

# Grants target Indian educators

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) - The federal government will spend nearly \$2.5 million in Oklahoma to recruit American Indian teachers and administrators to schools with a high percentage of Indian students.

The U.S. Education Department's office of Indian education awarded the grants to the University of Oklahoma and the Cross Cultural Education Center in Tulsa earlier last month.

The Cross Cultural Education Center will receive \$447,168 the first year of its \$1.3 million grant.

OU will receive \$399,743 in the first year of its \$1.1 million

grant. The money will be dispersed over three years.

The Cross Cultural Education Center will use its grant to provide financial support and training for Indian students majoring in education at Northeastern State University in Tahlequah, said Agnes McGee, a project director.

The center will recruit up to 20 juniors, offering them full tuition and assistance with licensing fees and first-year teaching expenses, McGee said.

The students also will be trained to teach to the specific learning styles that students in poor communities in rural northeastern Oklahoma might

use, McGee said.

"Some of these students don't have access to Tulsa. They barely get out of the vicinity," McGee said.

In exchange, participants must agree to pursue a job teaching in a school with a high percentage of Indian students.

OU will use its grant to provide fellowships to 30 Indian educators to complete a 12-month master's degree program in school administration, said Grayson Noley, chairman of the department of educational leadership and policy studies.

After completing the program, they will be eligible for jobs as principals.

# Nonprofit to develop Native curriculum

JUNEAU (AP) - A nonprofit organization in Juneau plans to develop a Native-oriented high school curriculum with an \$850,000 federal grant.

Sealaska Heritage Institute hopes to help Alaska Natives pass the state's high school exit exam, required for a diploma, and become prepared for college, said institute president Rosita Worl.

"We're very much tuned to those academic needs," she said. "Native kids do better when they're studying their own language and culture."

The institute is a private non-

profit founded in 1981 to administer cultural and educational programs for Sealaska Corp., the Southeast regional Native corporation.

The institute intends to first test the curriculum in Juneau schools, then offer training for teachers in Juneau, Sitka and Ketchikan. Eventually, the curriculum could be used elsewhere, Worl said. The grant will be spent over three years.

The institute will hire curriculum specialists to work with locals knowledgeable about Native culture.

The project would enhance

and continue the Juneau School District's own efforts to provide a culturally relevant curriculum, said Superintendent Peggy Cowan.

The district now offers Tlingit-oriented classrooms at Harborview Elementary, and holds a grant to expand the effort to other schools. It offers the Early Scholars Program at Juneau-Douglas High School to prepare Natives for college. The district also has a grant to extend the Native- and science-oriented Camp W.A.T.E.R. from a summer program to the school year in the middle schools.

## Young Achiever


### Eugene Bill

*Sponsored by Madras Builders Center*

*Eugene Bill, 18, is spending the summer at the Warm Springs Boys and Girls Club. As a member of the club line staff, Eugene helps to keep the kids activities going throughout the day, and he keeps an eye on the kids, making sure no one gets hurt.*

*Eugene will be a senior at Madras High School this coming school year. His favorite sport at school is wrestling. He also plays some football and basketball.*

*After high school, Eugene wants to travel the world. "I want to experi-*



**Eugene Bill**

*ence new things and meet new people," he says. "I don't want to be tied down to one spot."*

# Autopsy: cause of death was stroke

Tonya June Mitchell passed away on July 28. She was 37.

Shortly before her death, Ms. Mitchell had been a witness to a fight, according to a statement from Warm Springs Police. At the time there was no indication that Ms. Mitchell had been involved in the fight,

the police statement says.

A relative reported to police that Ms. Mitchell had been flown by Air Life to St. Charles Medical Center in Bend, where she passed away on July 28.

The FBI and Warm Springs Police conducted a joint investigation in the cause of Ms.

Mitchell's death.

After an autopsy was conducted, it was the finding of the Oregon State Medical Examiner that Ms. Mitchell died from natural causes, that being complications from a stroke.

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