

# THE IEFA BULLETIN

FEBRUARY 2025

## What Went Down in February?

- IEFA Work Session
- MCPS flag bearers at Men's N7 game
- Earring Making Workshop
- Essential Understandings Trainings
- MCPS EDUCATIONAL SUMMIT
- Chris La Tray book club
- Freshmen Showcases HHS and SHS
- Diversity Week at HHS
- International Week at BSHS
- Paxson's Culture Night

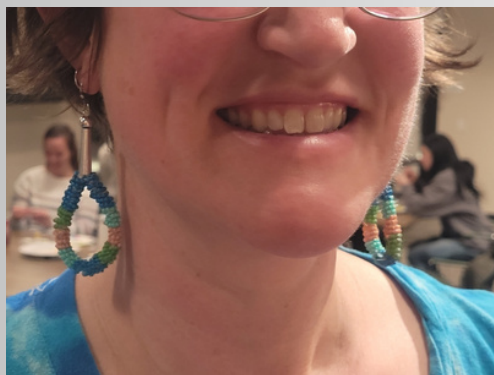
## What's Going Down in March?

IEFA Work Session with Matt Bell 3/5

Understanding and Enjoying  
Powwows PIR goes live 3/17

SPRING BREAK

OPI's Best Practices Conference 3/24-3/25



A participant in the earring making class shows off her newly created jewelry!

Seeley Swan RISE students create beading kits.

Pictured: Aubri Loesch, Aly Little Coyote, and Angela Ream (Left)



Loom Beading by Zach Best (Right)

# THE I E F A BULLETIN

FEBRUARY 2025



**TRADITIONAL GAMES  
CERTIFICATION!**

[CLICK TO  
REGISTER HERE!](#)

**\$350 per person**

## **Time & Location**

**Apr 11, 2025, 8:00 PM MDT – Apr 14, 2025, 12:30 AM MDT  
Ulm, 342 Ulm Vaughn Rd, Ulm, MT 59485, USA**

**Certification for teaching traditional Native games include:**

**The recommended procedures for recovering and restoring traditional games, including learning about each game's cultural significance and making the handcrafted game pieces to each game  
Connections with advisors, teachers, and coaches who use the games as tools to educate modern youth and adults**

**Certification and permission to teach the many tribal games that have come into the traditional games' blanket with permission for all people to play**

**Knowledge that will enhance goals for: healthy lifestyles, family fun and humor, increased connections with values of the past, developing social skills, and building spiritual connections**

**Who should attend?**

**ITGS clinics are for everyone! The games offer effective tools for healthy living across the board, applying to families, bands, clans, tribal programs, schools, colleges, museums, parks & recreation, health programs, youth programs, and more!**



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## FEBRUARY 2025



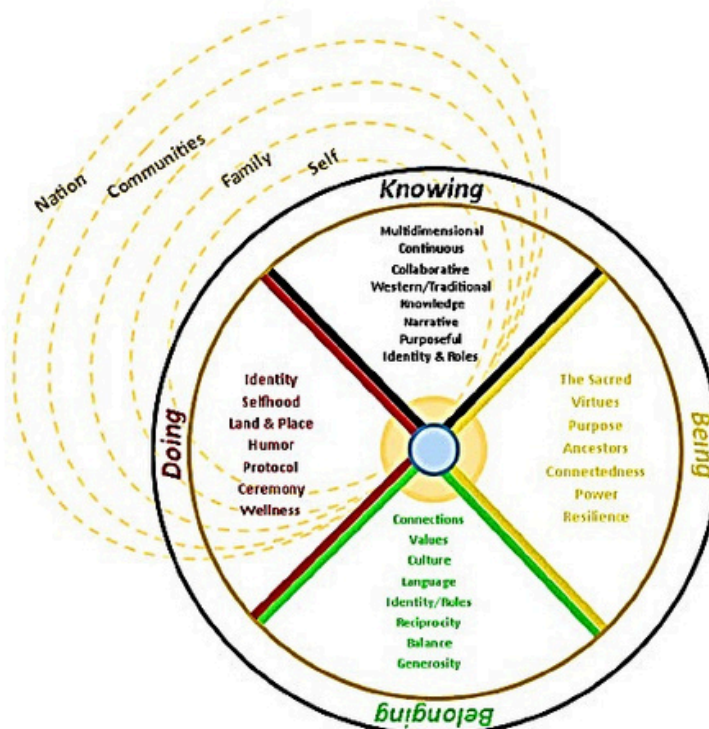
## The Indigenous Whole Learner Framework

### Tribal Student Achievement and Relations

The purpose for creating this model is to help educators, and those who support educators, understand the relational standpoint of Indigenous youth. Too often our youth are perceived from a standpoint of poverty, or trauma, or other deficit-based, line-of-sight, perspective. Through study of the relational framework, educators might better navigate the cultural imperative of connectivity and identity that propels indigenous, and indeed all, students to achieve authentic learning.

This framework was inspired by work being done across the nation and by indigenous educators past and present. None of these are new ideas and can be easily identified in any indigenous based research with the briefest of internet searches. For the purposes of development, the relational standpoint for this framework may be supposed to run counter to the hierarchal and linear nature of Western education and will operate more from a multi-dimensional perspective. The life domains shared here, along with the aspects listed within the domains, should not replace the development of partnerships with indigenous knowledge keepers in your area.

The hope of this work is to support educators to gain better knowledge of tribal thought processes and world view, gain insight into the importance of relationship in tribal cultures, and to inspire educators to seek understanding of the whole-learner, indigenous approach to education. Further, this framework is not static but a shared understanding with fluidity. It is capable of change and growth. This framework in no way supposes a pan-Indian approach but attempts to acknowledge the unique perspectives of interconnectivity common to indigenous plains tribes, and beyond.



**Being**  
(Spirit)



**Belonging**  
(Heart)



**Doing**  
(Body)



**Knowing**  
(Mind)

The Sacred  
Virtues  
Purpose  
Ancestors  
Connectedness  
Power  
Resilience

Connections  
Values  
Culture  
Language  
Identity/Roles  
Reciprocity  
Balance  
Generosity

Identity  
Selfhood  
Land and Place  
Humor  
Protocol  
Ceremony  
Wellness

Multidimensional  
Continuous  
Collaborative  
Traditional Knowledge  
Narrative  
Purposeful  
Western/Mainstream  
Identity and Roles  
Contextual

# MCPS NATIVE AMERICAN STUDENT SERVICES

# INDIAN EDUCATION FOR ALL

# PIR OPPORTUNITIES

## 2024 - 2025 UPDATED PIR CALENDAR

DATES	LEARNING OPPORTUNITY
March 17-April 26	Understanding and Enjoying Powwows (self-paced online + in-person at the MCPS Native Youth Powwow)
April 7	IEFA and SPARK! Arts: Who are the Little Shell with Anna East and Chris La Tray
May 5, 12 & 19	IEFA Book Club: <i>Braiding Sweetgrass for Young Adults</i>
May 6	IEFA and SPARK! Arts: Making the Future with Aspen and Cameron Decker

*Sign up now in the PD Portal. More PIR opportunities and info in the monthly IEFA Bulletin.*

## IEFA WORK SESSIONS

WHAT IS A WORK SESSION?	DATES
<p>IEFA Work Sessions are an open work time to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Collaborate with Knowledge Keepers, content experts and colleagues in order to create, update or improve IEFA lessons and materials</li> <li>&gt; Explore available resources</li> <li>&gt; Receive coaching support</li> </ul>	<p><del>November 6</del>  <del>December 4</del>  <del>January 8</del>  <del>February 5</del>  March 5  April 2  May 7</p>

*More information available in the PD Portal and monthly IEFA Bulletin.*



# Native Youth Powwow



April 26, 2025  
Sentinel High School



## Contest Categories:

- Tiny Tots (5 and under, must be in regalia)
- Juniors (6-12 years)
- Teens (13-18 years)
- Adult Women and Men (19-59 years)
- Golden Age (60+)

Grand Entries: Noon and 6 pm

Supper Break 4-6 PM

### Vendors Welcome

Contact Billie Jo Juneau

[bjuneau@mcpsmt.org](mailto:bjuneau@mcpsmt.org)

(406) 728-2400 ext. 1063

### 2025 NYP Princess Contest

Contact Trena Old Person

[toldperson@mcpsmt.org](mailto:toldperson@mcpsmt.org)

(406) 728-2400 ext. 1028

Head Male Dancer: Dane Fisher

Head Female Dancer: Kyreah Kicking Woman

Youth Host Drum: DB Express

MC: Benji Headswift

Arena Director: Shawn Whitegrass

Outgoing NYP Princess: Maya Griego



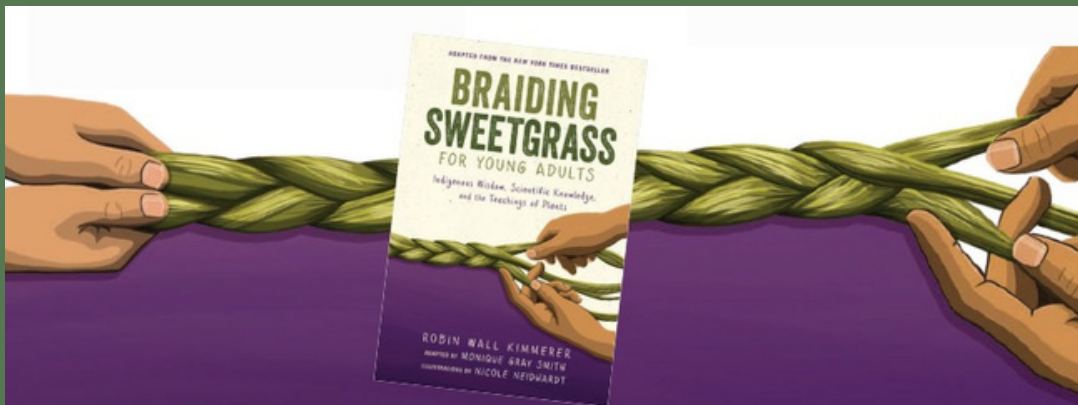
IEFA BOOK CLUB



# BRAIDING SWEETGRASS FOR YOUNG ADULTS

by Robin Wall Kimmerer

Adapted by Monique Gray Smith | Illustrated by Nicole Neidhardt



MAY

5 | 12 | 19

2025

DRAWING FROM HER EXPERIENCES AS AN INDIGENOUS SCIENTIST, BOTANIST ROBIN WALL KIMMERER DEMONSTRATES HOW ALL LIVING THINGS PROVIDE US WITH GIFTS AND LESSONS EVERY DAY. THIS YA EDITION REINFORCES HOW WIDER ECOLOGICAL UNDERSTANDING STEMS FROM LISTENING TO THE PLANTS AROUND US.

COMPLETE 3 HOURS SELF-PACED READING AND PARTICIPATE IN 3 IN-PERSON DISCUSSIONS. BOOK PROVIDED FOR FREE TO THE FIRST 25 PEOPLE!



SIGN UP IN THE PD PORTAL NOW!







# THE IEFA BULLETIN

Missed last month's bulletin?

Previous editions are available in the  
[Indian Education Learning Hub Google Drive](#)

## NASS IEFA Instructional Coaches

EK-5: Keila Cross, [kcross@mcpsmt.org](mailto:kcross@mcpsmt.org), ext 1049

6-12: Charlie Struna, [cstruna@mcpsmt.org](mailto:cstruna@mcpsmt.org), ext 1068

