



Tribal Student Achievement, Relations, and Resiliency Knowledge Keepers of Indigenous Nations (KKIN)

The Elder and Cultural Wisdom Council (ECWC), was develop in Fall of 2021 and renamed to the Knowledge Keepers of Indigenous Nations (KKIN) in Fall of 2022. When we embark on a new journey, we consult our Knowledge Keepers to guide us. KKIN will help guide our efforts to indigenize our schools and to bring balance in our work.

Self-identity, language, mental health and traditional wellness support from these teachings hold strong and impact our youth to live a longer and beautiful life. We developed a strategic planning process with guidance from the KKIN and the topics were vast but included:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Define Roles• Define Vision• Higher level for our children• Connect to elders (knowers)• Non-Political – Non-personal• Inclusivity• Define Goals | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• YOUTH/CHILD• Way of Life• Cultural healing• Land Based Education• Societies/Clans Teachings• Embed the work and adapt the system• Create our road map for healthy youth |
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KKIN was defined: Representing cultural elders and knowledge keepers from every tribal nation in Montana, will help us build sustainable sources of indigenous knowledge that inform our public education system to re-root and revitalize our tribal youth in positive self-identity. This is also good for all Montanans as KKIN will provide quality, culturally appropriate knowledge, and resources from the Tribes of Montana to enhance educational systems with robust knowledge that exists within the original inhabitants of indigenous communities that populate our Great State.

The KKIN group included all the above and we have worked to finalize the Articles of Association as guidance for future use within our agency and others, if interested, on matters dealing with our indigenous nations and the involvement and honoring of our KKIN.

- Definitions of Knowledge Keepers and Elders.
- Commonalities of the Plains tribes
- KKIN Support as a Resource in consultation
- Purpose of KKIN
- Criteria for Service by KKIN
- Standards for Representation as KKIN members
- Purpose of our work as always, a higher level of support for youth

We will continue to adapt and grow with this group and seek funding to honor and respect them as they sit in multiple doctoral levels with thousands of years of essential teachings and transferred knowledge.