

WOTE Celebrates Nationwide Launch of New Radio Series

PORTLAND, Ore. – Wisdom of the Elders – the new public radio program from Native America – celebrated its nationwide launch with a special thanksgiving gathering April 18 at Portland State University's new Native American Student and Community Center.

The new program, *Wisdom of the Elders*, will air nationwide on NPR (National Public Radio) and AIROS (American Indian Radio on Satellite) stations in May.

Following an opening and blessing song, the event featured live performances of each of the program segments offered:

- Elder Wisdom: Zona Loans Arrow, Lakota elder and WOTE spokesperson
- Health and Healing: Judy Bluehorse Skelton (Nez Perce/Cherokee)
- Tribal Rhythms and Artist Spotlight: Nico Wind (Assiniboine/Ojibway)
- Taheebvu Chadi: the late Judy Trejo (Paiute), storyteller and singer
- Turtle Island Storytellers: Rose High Bear (Deg Hit'an Diné)
- Program Host and Commentator: Arlie Neskahi (Diné/Navajo)

Board members acknowledged the many people who have inspired and made this production possible. The event also served as a benefit for WOTE so that Series Two – which is currently in production and features Native Nations along the Lewis & Clark Bicentennial Trail System – can be completed on schedule. Donations were accepted at the door and at the conclusion of the program, a Pendleton Legendary Design blanket and other items were raffled off.

The purpose of these programs is to strengthen traditional cultural values among current and future generations of Native Americans.

WOTE also acknowledges the need for reconciliation between Indian and non-Indian. A second goal for this series

is to increase NPR listeners' knowledge of and appreciation for Native American oral history, art, story, and song.

Funding for the series has been provided by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, Lewis & Clark National Historic Trail at the National Park Service, and the Spirit Mountain Community Fund of Grand Ronde, Ore.

Check out the Web site at www.wisdomoftheelders.org. The audio and transcripts, complete with photos and maps, for *Program One: The Sacred Earth* are available to the public. One new program will be added weekly for eight weeks from early May through late June 2004.

WOTE was founded in 1992 by the late Martin High Bear, Lakota medicine man and spiritual leader, and Rose High Bear, Deg Hit'an Diné (Alaskan Athabascan).

This series is the first of several series of eight one-hour radio programs produced by WOTE which, with its mission of cultural preservation, education, and race reconciliation, records and preserves indigenous oral history and cultural arts from exemplary indigenous elders, tribal historians, storytellers, and song carriers. Other projects of this non-profit organization include documentary and publishing projects and cultural arts events.

For more information, contact Rose High Bear, Wisdom of the Elders, Inc., 5518 SE Flavel Dr., Portland, OR 97206 or wote@pcez.com; or Anne Morin, 790 SE Webber St. #304, Portland, OR 97202, at 503-234-3878, or rave_n_howl@yahoo.com.



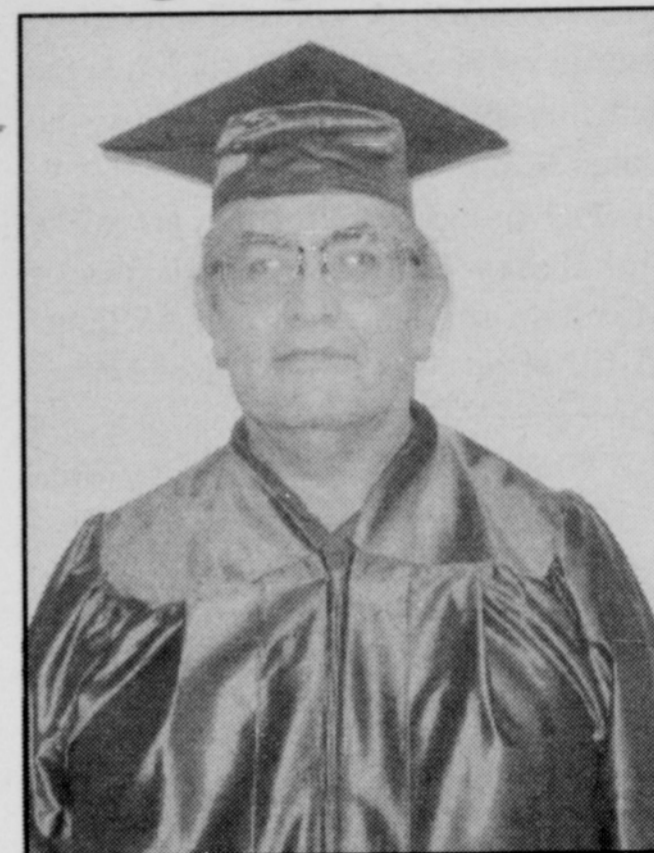
Series One CD cover

McWilliams Graduates, Joins Native Advertising Agency

I am happy to announce that I, "Zeke" McWilliams (Modoc), graduated from the Business Computer Training Institute on Dec. 23, 2003, with a certificate in integrated business computer applications. I'm currently employed at FastThunder Media, Inc., a TERO-compliant, Native American owned and operated, full-service advertising agency in Salem, Ore.

At this time, I'm being trained as a webmaster using Oracle Secured DataBase Design. I was hired for this position through the Siletz (Salem) Tribal office on the WEX program. I would like to say that your employees here in your tribal office are very friendly and helpful and I thank them for their assistance.

You can reach Zeke and FastThunder Media by phone at 503-304-1517, via e-mail at info@fastthundermedia.com, or through its Web site – www.fastthundermedia.com.



"Zeke" McWilliams

Nominate Artists for Community Spirit Award

First People's Fund invites you to nominate an artist from your American Indian community for its fifth annual Community Spirit Award, recognizing individuals who have made substantial contributions to their communities.

Five individuals will be honored with a \$5,000 fellowship and recognized at a ceremony at the Journey Museum in Rapid City, S.D., in December 2004.

Community Spirit speaks of the unselfish generosity and reciprocated love these artists have for their Indian community. This process of bringing spirit back to the community is part of a sacred honor system that First People's Fund works to strengthen through recognition of these artists.

Community Spirit also describes the teaching of gifts that promote and sustain indigenous cultures. First People's Fund seeks artists who demonstrate these values we hold strongly:

- Deeply rooted and maintain direct ties to their tribal community
- A commitment to building the strength of Native communities by sharing their skills and talents with others in their respective communities

- An artistic practice that passes on the traditions and the lifeways of the people

Nominees must be practicing artists of demonstrated maturity in their field, continually practicing artists for a minimum of 10 years, 25 years or older, and a documented affiliate of a U.S. tribe.

In addition to visual arts, this year First People's Fund is expanding its recognition of practicing artists to include contemporary and traditional forms of performing arts and literary arts.

To nominate someone, send a postcard to FPF, P.O. Box 2977, Rapid City, SD 57709-2977. Postcard must include complete addresses of both nominee and nominator and must be postmarked by June 7, 2004.

You also can nominate your candidate online at www.firstpeoplesfund.org. Incomplete nominations will not be considered. In June, FPF will mail an application for completion by both nominee and nominator.

For more details, contact Miranne Walker, administrative assistant, First People's Fund, info@firstpeoplesfund.org or 605-348-0324.