

Honor & Recognition AWARDS DINNER

A celebration to honor and recognize the achievements of our students



Photo by Justin Phillips

Tribal member Kathleen Feehan was the guest speaker at this year's awards dinner. Kathleen earned a degree in Environmental Biology at Dominican College in San Rafael, California. For the past five years, she has worked for the Tribe's Natural Resources Division as the Environmental Coordinator.

Her message to the audience was about the importance of taking risks. She said, "Our Tribe needs the kind of people who are willing to take personal risks — to risk speaking up for the values that they believe in. We need people who don't go through life thinking 'maybe another time I'll speak up' because it's too easy to slide through life saying to yourself 'maybe next time.' Your perspective and values are more important to the Tribe than you know."

By Marion Mercier, Education Division Manager

The annual Education Honor & Recognition event was held on Saturday, May 20, 2000 at the Grand Ronde Elementary School. This event is held each year to recognize the success and accomplishments of our Tribal member students. About 230 people attended this year's event.

We had a record number of graduates at the event this year — 12 eighth grade graduates were present and recognized, 10 high school graduates were present and recognized, one GED graduate was present and recognized and 10 college graduates were present and recognized. A total of about 75 graduates were recognized on the event program. Our Tribal membership graduates increase each year.

My hope is that each and every graduate realizes how proud the rest of your Tribal membership is of your personal accomplishment. When we belong to a Tribe, each accomplishment of a member is an accomplishment of the whole Tribe. Each success is another measure of success for all. You may not personally hear the congratulatory words, but you can bet that your successes are taken to heart by every Elder who reads your name, by every parent who knows of your accomplishment and dreams of the day their child will graduate, and by every child that looks up to you in awe as you walk by in your graduation gown and anticipates the day they will be

the one in the graduation gown. Be proud of your accomplishment, as we are all so proud of you. CONGRATULATIONS to all of you graduates.

Also recognized at the Honor & Recognition event were 130 Tribal member students — elementary through high school — who received Achievement & Recognition Awards. These students put a lot of work and effort into preparing an Achievement & Recognition application packet. Each student must write a personal essay, get two letters of recommendation from their teachers and send a copy of their Tribal ID. Here, at the Education Program, we really enjoy reading the student essays. This is our first introduction to many of the Tribal membership youth. The philosophy behind the creation of the Achievement & Recognition program is to allow our students the experience in completing an application process. This experience will help prepare students to fine tune skills needed in their future to fill out scholarship and employment applications. The more often our students complete this application process the better they get at it. Parent support in this endeavor is helpful but, it is the student who will ultimately benefit from the practice. GOOD JOB to the students on all of those applications!

Scholarship Recipients

CONGRATUATIONS TO THE 2000-2001 TRIBAL EDUCATION TRUST FUND SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS WINNERS:

GRADUATE

ELAINE LABONTE
MICHAEL HALLER
CHRIS LENO
PERRI MCDANIEL

ADULT VOCATIONAL TRAINING

TARA LENO
COURTNEY GALLIGHER

UNDERGRADUATE

ERICA EMPEY
VAL SHEKER
JONATHAN BRANDON
JOE HOSTLER
BROOKLYN ICALIA
ALFRED WATSON
ASHLEY NUNLEY

NICK PARAZOO
RAYMOND NELSON
ERIC BERNANDO
BRIAN WATTS
MIKA ASHER
MICHAEL BOLTON