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240 state Indians get educational boost

University of Montana--Missoula. Office of University Relations

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240 STATE INDIANS
GET EDUCATIONAL BOOST

MISSOULA---

Discussion of the educational and vocational boost being given 240 Montana Indians at the University of Montana was one of the highlights of a three-day meeting recently at the University.

The discussion occurred during the Jan. 11-13 meeting of Montana's Intertribal Policy and representatives of the Northwest Affiliated Tribes.

Dr. James F. Hall, UM director of continuing education, said those attending the Intertribal and Affiliated meeting learned that trainees and their families participating in "Experiment in Education," a \$850,000 adult Indian training program at the University, feel what Dr. Hall refers to as "a sense of acceptance and concern for their particular problems by the University of Montana."

"It took 2½ years to develop the training program and bring about funding for the program," Hall said, adding that this fact alone is indicative of how the University feels about bettering the Indian's life.

The training program is directed by the UM continuing education department and is funded from grants from the Department of Labor Manpower Development Training Act and the office of Economic Opportunity.

Indians participating in the program are from throughout Montana. They are involved in basic education courses and prevocational training skills. Wives of men participating in the year-long program attend family life instruction classes, which include cooking and homemaking.

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Indians attending the meeting of the IPB and NAT learned about the possible entrance of the six units of Montana University System into a consortium already involving the University of Utah, Arizona State University and the University of South Dakota. This program would provide technical training and assistance for Indians on reservations, Hall indicated.

Other areas of interest considered at the Intertribal-Northwest conference include anthropological and historical studies of the American Indian that have been conducted at colleges and universities, and alcoholism.

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