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Linda McCulloch
Superintendent

November 18, 2005

TO: Legislative Finance Committee
Diane McDuffie, Staff

FROM: Superintendent Linda McCulloch

Thank you for the opportunity to provide brief information regarding our work on Indian Education for All. Our office is committed to ensuring that Montana students graduate from high school with an accurate, comprehensive knowledge of the history and cultures of Montana Indian people and tribes. This effort enables the Office of Public Instruction as well as school districts and schools to forge new and continue ongoing relationships with Montana Tribal Colleges through work on their histories that K-12 students will use. Montana educators are looking forward to implementing Indian Education for All in their schools and classrooms. They are hungry for appropriate resources and professional development and are eager to put them to use to benefit all their students. Thanks, again, to the Montana Legislature during the 2005 Legislative Session for the funding to begin this important work. Please let me know anytime you would like updates on Indian Education for All or any of the programs of the Office of Public Instruction.

**Indian Education for All Ongoing Initiatives
July 1 – November 15, 2005**

Staffing

- Recruitment, hiring and orientation of four staff members.

Grant Administration

- Ready To Go Grants – Approximately \$400,000 awarded to 18 successful school districts. Applications distributed in August, submission deadline was Oct 14, 2005, reading and scoring took place on Nov. 3rd. Award letters will be sent next week. A second round of competition will be conducted in June of '06.
- Implementation Assistance Grants -- \$75,000 to be awarded to organizations other than school districts. RFP will be announced next week.
- Research Grants– \$25,000 to be awarded for research pertinent to Indian Education in collaboration with Montana University System and Tribal Colleges. RFP will be made the first week of December.

"It is the mission of the Office of Public Instruction to improve teaching and learning through communication, collaboration, advocacy, and accountability to those we serve."

Curriculum Development

- Re-designed OPI website to reflect resources for Indian Education and Indian Education for All
- Convened 30 teachers in July to develop social studies materials and 10 teachers in November to address science.
- Currently working with group of educators to finalize the framework for the curriculum development process, aligning materials to standards, and disseminating to all schools.
- Contract with University of Montana Lifelong Learning Project for development of DVDs for three units(Long Before We Were Born, Sign Language and Tribal Misnomers in and around Montana, Non-Verbal Communication on the Upper Missouri), to be distributed to all districts in the state, projected spring completion date.
- Contract with National Indian School Boards Association for the creation of K-12 curricular materials in science, language arts, and social studies, completion date July 2006. Dissemination and professional development will be conducted in collaboration with Montana School Boards Association.
- Updating of “Montana Tribes: Their History and Location” for reprinting.
- Contract with Fish, Wildlife, and Parks for the development of curriculum materials incorporating Indian Education for All into the Department’s site-based school programs at three state parks.

Professional Development

- Strong Indian Education presence at MEA-MFT conference in Missoula in October. More than 50 workshops related to Indian Education and Indian Education for All were provided and current OPI curriculum materials were distributed.
- Coordinating with OPI’s Accreditation Division to incorporate Indian Education for All into regional model for professional development.
- OPI is collaborating with other states regarding Indian Education initiatives. North Dakota, South Dakota, Wyoming and other states are looking to Montana to provide leadership regarding Indian education issues.
- Four institutes/conferences currently in planning stage for summer of ’06.
- Collaborating with Montana Indian Education Association’s(MIEA) grant to develop tribal government curriculum.
- Collaboration with MIEA for its spring 2006 statewide conference.

Public Education

- Development and distribution of 14,000 Indian Education for All brochures to all Montana schools and educational organizations.
- List of resources regarding American Indian Heritage Day along with a poster providing guidance on teaching about American Indians sent to all school districts in Montana in September.
- Press release introducing two trunks on Indian Education for All developed by the Historical Society with funding from OPI.

To date, approximately 40% of the Indian Education for All funding for this fiscal year has been expended or obligated in the first 4.5 months.