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The University of Montana

NEWS RELEASE

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April 5, 1996

INDIAN BUSINESS PROGRAM DIRECTOR WINS ENTREPRENEURSHIP AWARD

MISSOULA --

A University of Montana—Missoula graduate recently hired as national director of the American Indian Business Leaders program headquartered at UM has won the Hughes Electronics Corp.'s Youth Entrepreneurship Award.

Michelle Henderson, who received a master's of business administration degree at UM in spring 1995, won the award just months into her position as AIBL's first director. The national program was established at UM in fall 1995.

"To receive this type of national recognition in such early stages of AIBL's organizational development is truly remarkable," said Larry Gianchetta, dean of UM's business school.

Henderson, an enrolled member of the Fort Belknap Assiniboine tribe, was a founding member of UM's AIBL chapter.

The award was presented March 27 in San Diego at the Reservation Economic Summit and American Indian Business Trade Show, co-sponsored by Hughes Electronics Corp. It recognizes a successful American Indian youth entrepreneurship project or adviser, volunteer or counselor.

AIBL's national program was established under the auspices of the American Indian Higher Education Consortium to support Indian students who want to get a formal business education and eventually design their own businesses. Besides the UM chapter, AIBL now has chapters at Salish-Kootenai Community College, the University of South Dakota, Montana State University—Northern, Fort Peck Community College and Fort Belknap Community College.

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