

College of Education Diversity Newsletter

November-2001

Ryan Taylor

Diversity Graduate Assistant

taylryan@isu.edu

Native American Heritage Month

November 1-30

November is Native American Heritage Month. What started at the turn of the century as an effort to gain a day of recognition for the significant contributions the first Americans made to the establishment and growth of this Nation has resulted in a whole month being designated for that purpose. But, it has been a long and winding trail that has taken many turns during the last 84 years that have not resulted in an "official day" of recognition.

For many years, Indians and non-Indians have urged that a special day be set aside to honor America's first citizens. From time to time, legislation was proposed in the U.S. Congress that would designate the Fourth Friday in September of each year as American Indian Day. There has also been legislation that would establish a Native American Awareness Week the fourth week in September. Introduction of these bills, none of which were passed by Congress, resulted in modern day almanacs listing the fourth Friday in September as American Indian Day under the heading "Day usually observed -- not legal holidays."

The first American Indian Day in a state was declared on the Second Saturday in May 1916, by the Governor of New York. Several states celebrate the fourth Friday in September. In Illinois, for example, it became that day by legislative enactment in 1919. In Massachusetts, in accordance with a law passed in 1935, the Governor issued a proclamation naming the day that will become American Indian Day for any given year. Presently, several states have designated Columbus day as Native American Day, but, it continues to be a day we observe without any recognition as a legal holiday.

Brown Bag Lunch Series

The next Diversity Committee Brown Bag discussion will be on Monday, November 26 at 12:00 p.m., Education Building Room 355. Xuejun Shen (Ina) from Shanghai and Ronggui Wei (Heinz) from Taiwan will discuss the similarities of the Chinese and American educational systems. Bring your lunch and join us.

DANSON

DANSON, The ISU Theatre Dance Company will have two performances in early December. On December 1st, DANSON presents the ISU Holiday Performance and on December 5th is Show and Share Night. DANSON is a member of the College of Education's Inter-group Council.

Great Diversity Web Sites on Native-American Heritage Month

<http://www2.ihc.gov/heritage/>

<http://www.doi.gov/bia/naheritage.html>