of support for the Montana Office of Public Instruction's Indian Education for All program and implementation efforts. As the superintendent of schools for the Lolo School District, I can attest to the importance of such funding to our district's (as well as other districts') ability to help make Indian Education for All concepts and information a regular part of our curriculum and instruction.

The OPI IEFA staff has been wonderful in providing relevant, useful and extremely interesting curriculum, lesson plan samples, and other critical resources for our educational program. Further, the funds you folks provide districts for IEFA purposes enables us to obtain ongoing professional development as well as bring in highly pertinent resources for our IEFA instruction.

As an occasional adjunct professor for education leadership coursework, I can also attest to the OPI IEFA staff's fine efforts in working with our up and coming teachers and school administrators. Their willingness to provide information and present to classes has been very important in making sure that our future educational leaders have an understanding and appreciation for IEFA concepts and that IEFA becomes a "norm" within our current and future school curriculum and instruction work.

Finally, in addition to the fine work OPI's IEFA folks do for our schools, kids, and future teachers/administrators, it should be noted that the IEFA program and staff are also highly recognized by other educators across the nation and world for their program. They use Montana's IEFA program as a model for some of the cultural diversity recognition and integration improvements they are making in their own countries' curriculum areas. From recent international presentations I have provided or attended, educators from Wales, England, Ireland, Malta and Cameroon would readily attest to that!

Thank you for your time and consideration of continuing such important funding for OPI's IEFA and for Montana's schools.

Sincerely,

Michael A. Magone, Ed D, JD
Lolo School District Superintendent

Peterson, Linda

From: Liz Townsend [LTownsend@ehps.k12.mt.us]
Sent: Tuesday, February 01, 2011 10:09 AM
To: Peterson, Linda
Subject: curriculum specialists at OPI

To Whom it May Concern:

I just wanted to express my appreciation for the curriculum specialists that have been staffed at OPI for the last several years. Their assistance is an important part of becoming a better instructor at all levels. It is extremely helpful to talk to a person who is an expert in a subject; they are always helpful and have many resources they can offer teachers.

Please continue to fund the specialists at the OPI. They are an integral part in the success of Montana's schools.

Sincerely,
Lizabeth A. Townsend

Imagination is more important than knowledge.....
Albert Einstein

February 2, 2011

Education Appropriations Subcommittee

Attn: Chairman Hollandsworth

Dear Chairman Hollandsworth and Education Appropriations Subcommittee,

This letter is to recognize the top-quality work the staff at the Office of Public Instruction does on behalf of Great Falls Public Schools including Longfellow Elementary in regards to our district's Indian Achievement and Indian Education for All programs.

This work is critical to the success of our students. We at Longfellow have an American Indian student population exceeding 60%.

We rely on the OPI staff to work with our teachers to increase our skills and effectiveness in providing culturally relevant, rigorous Indian Education curriculum and instruction into our classrooms.

Our district benefits from the funding the State provides to support OPI staff, and we urge you to fully support OPI's Indian Achievement and Indian Education for All staff and programming.

Sincerely,

Cal E. Gilbert, Principal

Longfellow Elementary

Great Falls Public Schools



East Helena Public Schools

School District No. 9

P.O. Box 1280 * East Helena, MT. 59635

Superintendent/ Administration Office (406) 227-7700

Eastgate Elementary School (406) 227-7770 * Radley Elementary School (406) 227-7710

East Valley Middle School (406) 227-7740

"Success For All"

January 31, 2011

Dear Joint Appropriations Committee Members,

The Montana Office of Public Instruction is a key component to the smooth operation of our schools. In East Helena in particular, I find the office an essential partner in ensuring that schools operate at a high level of efficiency. Recently I felt compelled to take flowers to Jurenne Fuchs and Kelly Glass at OPI because their oversight caught a \$24,000 error in my Federal Title I budget. Their constant assistance with navigating the federal requirements is critical to our district meeting the federal guidelines for reporting. The OPI is certainly not overstaffed and yet they are able to accomplish their duties very efficiently.

Continued funding of OPI at the present rates are critical to the management of the extensive Federal oversight and monitoring required by the No Child Left Behind Act, as well as the multitude of other Federal and state funding programs. In a perfect world the State and Federal government reporting and oversight would not require the staffing of personnel, but education funding is far from perfect.

My clerk reports that we would be unable to function without the assistance of the personnel at OPI. They drop everything whenever we have problems and help us to resolve them quickly. Any funding less than the current rate will result in errors in bookkeeping that will lead to audit errors on the schools part and as mentioned earlier, the loss of thousands of dollars in funding for students.

Since education is the foundation of all economic growth and development it is imperative that you consider supporting the programs of the OPI. Funding is essential to keep the good work of our state at the forefront of economic development and leadership in educational practices. Please support the budget recommendation for education as presented by Denise Juneau, Superintendent of Public Instruction and her staff.

Sincerely,

Ron Whitmoyer

Ron Whitmoyer
Superintendent

February 2, 2011

Chairman Hollandsworth
Education Appropriations Subcommittee

Dear Chairman Hollandsworth and Education Appropriations Subcommittee,

Please consider this letter of support on behalf of the excellent work the staff of the Office of Public Instruction does on behalf of **Hardin 17H & 1 especially Crow Agency Public School** in regards to Indian Achievement program support.

The Indian Achievement program helped our students and teachers gain valuable knowledge about mathematics. We piloted a math framework for the State of Montana that can be used with any math program. We have seen our students go from disliking math to wanting to do math for long periods of time. Our teachers and aides have learned how to teach Native American students using the students' interests and cultural in the math lessons. We have seen a great growth in our students understanding of math due to the help we received from the Indian Achievement program staff.

We count on the OPI staff to work with our teachers to increase our skills and effectiveness in bringing American Indian children the very best educational experience possible. Without the help from the Indian Achievement program we would not be able to afford the help from the specialists that we now deal with.

Our district benefits from the funding the State provides to support OPI staff, and we urge you to fully support OPI's Indian Achievement staff and programming.

Sincerely,

Gene Grose
Principal @ Crow School



DUTTON/BRADY SCHOOL DISTRICT #28C

101 2nd St. NE
Dutton, MT 59433

Dutton/Brady K-12
HS: (406) 476-3424
Elem: (406) 476-3201
Fax: (406) 476-3342

D.K. Brooks, Superintendent/7-12 Principal/AD
Terry Bolen, Elem Principal/K-12 Counselor
Betty Brumwell, Business Manager

Hutterite Colonies
Birch Creek Colony 279-3430
Pondera Colony 279-3464
Midway Colony 278-9182

TO: Joint Appropriations Sub-Committee for Education
FROM: Betty Brumwell, Business Manager/Clerk
DATE: February 1, 2010

When I first became a clerk of the School Board 30 years ago, it was a job conducted from home in about 50 hours a month. I took minutes, paid bills and processed payroll. Today, I frequently work 50 hours a week and my jobs are countless, because I am a one person office. School business has become so complex and intricate that it takes both the superintendent and clerk to stay on top of not only the budget, but also federal programs, grants, testing and reports to insure the district receives all funds available.

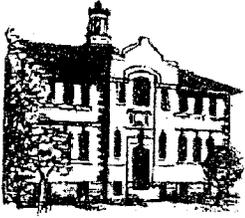
I cannot imagine doing my job without the assistance of the staff at OPI. OPI employees are the best resource available for school districts. Federal regulations increase all the time and I simply do not have enough hours in the day to keep abreast of them all. OPI staff gathers the information needed for districts to be in compliance, educate the districts on requirements, and develop forms to assist reporting. They are always available for questions and clarification and are extremely patient mentors.

I know that in recent years, the School Finance Division, including the Federal Grants area, has taken cuts in funding and staff, while being forced to take on more and more duties. I teach two classes to Business Officials statewide and OPI assists with both, in addition to the training they provide on their own. Their expertise is invaluable to the presentations and workshop participants. These workshops require time out of the office, and believe me; no one does the work while we are gone! School Finance Division has also become the resource for school elections in the state. The Secretary of State's office will not give guidance to schools in this area, so OPI staff has taken the lead to work with the Secretary of State's staff to bring clarification to this ominous task of elections.

I appeal to you, on behalf of the business officials in the State of Montana, not to devastate the funding to the School Finance and Federal Programs Division at OPI. Districts are making staff cuts all the time and the work does not decrease. If we were to lose the assistance of the great staff at OPI, our jobs would be even more overwhelming.

I highly doubt you would ever see the Finance staff "standing around the water cooler" acting as if there is nothing to do. They serve the schools very well, which serves the students of Montana well.

Thank you for hearing my plea on behalf of OPI.



Belgrade Public Schools

School District #44

February 2, 2011

Chairman Hollandsworth
Education Appropriations Subcommittee

Dear Chairman Hollandsworth and Education Appropriations Subcommittee,

I am the Director of Curriculum and Instruction for the Belgrade Public Schools. One of my duties is to coordinate our schools and district activities regarding the implementation of the Indian Education for All Act. I am writing this letter of support for the Office of Public Instruction and their staff's work to help our district implement Indian Education for All. In my five years with the Belgrade Public Schools, we have utilized the services of the OPI Indian Education for All staff extensively. They have provided us with excellent on-site, on-request training to enhance our awareness of the intent of the Act; appropriate activities to use in our classrooms, schools, district and community; technical training on purchasing only appropriate materials; and additional resources, workshops, and activities which we have brought to Belgrade to benefit our students and staff. We have building teams annually attend the Best Practices conference, and willingly implement many of the ideas and strategies our teachers bring home.

Belgrade students and staff benefit from the funding the State provides to support OPI staff, and we urge you to fully support OPI's Indian Education for All staff and programming.

Gary Kidd
Director, Curriculum and Instruction
Belgrade Public Schools

Gary Kidd, Director, Curriculum and Instruction
312 North Weaver Street, PO Box 166, Belgrade MT 59714
phone 406-924-2008 fax 406-388-0122 website www.belgrade.k12.mt.us



THREE FORKS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

School District No. J-24 • 212 East Neal • Three Forks, MT 59752

John Overstreet, Superintendent 285-6830
Jerry Breen, Elementary Principal 285-6830
Patil Rafferty, District Clerk 285-6830
Laurie Mack, Elementary Secretary 285-6830
Elementary Fax 285-3216



Thom Peck, High School Principal 285-3503
Gayla Sieler, High School Secretary 285-3224
Paula McDonald, Middle School Secretary 285-3224
David Hamilton, Board Chairperson 285-3840
High School Fax 285-3503

February 2, 2011

Education Appropriations Subcommittee

Montana Legislature

Dear Chairman Hollandsworth and Education Appropriations Subcommittee

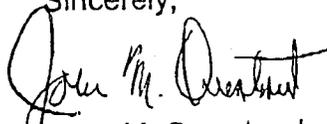
Please accept this letter of support on behalf of Three Forks Schools for the Office of Public Instruction and their staff's work to help our district implement Indian Education for All. With the help from OPI, we have made great strides in presenting Indian Ed. to our staff and students.

Our district counts on the professional development, curriculum development and support, and promotion of best practices that the OPI provide to our district's teachers and staff. OPI has been a great resource in finding speakers and presenters on Indian Education. We even had a person come to our school on his day off to make a presentation to our staff on Indian Ed.

Without their support and expertise, it would be very challenging for us to maintain the quality and relevance of Indian Education for All instruction.

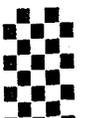
I urge you to fully support OPI's Indian Education for All staff and programming.

Sincerely,


John M. Overstreet

Three Forks Schools

District Superintendent





Beaverhead County High School

104 North Pacific Street
Dillon, MT 59725
(406) 683-2361
Fax 683-5263



January 31, 2011

Joint Appropriation Committee for Education:

I am writing this letter in support of the OPI Finance Programs provided as services to our schools in Montana.

When I began as District Clerk/Business Manager in 1988, the service at OPI, I felt was really lacking in providing information, service and support for those of us in the field. If I had any questions regarding any funds regardless if it was General Fund or Federal Grants, I would run into a brick wall. It was very frustrating.

As the GAAP Accounting came into fruition, the training under Joan Anderson and the crew in the Finance Department was relished by all District Clerks. Finally I had a division of school finance personnel that understood what information I needed and has developed over the years to be very user friendly and pro-active in spite of the added reporting required. I need these people to provide their expertise in areas of budgeting, revenues, expenditures and overall accounting support. With new County Superintendents and new District Clerks, the services, training and support in the areas of Finance are greatly needed.

The OPI Finance Department is to District Clerks like the Federal Reserve is to Banks. They are the father figures to the District Clerks and we need their guidance and expertise in the field of the ever changing finances across the state. The District Clerks are busier than ever and the service and support they provide is needed more than ever. If there are any problems, I can call up to OPI and someone can walk me through any problems I encounter. If not them, who do we call for help?

If you should need any further information or clarification, please contact my office at 406-683-2361 and I will be glad to help in any way I can.

Sincerely,

Evelyn Mull

Stockton, Marissa

From: evie@ronan.net
Sent: Wednesday, February 16, 2011 12:02 PM
To: Stockton, Marissa
Subject: Opposition to House Bill 2, Decision Plan #95104 Adult Basic Education

I am writing to ask that funding be fully restored to Adult Basic Education services in Montana. I am an attorney with the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Reservation and have been with the Tribes for 35 years in that capacity. I'm opposed to House Bill 2, specifically Decision Plan #95104.

Over the years, I have directly seen the benefits of ABE services since I work so closely with the Salish-Kootenai College and the Tribes' Social Services Department. A very high percentage of the recipients are Indian people, but all of counties touching the Flathead Reservation would be drastically affected. Many who access ABE services go on to obtain higher education degrees and they positively impact the economy of Montana.

I will hope that my opposition to the Bill will be considered in the final analysis.

Sincerely

Evelyn M. Stevenson
Tribal Attorney
Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes
of the Flathead Reservation
P. O. Box 278
Pablo, MT 59855