



Special Recognition: Dr. Jeff Sanders

Dr. Sanders is an integral part of the Native community, the University community, and the community of Billings. As an instructor he approaches Native American issues diplomatically while remaining true to their history. He has many published works and has given several professional presentations, most notably those in regard to Native American issues. He is well spoken of by those he has become acquainted with in his chosen profession as well as by the communities mentioned. Dr. Sanders' commitment throughout his career to the success of many, many Indian students that have attended MSU-Billings is worthy of recognition as an exceptional and dedicated educator.



Indian Educator of the Year: Mike Jetty

Mike is a proud Spirit Lake Dakota. He taught High School at Takini School in South Dakota, and has been an Associate Professor of Multicultural Education for pre-service teachers. He currently is employed at the Montana Office of Public Instruction (OPI) in Helena, working on Indian Education issues. Mike will greet you like he's known you all his life and is well known for his skillful ability to incorporate humor in his teachings. He has a strong commitment to the implementation of Indian Education for All (IEFA) and has devoted himself to teaching others about Indian Education, working on behalf of Indian students, and ensuring that IEFA is carried out in classrooms throughout Montana. Mike is making a difference in our state's educational systems and MIEA is proud to recognize Mike as this year's Indian Educator of the Year.

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**Montana Indian Education
Association
Awards Luncheon 2008**

Agenda

- ✓ **Master of Ceremonies: Joe Anderson, MIEA Board of Directors**
- ✓ **Prayer: Arlene Augare, MIEA Board of Directors**
- ✓ **Honor Song: Visiting Drum and Singers**
- ✓ **Presentation of Awards: MIEA Board of Directors**

**Thank You to the Awards Luncheon
Sponsors**

The Dennis and Phyllis Washington Foundation

And



The Apsáalooke Nation (Crow
Tribe)



2008 MIEA Awardees

The MIEA annually recognizes individuals who through their hard work, their involvement in school/colleges, their leadership, and their personal commitment are making a positive difference for Indian education in Montana and do exemplify the importance of education of Montana's Indian people and their children.

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High School Student of the Year: Erika Long Knife

Erika is a senior at Harlem High School and is the oldest daughter of Donald Long Knife and Lynda Young. She is consistently on the high honor roll and takes advanced placement classes. She participates in volleyball, Speech & Drama, is a member of the Student Council, National Honor Society, and does volunteer work for the community and the school. Erika has made the choice to live drug & alcohol free and plans to attend MSU-Bozeman and enter into the medical field.



College Student of the Year: Vernon Matthew Grant

Vernon, a Blackfeet Tribal member, is a student enrolled at the University of Montana majoring in Health and Human Performance. Six years after high school Vernon decided to go to Blackfeet Community College (BCC) with the notion that it wasn't really for him yet, but in the winter of 2003, after seeing what tragedy was doing to those around him, he committed himself to working hard and graduated with a 3.8 gpa from BCC. Now a student and the University of Montana, he is looking forward to graduating this spring - 2008.



Parents of the Year: Bryan & Cassandra Brazill

Bryan & Kassie have seven children, the two oldest are in the military - Ryan is currently serving in Iraq and Bruce is currently stationed in Germany. American Indian values and practices are a part of their daily lives. Bryan, currently employed as the Cultural Coordinator at the Kicking Horse Job Corp Center, teaches youth about the proper honor and respect of the Sweat-lodge and invites them to participate in it and learn the general maintenance and care of it that is required. Kassie, currently employed at Two Eagle River School, works as a self-contained teacher in the seventh grade and implements cultural activities throughout her lessons. They teach their children the history of dances and the meaning of the drum so they will honor and respect that which is inherent in their culture.

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Teacher of the Year - K-8: Marcia Billedeaux-Beaumont

Marcia has been employed with the Billings Public Schools Title VII - Indian Education program since the Fall of 2002. She is dedicated to helping Native American children and

during the past twenty-eight years working in Indian education, her motto has always been “to do whatever it takes to keep American Indian students in school and help them succeed.” Very rewarding to her is helping families in their struggles, to give children coping skills, and to teach youth about healthy choices.



**Teacher of the Year – 9-12: Lea “Lorrie” Davis
Tatsey**

Lorrie is an enrolled member of the Blackfeet Tribe of Montana. She is an outstanding teacher of Tribal history and Broad-field Social Studies. Lorrie has had the ability to provoke an interest in the Speech and Drama team in Browning High School and has had students winning group and individual titles at meets throughout the state of Montana. She has come a long way since her high school days and is currently a member in the ILEAD program working for her Masters in School Administration.



Elder of the Year: Floyd “Bob” Gervais

Bob is an enrolled member of the Blackfeet Tribe, a retired employee of the BIA, past 3 term member on the Blackfeet Tribal Business Council, and past 3 term member as a Representative in the Montana State Legislature. He is currently on the Board of Trustees for School District 9 – Browning Public Schools and is very active and involved with many student activities throughout the year. Bob has been a member of the MIEA for 15 years and is also a member of the NIEA, National Association of Federally Impacted Schools, and the National Indian Impact Schools Association. He is a Veteran of Foreign Wars having served in the U.S. Army during the Korean Conflict.