CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2015!
INDIAN EDUCATION STUDENTS GRADUATE FROM DPS

On May 19th at Denver Public School’s CEC Middle College of Denver, the DPS Indian Education Program honored forty-two graduating seniors. Among them were a Daniel’s Scholar, those who are military-bound and many students who will attend Denver University, University of Colorado, Colorado State University, Stanford, tribal colleges and many more prestigious institutions. Each graduate was presented an American Indian graduation stole and a Lakota Star Quilt. The Lakota Star Quilt is representative of a new beginning and a new day dawning, and is used in many celebrations, honorings and memorials.

Dr. Tink Tinker, from the Illiff School of Theology, was a keynote speaker and inspired the graduates with stories, words of wisdom and best wishes for success.

We at the Indian Education Program are so proud of all your accomplishments and future endeavors. We hope that you stay engaged in your education and stay focused by remembering how few American Indian doctors, lawyers and engineers there are. We ask that you never forget who you are, where you came from, and that you always dream big.

Best Wishes from the Indian Education Staff

KEEPING KIDS CONNECTED DURING THE SUMMER BREAK

There’s good news for parents looking for a positive way to keep their kids engaged and entertained when they are out of school for the summer break. There is an affordable way to help your kids connect to the Internet at home. Internet Essentials from Comcast offers home Internet service to families with at least one child eligible for the National School Lunch Program for $9.95 a month (plus tax); the option to buy a laptop or desktop computer for less than $150; and access to free digital literacy training online, in person or in print.

And now, any NEW customers with children attending Denver Public Schools who sign up for this program by July 31 may qualify to receive their first six months of Internet Essentials service for FREE – see the enclosed card for details! Your kids can connect to fun online educational activities for free while they are off from school, and they can keep up with their assignments and stay connected to teachers and classmates. This way, they are not only keeping busy, but they are learning. Here are a few cool sites:

- Khan Academy (khanacademy.org) offers a variety of free learning resources - get a personalized experience in math, biology, economics, computer science, art history and more.

- PBS Kids (pbskids.org) offers learning games associated with favorite PBS Kids characters like Clifford, Curious George and The Cat in the Hat.

- FunBrain (funbrain.com) offers all kinds of activities - read books and comics, play mad libs, math baseball and tic tac toe, and more.

Plus, the whole family can use Internet at home to stay in touch with loved ones, search for and apply for jobs, explore educational resources, apply for financial aid, and much more. So far, more than 450,000 families, or about 1.8 million low-income Americans, have been connected to the power of the Internet through Internet Essentials – including more than 22,000 families across Colorado. There is also a new amnesty program for families who would qualify for the program, but have a past due balance. If they meet all other eligibility criteria, Comcast will offer amnesty for a bill that is more than one year old in order for that family to be eligible to participate in Internet Essentials. To learn more or apply, visit www.InternetEssentials.com or call 1-855-846-8376, or for Spanish, visit www.InternetBasico.com or call 1-855-765-6995.
MARK ETHNICITY CODE #1

When registering your student for school, the Registration Form will ask parents to identify the student's ethnic background. While your student may have more than one ethnic group, it is important that only one ethnic group is identified. Parents should check the box, as illustrated below. We recommend that if you identify as American Indian, that you check ONLY American Indian. See the example below:

ETHNICITY

X American Indian or Alaska Native
A person having origins in any of the original peoples of North American and Who maintains cultural identification through tribal affiliation or community recognition.

Asian or Pacific Islander
A person having origins in any of the original people so the Far East, Southeast Asia, the Pacific Islands or Indian subcontinent.

Black (Not Hispanic)
A person having origins in any of the Black racial groups of Africa

Hispanic
A person of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central or South American or other Spanish culture or origin regardless of race.

White (Not Hispanic)
A person having origins in any of the original people of Europe, North Africa, or the Middle East

EAST HIGH SCHOOL’S NATIVE CLUB | IZAK WHITING | JUNIOR AT EAST HIGH SCHOOL

At East High School, there is a club like no other. Which club you may ask? Well, it’s not the chess club, nor the robotics club. No, it’s the proud Native Club. The club’s goals are simple, get to know your cultural background, receive help in school, in your personal life, and finding your identity. We set these goals as a standard then each individual developed their own personal goals. Through the club and our sponsor, Jay Grimm, we got a chance to get to know more about our culture and a little about ourselves. We had multiple debates on current events that happened in our community or in the world itself.

We had no events planned for this school year, but Jay encouraged us to find something that interests us and go out there and get it done. It didn’t take long to find events that caught our eyes. Some of the events included the Sand Creek Healing Run, talking with the senators, meeting Representative Salazar, testifying for two bills, one we did a PSA for the in-state tuition, two involving the Native community as a whole, and we met with the Lieutenant Governor. We’ve had more visitors and trips than any other club at our school that didn’t already have a set schedule.

At the end of the year, we gave a framed poster to Mr. Mendelsberg, our principal, for the conference room. In all honesty, I’m surprise and proud of all of our accomplishments. I’m thankful for the Native Club; I’ve had good experiences and found good friends.
STUDENTS RECEIVE THE MAYOR'S YOUTH AWARD

The Mayor’s Youth Award honors teenagers between the ages of 13 and 19 who have overcome adversity to achieve success. The award seeks to recognize and support young people who have made positive changes and exhibited strength and determination when faced with challenges.

RACHEL HERNANDEZ
Graduating from North High School this year, Rachel Hernandez shows strength and determination in the face of adversity. "Rachel is very persistent," states Beulah Mormon School Psychologist and Indian Education Partner, "she sets goals and does what it takes to meet them." Rachel plans to attend Colorado State University in the fall and major in Social Work with the goal of being a Probation Officer. When asked why she chose this field of study she replied, "People deserve a second chance."

SKYLAR DAKOTA RUSSELL
An 8th grader at Hamilton Middle School, Skylar Dakota Russell, is an example of resilience. "She's overcome a great deal," says Indian Education Partner Chenoa Crowshoe-Patterson, "but remains focused and determined to be a successful student."

Skylar often mentors her peers, encouraging them to be empowered in who they are. She credits her friends, family and Indian Education mentors for her success. After high school, Skylar plans to go to college and earn a degree in History or Indigenous Studies.

AROUND DENVER

SUMMER EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS
Metro Denver Workforce Centers have partnered with local employers to offer the 2015 Colorado Workforce Alliance Metro Youth Virtual Job Fair. The event features more that 50 employers that represent more that 2,500 job s in a wide range of industries. Open to individuals up to 21 years of age that have registered at www.connectingcolorado.com. It allows for easy access to youth employment opportunities. The online job fair will run through June 30th.

COMMODITIES FOR SENIORS OVER 60
The Denver Indian Center is offering commodities for seniors over 60 through the Food Bank of the Rockies. Applying is easy! Those interested should stop by the Denver Indian Center (4407 Morrison Rd) with their photo ID and proof of income. Upcoming distribution dates are June 12 & 26. Distributions are every 2nd and 4th Friday from 9AM to 12PM. For questions, contact the Denver Indian Center at 303.936.2688.

THE DENVER ART MUSEUM IS FREE FOR KIDS
General admission to the Denver Art Museum is FREE to all youth ages 18 and under every day, granting more kids access to art than ever before. Free for Kids will fund general admission for all children, including school field trips and other youth group visits. This program will also help support a new transportation fund for school bus trips and will enable the museum to offer youth pricing for all special ticketed exhibitions at $5.

The Free for Kids program at the Denver Art Museum is made possible by Scott Reiman and Kaiser Permanente Colorado.
MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

JUNE 14-20
Native STEM Camp | CSU Fort Collins

AUGUST 13-14
Middle School/High School Walk-in Registration

AUGUST 24
FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL!

SCHOOL SUPPLY DISTRIBUTION
Fall 2015

PARENT MEETING
Date, time and Location TBD

Thomas, Malinda and Beulah enjoy the Denver Center for International Studies Powwow

Students participate in the Sand Creek Memorial

Speaking at the 2014 AISES Conference

Students visit the University of Colorado

Students visit Denver University