

Sixteenth Annual Indian Education Conference...

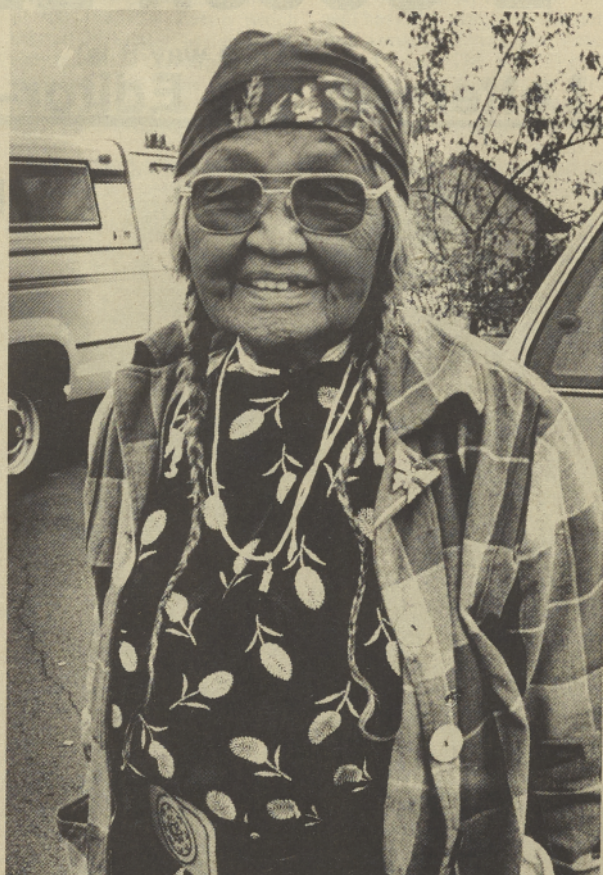
Locals nominated for national awards



Andrew David—Elder of the year



Caroline Tohet—Elder of the year



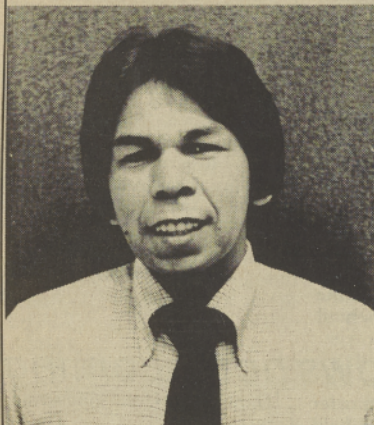
Lilly Heath—Elder of the year



Jewell Minnick—Parent of the year



Effie Culpus—Educator of the year



Uren Leonard—Parent of the year



Verbena Greene—Parent of the year



Pam Keo—Student of the year



Charles Calica—Educator of the year

First Annual Regional JOM Conference

Indian students benefit from JOM funding

by Marsha Shewczyk

Improving education for Indian children through 87 programs in five western states was the aim of those attending the first annual Johnson O'Malley (JOM) conference held at Kah-Nee-Ta October 22-24. Seventy-three participants attended workshops enabling educators to share ideas on use of JOM funds.

Opening the conference, a letter from Tribal Council chairman Zane Jackson was read identifying Warm Spring's goals in education for their Indian children.

Jackson stated that "education on the Warm Springs reservation is of unequivocal im-

portance, from early childhood through life and from perpetuating the traditional teachings as our cultural foundation to technical skill training to prosper as a government and corporation. We, at Warm Springs, are pursuing a course that guards the right of tribal members to obtain their desired education; ensures the adequacy of services and; ensures the accountability and performances of agencies responsible for providing educational services.

"We have dedicated our resources and services to the advancement of tribal members through the development of their self-esteem, self-reliance and interpersonal skills. Central to the

effort will be to re-establish the family unit as the dominant force in people's lives and reduce the unfavorable affects and dependency created by well meaning governmental services."

Jackson concluded, "...as Indian people, our imminent success will be determined by our ability to unify our collective efforts. Cooperation and collaboration will continue to be mere alliances tribally, governmentally and personally. Rather than working in competition or indifference and in negative reactive modes, we need to stress collaborative, positive, proactive planning of where we want to be and how to derive the best use of the resources we have and

collectively advocate for the resources that we need. If we don't have a plan for our lives or are not participating in planning our destiny, we fall victim to someone else's plan for us. Again, this is our challenge to education, to develop this capability."

Enacted in 1934, Johnson O'Malley legislation was originally a support program for schools receiving no funds from reservation lands. It has since become a supplementary program to benefit Indian students assuring they would receive educational opportunities due them.

Funds have been used to increase basic skills of the child-

ren, to increase motivation, for staff development, for in-service training, to emphasize community involvement and to encourage parental involvement.

"Parents want their children to succeed in education. Indian parents are no exception," explained BIA Area Education Program administrator Van Peters. "We, as parents, want to correct problems," he added.

Educators are also interested in correcting problems. JOM conference participants, through workshops, were able to review procedures and methods involved in JOM funding. Other workshops included alternative education, guidance, parent committee, future outlook on JOM

projects, curriculum, early intervention and peer counseling, gifted and talented students, Indian reading and student motivation.

Information and new ideas are needed continuously in education. Educator skills must be polished. As Jackson emphasized, "Success comes from having the technical and administrative skills to implement these strategies, more importantly is the skill and ability to create the environments that are essential to success. Tribal government's challenge to education is to provide us with our own capable people to assume these technical and leadership roles."