



OPI INDIAN EDUCATION FOR ALL

Montana Tribal Legislators
Caucus. Feb. 11, 2021



Putting Montana Students First **A+**

OPI IEFA UNIT MISSION

We provide schools and staff with knowledge, skills, and content to ensure Indian Education for All means cultural enrichment, academic engagement, and equitable pedagogy for students



GENERAL FUND BUDGET

Total FY 2021 Budget: \$547,573

- Personnel Services: \$361,171
- Operating Expenses: \$31,934
- Indirects: \$64,468
- Grants: \$90,000
 - 4 Regional Educational Service Area (RESA) PD Providers \$46,500
 - 6 School Districts \$43,500



RECENT HIGHLIGHTS

- Successful adaptation to remote learning needs
- Continued collaboration with partners
- Going deeper into the mission
- Continued development of online learning hub courses
- Ready for life after COVID-19



ONLINE WEBINARS AND HUB COURSES

- Fall Unpacking the Essential Understandings Webinar Series – huge success!
- Building Your IEFA Mindset Hub Course starting January 15, 2021 – 40 participants!
- Series 2 Unpacking the EUs Webinars starting February 3, 2021 – Continued Success!
- Essential Understandings Deeper Dive Workshop Series starting February 10, 2021

UNPACKING THE ESSENTIAL UNDERSTANDINGS WEBINAR SERIES



- **SERIES ONE:** 6 sessions offered Fall of 2020 - 209 registrants, 72 attended all 6 live sessions

*“As I listen, I am reminded of the importance of the documentation both of **traditional and modern Native American culture**, and the levels of **accuracy/inaccuracies in recording tribal history**. We must take a serious look at how to accomplish this if all people and the beauty of our differences is to be understood. **I feel a sense of urgency.**”* Series One feedback

- **SERIES TWO:** Started 02/03, also 6 sessions, 120 registrants (so far)

*“My biggest takeaway from this webinar was the **importance of seeing diversity between tribes and individuals**. I think it is incredibly important to make sure we are taking into consideration that **every tribe is different from one another**. It is also as important to remember that **individual people within each tribe are different** as well. I thought it was very important that **we should ask each individual** how they would like to be called because we can't assume that everyone wants to be called by the same title as someone else.”* Series Two feedback

STUDENT CENTERED ONLINE LEARNING RESOURCES

- Adapted our IEFA curriculum resources for remote learning and created 17 new lessons
- Lessons have been well received and are featured on the National Indian Education Website
- The lessons were written directly to the student and were designed for students working at home but could also be used in a regular classroom setting. Examples include:
- [Ancient Art: Bear Gulch and Atherton Canyon](#) - Learn about these sites in Montana that hold one of the largest concentrations of pictograph and petroglyph images in North America. This lesson is appropriate for grades 6-12.
- [Ancient Islands in the Sky - Archaeology in the Beartooth Ice](#) - This lesson is appropriate for grades 7-12.
- [Learning about Tribal Sovereignty](#) - This online lesson will provide students with important information regarding tribal sovereignty. This is for grades 9-12
- [Crow Chief Plenty Coups](#) - This lesson regarding Chief Plenty Coups is appropriate for grades 6-12.

STUDENT CENTERED ONLINE LEARNING RESOURCES

[Resources for Learning About Contemporary American Indian Issues: Bison Restoration](#)

This lesson helps students learn more about bison restoration and the importance of the bison to Montana American Indians. *This lesson is appropriate for grades 6-12.*

Teacher quote:

*This year I am teaching U.S. History to 7th grade students. Learning about Native Americans and their history is important in the curriculum and also to learning about the history of the United States. **One thing we talked about when first studying Native Americans is natural resources. One of the resources we discussed in depth was bison or buffalo.** I wanted students to understand not only how Native Americans used this resource in many different ways, but also how they appreciated them and did not take them for granted. I taught them about the negative impacts on Native Americans when bison were over hunted. **The resources provided in this lesson would help to give my students more understanding of the importance of bison to Native Americans and also what bison restoration is and why it is so important.***

STANDARDS REVISION

Example of New Social Studies Standards:

The civics and government content standards for fourth grade are that each student will:

(c) describe how rules, laws, and policies are implemented by local, state, national, and tribal governments;

The civics and government content standards for sixth through eighth grade are that each student will:

(c) explain how global and American Indian civilizations and governments have contributed to foundational documents of the United States;

(1) The civics and government content standards for ninth through twelfth grade are that each student will:

(g) explain the foundations and complexity of sovereignty for federally recognized tribes in Montana;

IEFA WEBSITE

Welcome to the Indian Education for All web page. We hope you find our site helpful and useful for locating resources. We would also like our site to reflect the great work being done in the field and invite you to share lessons, pictures, or other IEFA related resources and activities from your school. Exemplar lessons and activities from the field will be shared under the IEFA In Action tab below.

Anyone interested in sharing their great work in IEFA can e-mail Stephen Morsette at smorsette@mt.gov or contact him at 406.444.0754.



ONLINE LEARNING HUB COURSES

Currently Offered:

Introduction to Indian Education for All in Montana. 281 completions since June 2020

How To Use The Framework: A Practical Guide For Implementing IEFA. 65 completions in most recent 6-month report (March-August 2020)

Building Your IEFA Mindset: The Essential Understandings Regarding Montana Indians. Currently 40 participants in facilitated course

In Production/Review:

Seamless Integration of IEFA Into Mathematics

For Future Consideration:

American Indians and Contemporary Issues/Bison Restoration

101 Course for New Teachers in On or Near Reservation Schools



QUOTES FROM HUB COURSE PARTICIPANTS

“The video began by establishing the connecting factors between Native Americans across Montana. A large factor was the appreciation of land and the landscape as it can tell stories of the past and its beauty. Tribes across Montana also share an underlying connection through the use of tradition and of strong values, such as generosity and honesty.”

-Introduction to Indian Education for All in Montana Hub Course Participant.

“IEFA integration benefits my students in two main ways—it is a piece of the well-rounded student puzzle, and it is a piece of our history as Montanans. While many of us do not share Native American heritage, it is still part who we are as citizens of Montana, our country, and general inhabitants of this continent.”

-How to Use the Framework Hub Course Participant

2021 ADVOCACY AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN INDIAN EDUCATION RECIPIENTS

~IN HONOR OF TERESA VELTKAMP, OPI INDIAN EDUCATION FOR ALL SPECIALIST (06/27/1972-07/22/2011)

- Miranda Murray, IEFA Coach, Great Falls Public Schools
- Calli Nicholson, IEFA Coach, Billings Public Schools
- Chris Pavlovich, 5th Grade Teacher, East Side Intermediate School, Livingston



GOALS FOR THE YEAR AHEAD

- Continued diversification, development of online PD opportunities
- Successful online IEFA Best Practices Conference May 15 -16
- Raising awareness of Indian Education
- Revamp Social Studies lessons to align with new standards
- Coordinated pre-service work with MUS
- Increased coordination with AISA and TRR units
- Increased development of tribally specific curriculum

QUESTIONS??

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