

MONTANA INDIAN EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

Box 55

Browning, Montana 59417

June 16, 2004

Montana Board of Regents
Montana University System
Helena, Montana

Dear Montana Board of Regents:

Attached are Resolutions that were passed at the 2004 Montana Indian Education Association Conference in Missoula on April 4, 2004, that have specific requests to the Montana Board of Regents or are pertinent to your work in higher education in Montana.

Also, we would like to thank the University of Montana for its support of the MIEA Conference in Missoula, particularly for the work with the students. Thank you to Commissioner Sterns for taking the time to attend our conference and share her ideas with the membership. Also, our new College Student Representative on the MIEA Board is Michael Munson, a student at the University of Montana who is studying to be a teacher.

MIEA represents over 400 people from throughout Montana including students, parents, teachers, administrators, school board members, school support staff, tribal colleges, tribal leaders, state legislators, and many others who are working to improve the educational achievement of American Indian students.

The Resolutions that are presented each year provide guidance to the MIEA Board in its work as well recommendations to other educational leadership groups, such as the Montana Board of Regents for their specific consideration.

We would also like to invite you to our next year's conference will be April 2-5, 2005, in Helena, at the Colonial Inn.

Sincerely,

MIEA Board of Directors

SUMMARY - RESOLUTIONS 2004
MONTANA INDIAN EDUCATION ASSOCIATION
FOR THE MONTANA BOARD OF REGENTS
Approved April 4, 2004, at the 23rd Annual Conference, Missoula, Montana

RESOLUTION 2004-03: Oppose University System Writing and Math Proficiency Assessments: MIEA opposes the University System Writing and Math Proficiency Assessments for Admission and requests the Board of Regents and units of the University System not to implement these new admission criteria.

RESOLUTION 2004-06: Oppose Indian Mascots in Schools: MIEA opposes the use of Indian mascots for school athletics and activities and requests our educational institutions develop policies and guidelines that will eliminate the use of Indian people/tribes as mascots to promote athletics and school spirit.

RESOLUTION 2004-07: Support Funding for Non-Beneficiary Students at Montana's Tribal Colleges: MIEA supports funding of the seven Tribally Controlled Community College non-beneficiary students by the State of Montana and that the funding level be at parity with other community college FTE in the state budget.

RESOLUTION 2004-08: Funding for 20-1-501: MIEA requests that each of these agencies including Office of Public Instruction, Office of Commissioner of Higher Education and Montana University System include in their budget request for the next biennium adequate resources to assist them in implementation of 20-1-501

RESOLUTION 2004-11: Support training for more Indian teachers and administrators: MIEA requests that the teacher training programs within the Montana University System as well as the Tribal Colleges actively recruit and train American Indian teacher education program candidates as well as American Indian administrative candidates.

RESOLUTION 2004-14: Report by Indian Education for All Committee: MIEA requests the Indian Education for All Committee of the Montana Board of Education to designate a task force to assist the Committee in efforts to implement Indian Education for All by strengthening collaboration, coordination of policy/actions plans, integration of programs and practices for 20-1-501 and that this task force prepare a report to the Indian Education for All Committee on a minimum of an annual basis to determine the level of implementation of 20-1-501 in all of the state's K-12 Public Schools and the units of the University system and disseminate this report to the appropriate entities.

RESOLUTION 2004-16: Annual report on Indian Education by MBPE and BOR: MIEA requests that the Montana Board of Public Education and the Montana Board of Regents schedule a minimum of one annual report by the administration of OPI and OCHE to provide data on the current status of American Indian education in the state's educational institutions with OPI data to include American Indian student enrollment, achievement data, testing, special education data, graduation rate data, dropout rates, discipline reports, staffing (by ethnic levels for teachers as well as support personnel), with data separated by schools on and near reservations and off reservation, as well as recommendations for strengthening services to American Indian students K-20; and with OCHE data to include enrollments, graduation rates, faculty (by ethnic status), and other data to show the achievement levels of American Indian students in the University System.

RESOLUTION 2004-17: American Indian Representation on the Board of Regents and supports MCA 2-15-08: MIEA supports state law, MCA 2-15-108, which reads “1) As vacancies occur and appointments are made, all appointing authorities of all appointive boards, commissions, committees, and councils of state government shall take positive action to attain gender balance and proportional representation of minorities resident in Montana to the greatest extent possible.”

MIEA asks that the Governor of Montana insure that the Montana Board of Regents have a minimum of one American Indian member to provide representation of the American Indian people of Montana and their educational issues and needs. .

RESOLUTION 2004-25: MIEA supports the development of policy in Montana’s public schools and institutions of higher learning to be free of harassment based upon race, color, or tribal affiliation.

RESOLUTION 2004-26: MIEA requests the Board of Education’s Indian Education for All Committee review the Plan for American Indian Education (1991) specifically the thirteen (13) recommended goals to the Board of Regents and develop and distribute a status report on its implementation.

MONTANA INDIAN EDUCATION ASSOCIATION ----RESOLUTIONS 2004

RESOLUTION 2004-03: Oppose University System Writing and Math Proficiency Assessments: MIEA opposes the University System Writing and Math Proficiency Assessments for Admission and requests the Board of Regents and units of the University System not to implement these new admission criteria.

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 University System is proposing a Writing Proficiency Assessment and a Math Proficiency Assessment as a part of the admission requirements for entrance into the four-year units of the University System, and

WHEREAS: the results of the first pilot testing of the Writing Proficiency Assessment in Spring 2001, show the disparity that already exists with the majority of American Indian students (78%) of the 228 students who participated in this field test scored at 2.5 or below on a scale of 0 to 6, as compared to the results of the Caucasian students who participated with 38% scoring at 2.5 or below, and

WHEREAS: this writing and math proficiency assessment will serve as a barrier to many American Indian students who may want to attend one of the four-year units of the Montana University System,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: MIEA opposes the implementation of these proposed writing and math proficiency assessments as admission criteria to the University System, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: MIEA opposes the University System Writing and Math Proficiency Assessments for Admission and requests the Board of Regents and units of the University System not to implement these new admission criteria.

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, csjuneau@3rivers.net, 338-5689)

MONTANA INDIAN EDUCATION ASSOCIATION ----RESOLUTIONS 2004

RESOLUTION 2004-06: Oppose Indian Mascots in Schools: MIEA opposes the use of Indian mascots for school athletics and activities and requests our educational institutions develop policies and guidelines that will eliminate the use of Indian people/tribes as mascots to promote athletics and school spirit.

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 State of Montana Constitution in Article X, Section 1, subsection 2 states, "The state recognizes the distinct and unique cultural heritage of the American Indians and is committed in its educational goals to the preservation of their cultural integrity," and

WHEREAS: The use of Indian images that reflect negatively on the cultural heritage of American Indians as mascots to promote school athletics and other educational activities is detrimental and disrespectful to the Tribal nations, and

WHEREAS: The use and promotion of such Indian mascots through Indian caricatures and names to support athletic teams and other school activities as school mascots portrays Indian people in a negative fashion and perpetuates a negative perspective of the American Indian as less than human, as humorous, as savages, and sends a negative message to all children who have to be a part of these educational systems, and

WHEREAS: These stereotypes and myths lead to prejudice, discrimination and racism, and

WHEREAS: The use of Indian mascots is in conflict with Article X, 1 (2) of the Montana Constitution that calls for our state's educational institutions to respect the cultural integrity of American Indian, and

WHEREAS: It is important to develop pride, respect, and integrity among all students which includes not practicing any demeaning activity that reflects negatively on any group/race of people, now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: MIEA opposes the use of Indian mascots for school athletics and activities and requests our educational institutions develop policies and guidelines that will eliminate the use of Indian people/tribes as mascots to promote athletics and school spirit.

ATTEST: MONTANA INDIAN EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

-- (signed)--
Secretary, MIEA

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Chairperson, MIEA

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MONTANA INDIAN EDUCATION ASSOCIATION ----RESOLUTIONS 2004

RESOLUTION 2004-07: Support Funding for Non-Beneficiary Students at Montana's Tribal Colleges: MIEA supports funding of the seven Tribally Controlled Community College non-beneficiary students by the State of Montana and that the funding level be at parity with other community college FTE in the state budget.

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 seven (7) Tribal Colleges in the State of Montana provide educational opportunities for ALL Montana citizens to enroll and participate in its college programs which benefits both the Indian and the Non-Indian students in the reservation communities, and

WHEREAS: The Tribal Colleges in Montana are a major component of the educational system for Montana's citizens as well as a vital part of the economic development components of the state, and

WHEREAS: Tribal Colleges have as their primary operational budget the Tribally Controlled Community College Assistance Act that recognizes only Indian students who are enrolled in federally recognized tribes and not the "non-beneficiary" student, and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: MIEA supports funding of the seven Tribally Controlled Community College non-beneficiary students by the State of Montana and that the funding level be at parity with other community college FTE in the state budget.

ATTEST: MONTANA INDIAN EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

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Secretary, MIEA

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MONTANA INDIAN EDUCATION ASSOCIATION ----RESOLUTIONS 2004

RESOLUTION 2004-08: Funding for 20-1-501: MIEA requests that each of these agencies including Office of Public Instruction, Office of Commissioner of Higher Education and Montana University System include in their budget request for the next biennium adequate resources to assist them in implementation of 20-1-501.

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 Montana State Board of Education's Indian Education for All Committee has approved strategies for implementation of 20-1-501, and

Whereas, action plans for 20-1-501 have been developed by the Board of Public Education, Office of Public Instruction, and the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education, and

WHEREAS: These action plans call for specific strategies that promote policy development, academic standards, curriculum development, professional development and resources that will help implement Article X, 1, (2) of the Montana Constitution in our state's educational systems, and

WHEREAS: It is vital that adequate resources be available to the state's educational agencies to implement 20-1-501, and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: MIEA supports adequate financial support and resources within the state's educational agencies (OPI, MUS, OCHE) to meet the strategies outlined in their specific action plans, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: MIEA requests that each of these agencies including Office of Public Instruction, Office of Commissioner of Higher Education and Montana University System include in their budget request for the next biennium adequate resources to assist them in implementation of 20-1-501.

ATTEST: MONTANA INDIAN EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

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Secretary, MIEA

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Chairperson, MIEA

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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: MIEA is aware that only 2% of the Certified Classroom Teachers in Montana's K-12 Schools are Indian yet, our public schools enrollment of Indian students ranges between 7-11%, and

WHEREAS: MIEA recognizes the importance of having role models in our schools that reflect the diversity of Montana, particularly the American Indian population, and

WHEREAS: MIEA believes it is important that efforts be put forth to increase this number of Indian teachers in Montana's K-12 Public Schools,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: MIEA supports all efforts to increase the recruitment and training of Indian teachers and administrators in Montana as well as the hiring of Indian teachers in our Public School Systems.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: MIEA requests that the teacher training programs within the Montana University System as well as the Tribal Colleges actively recruit and train American Indian teacher education program candidates as well as American Indian administrative candidates.

ATTEST: MONTANA INDIAN EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

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Secretary, MIEA

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RESOLUTION 2004-14: Report by Indian Education for All Committee: MIEA requests the Indian Education for All Committee of the Montana Board of Education to designate a task force to assist the Committee in efforts to implement Indian Education for All by strengthening collaboration, coordination of policy/actions plans, integration of programs and practices for 20-1-501 and that this task force prepare a report to the Indian Education for All Committee on a minimum of an annual basis to determine the level of implementation of 20-1-501 in all of the state's K-12 Public Schools and the units of the University system and disseminate this report to the appropriate entities.

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: MIEA has been organized to represent, protect and advance the views of the Indian education community as outlined in MIEA's constitution, and

WHEREAS: The Board of Education established the Indian Education for All Committee in 1999 to provide guidance and leadership to the implementation of Indian Education for All, and

WHEREAS: The Indian Education for All Committee has been a major catalyst in the process to insure policy development for 20-1-501 in all the state's educational agencies, and

WHEREAS: It has been five (5) years since the passage of HB 528 and 32 years since the passage of the language in the Montana Constitution, and

WHEREAS: Policy and plans have been developed by the Office of Public Instruction, the Montana Board of Public Education, the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education for the implementation of 20-1-501, and

WHEREAS: These action plans call for specific strategies that promote policy development, academic standards, curriculum development, professional development and resources that will help implement Article X, 1, (2) of the Montana Constitution in our state's educational systems, and

WHEREAS: To fulfill the language of the Montana Constitution and the intent of 20-1-501 it is vital that all educational institutions in Montana carry out these plans and policies, and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: MIEA requests the Indian Education for All Committee of the Montana Board of Education to designate a task force to assist the Committee in efforts to implement Indian Education for All by strengthening collaboration, coordination of policy/actions plans, integration of programs and practices for 20-1-501 and that this task force prepare a report to the Indian Education for All Committee on a minimum of an annual basis to determine the level of implementation of 20-1-501 in all of the state's K-12 Public Schools and the units of the University system and disseminate this report to the appropriate entities.

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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 Montana State University System has an enrollment of approximately 3% American Indian, making it their largest minority student population, and

WHEREAS: The Board of Education and the Board of Regents are education leadership and policy making boards of the K-Higher Public Education System in Montana, and

WHEREAS: The No Child Left Behind law mandates that statistics and measurements must demonstrate academic yearly progress for our K-12 Public Schools, and

WHEREAS: It is important to be aware of the progress being made in the educational achievement of American Indian students in our state's educational system in order to continue successful strategies as well as identifying deficiencies that need to be addressed,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: MIEA requests that the Montana Board of Public Education and the Montana Board of Regents schedule a minimum of one annual report by the administration of OPI and OCHE to provide data on the current status of American Indian education in the state's educational institutions with OPI data to include American Indian student enrollment, achievement data, testing, special education data, graduation rate data, dropout rates, discipline reports, staffing (by ethnic levels for teachers as well as support personnel), with data separated by schools on and near reservations and off reservation, as well as recommendations for strengthening services to American Indian students K-20; and with OCHE data to include enrollments, graduation rates, faculty (by ethnic status), and other data to show the achievement levels of American Indian students in the University System.

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Secretary, MIEA

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RESOLUTION 2004-17: American Indian Representation on the Board of Regents and supports MCA 2-15-08: MIEA supports state law, MCA 2-15-108, which reads “1) As vacancies occur and appointments are made, all appointing authorities of all appointive boards, commissions, committees, and councils of state government shall take positive action to attain gender balance and proportional representation of minorities resident in Montana to the greatest extent possible.”

MIEA asks that the Governor of Montana insure that the Montana Board of Regents has a minimum of one American Indian member to provide representation of the American Indian people of Montana and their educational issues and needs.

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 Montana State University System has an enrollment of approximately 3% American Indian, making it their largest minority student population, and

WHEREAS: The Board of Regents is the educational leadership and policy making board of the University System in Montana, and

WHEREAS: It is important that the largest minority population in our state’s educational system be provided with representation on the Board of Regents, and

WHEREAS: The Governor of Montana determines and appoints the membership to the Board of Regents and has the guidance of state law, MCA 2-15-108 in appointments,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: MIEA supports state law, MCA 2-15-108, which reads “1) As vacancies occur and appointments are made, all appointing authorities of all appointive boards, commissions, committees, and councils of state government shall take positive action to attain gender balance and proportional representation of minorities resident in Montana to the greatest extent possible.”

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: MIEA asks that the Governor of Montana insure that the Montana Board of Regents has a minimum of one American Indian member to provide representation of the American Indian people of Montana and their educational issues and needs.

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MONTANA INDIAN EDUCATION ASSOCIATION ----RESOLUTIONS 2004

RESOLUTION 2004-25: MIEA supports the development of policy in Montana's public schools and institutions of higher learning to be free of harassment based upon race, color, or tribal affiliation.

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 MIEA has been organized to represent, protect and advance the views of the Indian education community as outlined in MIEA's constitution, and

WHEREAS: The MIEA supports and promotes Montana Code Annotated 20-1-501 (Indian Education for All), and

WHEREAS: The Montana Code Annotated 20-1-501 endorses a culturally responsive multidisciplinary Indian Education for All for all Montana students, and

WHEREAS: A harassment policy which is committed to maintaining work and learning environments free of harassment based on race or color or tribal affiliation also strengthens the goals of hiring and retaining American Indian educators, decreasing American Indian student dropout rates and the delivery of an accurate and unbiased multidisciplinary Indian Education for All for all Montana students,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: MIEA supports the development of policy in Montana's public schools and institutions of higher learning to be free of harassment based upon race, color, or tribal affiliation.

ATTEST: MONTANA INDIAN EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

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Secretary, MIEA

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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 Plan for American Indian Education, 1991, outlined thirteen (13) goals to the Board of Regents to strengthen and improve the educational achievement of American Indian students in the State of Montana, and

WHEREAS: It is time to review whether or not these recommendations were acted upon by the Board of Regents., the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education, and the campuses of the Montana University System.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: MIEA requests the Board of Education's Indian Education for All Committee review the Plan for American Indian Education (1991) specifically the thirteen (13) recommended goals to the Board of Regents and develop and distribute a status report on its implementation.

ATTEST: MONTANA INDIAN EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

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