



## Strengthening Partnerships for Native American Student Education Planning Meeting

May 23-24, 2006

Denver, Colorado

In partnership with the US Department of Education,  
Office of Indian Education  
and Lumina Foundation

### Meeting Objective/Purpose

We know that an achievement gap with American Indian students exists. The meeting will elicit responses from participants to questions such as: What can SEAs do to address this gap in concrete, meaningful ways? What can SEAs do to bring about a lasting change in practice and achievement levels for these students?

### Tuesday, May 23, 2006

6:00-7:00pm **Reception and Welcome**

*Julia Lara, Council of Chief State School Officers  
David Cournoyer, Lumina Foundation*

7:00-8:30pm **Reception Dinner**

### Wednesday, May 24, 2006

7:30-8:30am **Breakfast**

8:30-8:45am **Welcome and Overview**

*Rick Melmer, Secretary of Education, State of South Dakota  
Chair of CCSSO's Native American Task Force*

*Linda McCulloch, Superintendent of Education, State of Montana*



8:45- 9:00am

**What More Do We Need to Know Regarding American Indian Achievement?**

*Jeff Johnson, Special Assistant to the Acting Director  
Office of Indian Education*

9:00-9:30am

**Setting the Context**

*Chris Lohse, Federal Liaison  
Montana Department of Public Instruction*

9:30-10:00am

**Discussion**

10:00-10:15am

**Break**

10:15-11:00am

**Facilitated Discussion and Sharing Among Members**

What is the nature of the problems that lead to the achievement gap? What strategies are possible to eliminate the gap? What barriers exist to implementing these strategies? How do we go negotiate these barriers so that we actually do something?

Participating states have an opportunity to outline expectations, challenges, and possibilities that they are experiencing regarding the role to improving educational outcomes

11:00-12:00

**Topical Discussion: What Can States Do? Language and Culture**

Language and Culture: How and in what ways can language, culture, and tradition be used in order to more effectively educate AI/AN students?

12:00-1:00pm

**Working Lunch: Highlights of Key Issues Raised by Participants**

*Brian Brayboy, Assistant Professor, University of Utah*

1:00-1:30pm

**Conference Call**

*Jim Cason, Associate Deputy Secretary  
Bureau of Indian Affairs*



1:30 -2:30pm

### **How Can States Build Partnerships?**

How and in what ways can we better coordinate collaboration and communication between LEAs, SEAs, and the federal government? How and in what ways do tribal nations fit into this coordination and communication?

What entities are collaborating with tribal communities? How and in what ways are they doing this and what is being learned? What strategies might be taken to allow these communications to occur? What do communities think their children and schools need?

2:30-3:00pm

### **Prioritize Goals and Issues Develop Short-Term Action Plan**

3:00pm

### **Wrap-up Reports: What Did You Learn? What Are Your Plans?**

### **Next Steps**

3:30pm

### **Adjourn**

