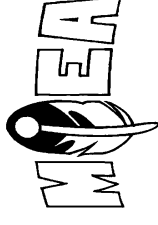


# Montana Indian Education

## Association Awards Dinner 2009

5:00 pm – 7:30 pm



### Agenda

*Master of Ceremonies — Carol Juneau*


*Prayer: Arlene Augare*

- **Dinner Speaker:**  
Denise Juneau, Superintendent  
Office of Public Instruction  
“Making a Difference — Educating Tomorrow’s Leaders”
- **Presentation of Awards**
- **Honor Song**
- **Buffet Dinner**



#### Special Recognition: Quentin Gilham

Quentin lives in Billings and is a counselor for all minority students at Montana State University – Billings. Quentin is one of a handful of Indians that accepted the challenge and opportunity of working on behalf of American Indian students in the state’s mainstream institutions of higher education. Quentin does not look for praise, he just does it, and often without adequate resources, and has for more than sixteen years. Quentin remains a role model, a mentor and an inspiration to the many students he works with and that have graduated because of his guidance and motivation, and making them believe they are successful. Quentin is a member of the Blackfeet Tribe.



#### Special Recognition: Robert “Smokey” Rides At The Doore

Robert lives in Browning, is a member of the Blackfeet Tribe and is a business owner. Robert has been a professional educator for three decades, as a teacher, administrator, and is currently the Chairperson of Browning School Board. He is a past member of the Blackfeet Tribal Business Council, and is currently on the Board of Directors for the National Indian Impact Schools Association. Smokey has testified on behalf of Indian Education for All as well as taught classes on the Blackfeet way of life for various schools throughout Montana. He is a bundle holder and regularly practices the cultural and religious ceremonies of the Blackfeet Tribe.



#### Indian Educator of the Year: Corri Smith

Corri is MIEA’s Educator of the Year for 2009 because of her lifelong commitment to helping students succeed and her belief and advocacy in making Indian Education for All a part of Montana’s classrooms. This commitment is reflected in her contribution and service to the students, parents and teachers of the Great Falls Public Schools. She provides insight and guidance to the educational community based on her personal philosophy that education is critical in preparing students for the future. Corri has been a classroom teacher for 17 years and is currently a Teacher on Special Assignment for the implementation of Indian Education for All for the Great Falls Public School System. Corri is a member of the Turtle Mountain Chippewa Tribe.



## 2009 MIEA Awardees

<b>High School Student of the Year:</b>	<b>Su-San Perez-Tenas</b>
<b>College Student of the Year:</b>	<b>Salisha Anne Old Bull</b>
<b>Parents of the Year:</b>	<b>Bernie and Richard Alexander</b>
<b>K-8 Teacher of the Year:</b>	<b>Mary Lucy Parker</b>
<b>Indian Elder of the Year:</b>	<b>Albert Caye</b>
<b>Indian School Support Staff:</b>	<b>Anna DeCrane</b>
<b>Special Recognition:</b>	<b>Quentin Gilham</b>
<b>Special Recognition:</b>	<b>Robert Rides At The Doore</b>
<b>Indian Educator of the Year:</b>	<b>Corri Smith</b>

**High School Student of the Year: Su-San Perez-Tenas**  
Su-San is a member of the Kootenai Tribe and is a senior at Polson High School. Su-San participated in band for 4 years, Indian Club for 4 years, plays softball, soccer and is in Key Club. She works 20 hours a week at Lynn's Drive-in and has maintained a 3.25 gpa and is scheduled to graduate with Honors in June. She was last year's Confederated Salish-Kootenai Tribes High School Student of the Year. She participates in Jump Dances, Bitterroot feasts, traditional native games, and Kootenai Language camps. Her goal is to become an orthodontist and has recently received her admission letter from Gonzaga University.

**College Student of the Year: Salisha Anne Old Bull**  
Salisha is a Crow, Salish and English speaker, and is immersed in the Salish cultural lifestyle. Salisha graduated with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Psychology and Native American Studies. She is currently enrolled in an interdisciplinary Masters Program at the University of Montana. Salisha is the first Salish to receive a coveted Morris K. Udall Congressional Internship and worked at the House Committee on Natural Resources, Office of Indian Affairs, and aided in passing a bill to bring recognition back to a once terminated tribal group in Oregon.

### **Parents of the Year: Bernie and Richard Alexander**

Bernie and Richard are members of the Salish & Kootenai Tribes and live in St. Ignatius. Bernie and Richard are involved in the education of all children, not just their own. They are active in St. Ignatius Indian Education Committee and other community and school related activities. They are known to advocate and assist any child who needs them, whether it is a meal, a coat or a math tutor, this family is there. They work together tirelessly organizing sports teams and preparing for events that benefit students.

### **K-8 Teacher of the Year: Mary Lucy Parker**

Mary is a member of the Salish Tribe and a Class 7 Teacher. Mary has taught the Salish Language at Arlee Schools for seventeen years. The Salish knowledge that she passes onto the students is her gift to the children, whether through language instruction or through songs. Her students have appeared on television, at the Spring Concert, at the Christmas Concert with Salish songs. At age 74 she continues to be an inspiration to all the students and adults that she comes into contact with and is a valuable asset to the Salish and Kootenai Tribe.

### **Indian Elder of the Year: Albert Caye**

Albert is a valued Elder of the Kootenai Tribe and he is a language instructor. Albert lives in Elmo. He continues to be in the classroom daily at Two Eagle River School. He has instructed generations of people in the very difficult Kootenai language and has given his life to the survival of his first language. He is loved by the school, students and the larger reservation community. One of his students writes, "I will always remember Albert as the Kootenai Elder who taught me so much."

### **Indian School Support Staff: Anna DeCrane**

Anna is a member of the Crow Tribe. Anna works as a Title V11 Tutor at Billings Senior High School. Anna's primary responsibility is to provide tutoring to students attending Senior High. She is one of those rare people who go above and beyond her duties. Her presence at Senior allows Indian students there an opportunity to have an advocate in such a large and sometimes intimidating environment. She maintains the Indian Education data bank and tracks 506 form counts and works with all schools throughout the district to ensure that each Indian student is accounted for. "Anna's dedication to American Indian students is extraordinary and deserves to be recognized," is stated in one of her support letters.