AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF MUSEUMS

August 15, 2008

Mr. Geoffrey Gamble
President, Montana State University
Museum of the Rockies
Montana State University
600 W. Kagy Blvd.
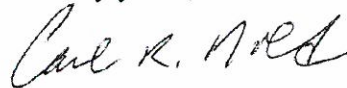Bozeman, MT 59717-2730

Dear Mr. Gamble:

Congratulations on the Museum of the Rockies' recent accreditation award—a status that signifies both quality and accountability. You join a prestigious group of museums in the United States whose participation in accreditation reflects a strong commitment to excellence and public service.

I hope the museum will proudly display the certificate of accreditation it recently received, and prominently display the accreditation logo on its materials to remind visitors, staff and funders that it is operating according to current professional standards and practices, and is committed to continuing institutional improvement in order to best serve the public.

As the chair of the American Association of Museums' board of directors, director of an accredited museum, and a long-time accreditation visiting committee volunteer I am fully aware of the serious and rigorous nature of the Accreditation Program and of the time and effort required of the university and museum staff and leadership. A museum can only achieve the distinguished honor of accreditation if there is institution-wide collaboration for the evaluation, monitoring, and continuous improvement of performance. In undertaking these steps, you strengthened not only your institution and its public image, but also excellence among all museums.

It is vitally important that the preeminent museums in this country be part of this process. We are proud that the Museum of the Rockies is on the roster of AAM accredited museums. You have my congratulations and deep appreciation for your accomplishment, for your active participation in the American Association of Museums, and for the many contributions you and your institution make to the public.

Sincerely yours,

Carl R. Nold
Chair, AAM Board of Directors

President and CEO, Historic New England

cc: Ms. Sheldon McKamey, Dean and Director