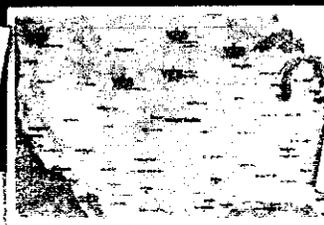
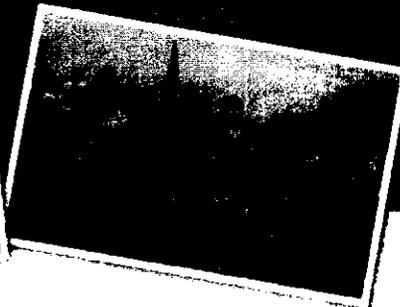


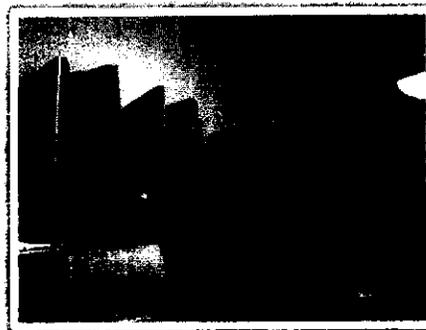
"Montana BIE Tribal Grant Schools & Supplemental Funding Equity" Awareness

Northern Cheyenne Tribal School, Busby, MT & Two Eagle River School, Pablo, MT



Awareness

The objective is to bring awareness to the public about the shared vision & joint strategies of the two MT tribal grant contract school's efforts to gain equity through supplemental state funding. Both schools' superintendent's and school board's will advocate their position by communicating with political leaders, other state/local leaders & students (Gemberling, Smith, & Villian, 2009, p. 68). The main focus is to assist monetarily in closing the student achievement gap between all other students and the Native American students in Montana.



Strategy

Which models from other states can be exemplar in providing a funding mechanism to Montana students. The two tribes will negotiate and encourage equitable distribution of resources to facilitate cultural responsive classrooms. Together the tribes will analyze data and existing policy outcomes to propose a House Bill in Legislative season 2017. By seeking allies that have similar policy core beliefs (Cooper, Cibulka, & Fusarelli, 2015, p.97) the vision can come to fruition.

Thousands of dollars worth of old equipment, curriculum & sports gear donated by another Tribal school, 900 miles away.

Action

Forge stronger partnership with the state of Montana in the education of all Native American students.



Successful solution: Collaborate on opportunities that benefit students needs first. Tribe hauled 2 trailers and one school bus worth of donations two separate times.



Policy & Diffusion Theory
(Cooper, et.al., 2015)

Commit to collaborate

School boards keep legislators informed via research

Define objective -Data

Keep abreast of state level policy influences

Seek allies

Use selected model to create House Bill

Navigate legislative protocol

House Bill Ready

Forge stronger partnership with State of MT

If House Bill authorized- use supplemental funding to assist in closing the achievement gap by creating culturally responsive classrooms.

Continuation of advocacy for educational issues in Indian Country.

Question/Answer:

Q: HOW CAN I HELP THIS EFFORT?

A: *Pass on innovative information & register to vote*

Q: IS THIS REALLY AN EQUITABLE SOLUTION TO NATIVE AMERICAN MT SCHOOL STUDENTS FUNDING?

A: *Research conducting and sharing will reveal the funding deficiency or efficiency*

Q: WHAT HAPPENS IF THIS DOESN'T KEEP MOMENTUM?

A: *Native American students will continue to be educated "as is". Next generational continuation of challenges to educational paradigms in the state of Montana.*

Q: WHO CAN I CONTACT FOR COMMENTS/QUESTIONS/SUGGESTIONS?

A: Superintendent(s) of Northern Cheyenne Tribal School &/ or Two Eagle River School. Loverty Erickson, Native American Education Consultant.

Northern Cheyenne Tribal School
Superintendent: Mr. Lester McCormick
Phone (406) 592-3646
Fax (406) 592-3645
lestermccormick@nctseagles.org

Two Eagle River School
Superintendent: Mr. Rodney Bird
Phone (406) 675-0292
Fax (406) 675-0294
rbird@twoeagleriverschool.org

Native American Education Consultant
Mrs. Loverty Erickson, M.Ed
Phone (406) 671-7524
loverty.erickson@gmail.com

NOTES: _____



Your Vote! Your Voice!

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October 22, 2015

Dear member of the State Tribal Relations Committee,

Recently, an anti-Indian group called the Citizens Equal Rights Alliance (CERA) held a conference in Montana attacking tribal sovereignty. Wisconsin-based CERA is the most notorious organized anti-Indian group in the United States, dedicated to terminating tribal governments, abrogating treaties and turning management of tribal resources over to state government

STAFF

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State Senator Jennifer Fielder was a keynote speaker at this conference.

The relationship between the federal government and Indian tribes is one of trust. And although this nation-to-nation relationship remains a fundamental principle of the federal government's trust relationship with tribes, tribes and states must also operate under a government to government relationship. Central to this trust relationship is the recognition and protection of tribal sovereignty.

Western Native Voice feels Senator Fielder's involvement with CERA while sitting on the State Tribal Relations Committee does not represent a true trust relationship between the state and tribes of Montana. We have concerns about her ability to objectively assess the best interests of our Montana tribes.

Montana Code Annotated, Section 2-2-112[5] indicates that "a legislator shall disclose an interest creating a conflict as provided in the rules of the legislature." It is our hope that Senator Fielder will take time to provide a response to our concerns at the next State Tribal Relations Committee meeting.

Sincerely,

Marci McLean
Executive Director
Western Native Voice

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