

Smithsonian Online Virtual Archives allows search of vast collections

Users can discover the unique resources of the Smithsonian Online Virtual Archives (SOVA), an online interface that provides access to archival collection descriptions in EAD (encoded archival description) format and associated digital online content, including letters, manuscripts, diaries and journals, ledgers and stock books, photographs, scrapbooks, sketchbooks and drawings, technical drawings and blueprints, field notebooks,

log books, rare printed materials, sound recordings, videos and much more.

Collection descriptions can be downloaded as either EAD or PDF documents.

The Smithsonian Institution has vast archival collections that measure circa 137,000 cubic feet, making its collective holdings one of the largest repositories of primary sources in the United States.

Held in 14 individual repositories, the collections tell the story of our nation's

shared artistic, cultural, folk, natural, technological and scientific heritage, as well as the history of the institution itself.

SOVA also allows users to easily browse related museum objects and library resources with simple links to the Smithsonian's Collections Search Center, as well as to archival collection descriptions from other institutions across the world in OCLC Research's ArchiveGrid.

The technical platform is based on open source technology. Most of the EAD

documents are created using Archivist's Toolkit and indexed using Apache Solr. The application development used responsive design to ensure that desktop and all mobile tablets and devices are well-supported.

This is just a beginning for the Smithsonian in providing access to its archival collections. It will continue to add new functionality, new collections and more digitized objects in the near future.

For more information, visit SOVA. si.edu.

DOE reports on School Environment Listening Tour for Indian students

The U.S. Department of Education recently released the School Environment Listening Sessions Final Report on the first Tribal listening tour to hear from schools and communities on ways to better meet the unique educational and culturally related academic needs of American Indian students.

The report was announced at the 46th annual National Indian Education Association Convention in Portland, Ore., in October.

"If we are going to live up to our promise as a nation where every child truly has fair shot at success, we have to do more to improve opportunities and educational outcomes for Native youth. The listening tour revealed too many stories of school environments that rather than building on the strengths of Native youth, are stifling their potential," said William Mendoza, executive director of the White House Initiative on American Indian and

Alaska Native Education (WHIAIANE). "We need to ensure that every student has a supportive and a safe environment."

WHIAIANE held nine school environment listening sessions in seven states from New York to California to Alaska last year, drawing more than 1,000 attendees.

The report summarizes information from the participants on many issues, such as potentially harmful Native imagery and symbolism, bullying, student mental health, instructional content and Native languages.

Each section of the report includes a brief description of a common theme found across listening sessions followed by supporting data and testimonies from youths, parents, teachers and others affected by these issues. The report also includes recommendations from the participants.

WHIAIANE and the Department's Office for Civil Rights collaborated with Tribal leaders and communities on the listening sessions. Participants in the listening

sessions included Native youth, educators, parents and community advocates.

The information from these sessions will guide WHIAIANE's future work and goals – to address the unique and culturally related academic needs of American Indian and Alaska Native students and to ensure that they receive an excellent education.

In his visit to Standing Rock Indian Reservation in North Dakota, President Obama affirmed the administration's commitment to strengthen American Indian communities through education and economic development.

Following the visit, President Obama launched the Gen-I Initiative to focus on improving the lives of Native youth by removing the barriers that stand between Native youth and their opportunity to succeed. Through new investments and increased engagement, this initiative takes a comprehensive, culturally appropriate approach to ensure all young Native people can reach their full potential.

U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan recently announced the award of more than \$5.3 million in grants under the new Native Youth Community Projects program to help Native American youth become college- and career-ready. Since his first trip to Indian Country in 2009, Duncan has engaged directly with Tribal officials on a range of educational issues concerning Native youth.

The president's FY 2016 budget proposal calls for increased investments across Indian Country, including a total request of \$20.8 billion for a range of federal programs that serve Tribes – a \$1.5 billion increase over the 2015-enacted level.

The budget proposal includes \$53 million for fiscal year 2016 – a \$50 million increase from this year's budget – to significantly expand the Native Youth Community Projects program.

The report is available at sites.ed.gov/whianiane/files/2015/10/school-environment-listening-sessions-final-report.pdf.

A TIP FROM A
FORMER
SMOKER

**LET YOUR KIDS
INSPIRE YOU
TO QUIT.**

Beatrice, Quit at age 37
New York

Nick age 11

Dear Mom, Smoking:

Thank you mom for I know you can do hard thing to do but you, so you are saving I'm lucky to have parents and Daddy cause my parents would probably say just a kid" but you are the in the world!"

Don't Smoke!

There are a lot of reasons to quit smoking. Don't stop trying until you find yours. Beatrice did it. You can too. For free help, call **1-800-QUIT-NOW**.



U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
www.smokefree.gov

Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians

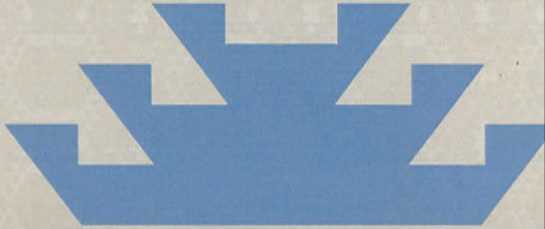
38th Annual Restoration
Pow-Wow

On Saturday,
Nov. 14, 2015

The Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians of Oregon Invites you to celebrate with us at our 38th Annual Restoration Pow-Wow To Be Held At:



Chinook Winds
CASINO RESORT
1777 NW 44th Street,
Lincoln City, Oregon.



Grand Entry: 6 pm

Whip Man: Tony Whitehead
Whip Woman: Shirley Walker
MC: Nick Sixkiller

All Drums And Dancers Welcome

Information: Buddy Lane: 1-800-922-1399 ext. 1230 or 541-444-8230
Nick Sixkiller: 541-484-4234

This is a family event; drugs and alcohol will not be tolerated.
The Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians and Chinook Winds Casino Resort are not responsible for injuries and lost or stolen items

