



I LEAD

Indian Leadership Education and Development

*The Educational Leadership Program
at Montana State University in Bozeman*

Benefits to Candidates

- Master's degree in Educational Leadership
- Qualification for certification as school principal
- Tuition and fees paid including all admissions fees
- Books, supplies provided to each candidate
- Summer stipend to cover living costs
- Participants must pay back the cost of their education in service as a school leader (principal, director, etc) or in cash payback.

Contact Dr. Joanne Erickson at
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Project Description

The purpose of the I LEAD project is to recruit, educate, certify and place American Indian educators into administrative positions in schools with high populations of Native American students. The program will result in the award of a Masters degree in Educational Leadership and certification as a school principal. The curriculum focuses instruction on local school improvement initiatives through problem-based learning assignments. Each candidate will be assigned a mentor who is an experienced administrator in schools with high populations of Native American students.

Classes will be delivered during the school year using computer-based instruction and summer classes held on the MSU campus at Bozeman, Montana.

All participants must agree to serve as administrators in schools serving Native American children for a period of time equal to the length of their education and training.

Candidate Requirements

- Be a member of a federal or state recognized tribe or have a parent or grandparent who is or was a tribal member
- Be a certified teacher and hold a Bachelor's degree
- Be admitted to Montana State University's graduate program

Initial Application Process

- Complete and submit the I LEAD application form (enclosed) with a letter of intent and letter of recommendation from your current administrator.
- During the first semester of the program you must complete all the steps necessary for admission to Montana State University's Graduate Program
 - Completing the graduate application
 - Taking the GRE
 - Requesting transcripts from previous colleges attended

Description of Program

Master's Degree (Principal Certification)

Foundations of Leadership
Planned Change
Instructional Leadership K-12
Seminar: Instructional Leadership
School Finance
Action Research
School Law
Social Justice
School & Community
Supervision of Instruction
Field Experience
Portfolio and placement
Career Induction Seminar
Mentoring

Total credits = 36

Educational Specialist Degree (Superintendent Cert)

Leadership and Organizational Theory
Supervision and Instructional Theory
The School Superintendent
Legal and Policy Studies
Personnel Management in Education
Advanced Educational Psychology
Action Research
Resource Management
Field Experience at the Superintendency
Comprehensive Portfolio and Exam

Total credits = 30

Frequently Asked Questions

What would happen if I decided not to apply for an administrative position after completing the program?

This I LEAD project requires a payback of one year of service as an administrator at school with Native American students for every year of participation in the program or a payback of the funds spent for your participation in I LEAD. The cash payback would be handled much the same as a school loan is paid back.

Do I have to take all the courses at the times specified?

Although you will have to take all of the courses listed, you could develop an alternative schedule in collaboration with your advisor. Keep in mind that all course work must be completed by Spring 2010.

When classes are delivered on-line, what will I need to participate?

You will need to have access to a computer. You will be able to participate in the course from your home or school. You will receive training in the spring of 2008 and again in the summer 2008.

When we come on campus during the summer, where will we live?

You will live in Family Housing or the MSU dorms. We will assist you in finding housing. Your stipend will cover housing costs. You can bring your families.

Will we have support from other American Indian graduate students? *Nearly 40 American Indian graduate students are already participating in this project and will spend their second summer on campus during the summer of 2008. You will enjoy a great deal of support and collaboration with those students.*

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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