



# MONTANA INDIAN EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

Dear MIEA Members and Friends:

The Board of Directors of the Montana Indian Education Association invites you to join them at the 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference at the Holiday Inn in Billings, Montana, to share successful educational strategies, discuss challenges still to overcome and to set new goals.

This year's theme "Indian Education Achievement – the Civil Rights Issue of this Century in Montana" expands on a similar statement made by our Secretary of Education. We agree with Secretary Duncan and we can no longer be tolerant of the achievement gap and low graduation rates of our Indian students. Our children and their parents have the right to expect success in their classrooms. We all know the issues and must find solutions.

MSU-Billings will be holding their annual college pow wow this same weekend, so for those of you who want to enjoy some dancing either as a participant or observer, you will have this opportunity.

We encourage you to submit your workshop proposals early, take advantage of the pre-registration rates, nominate outstanding Indian educators for the awards, and consider running for one of the open MIEA Board positions. We will have both an elder strand and student strand this year.

It is important that we provide a forum to allow your voices to be heard. We will hold a listening session on Indian Education on Saturday with the Montana Advisory Council on Indian Education. Please make plans to attend and provide testimony to help guide MIEA and MACIE in their work.

MIEA thanks you for your past support and needs your continued participation to remain strong in our advocacy for helping to close the achievement gap, to restore our native languages, to insure that the efforts of Indian Education for All remain strong and alive for all our students. ***When we are united in this effort, we can make a difference.***

## ***MIEA Board of Directors 2009-2010***

Carol Juneau, Chairperson

Thomas Brown, Vice Chairperson

Luanne Kicking Woman, Urban Indian Rep, Secretary

Joe Arrow Top, Treasurer

Norma Bixby

Arlene Augare

Jennifer Flat Lip

Robyn Baker

Sandra Boham, Urban Rep-East

Tawnee Boham, High School Student Rep