5-25-2000

National Lewis and Clark Educational Center Press Conference

Max S. Baucus
Senator * or Department*: BAUCUS

Instructions:
Prepare one form for insertion at the beginning of each record series.
Prepare and insert additional forms at points that you want to index.
For example: at the beginning of a new folder, briefing book, topic, project, or date sequence.

Record Type*: Speeches & Remarks

MONTH/YEAR of Records*: May-2000
(Example: JANUARY-2003)

(1) Subject*: National Lewis and Clark Education Center Press Conference
(select subject from controlled vocabulary, if your office has one)

(2) Subject*

DOCUMENT DATE*: 05/25/2000
(Example: 01/12/1966)

* "required information"
MEMORANDUM
Office of Senator Max Baucus

To: Max
From: Kjersten Forseth (done by Andrea Merrill)
Date: 30 May, 2000

Meeting time/place: 1300 - 1400 hrs.
Continuing Education Building (new), Room 210, UM Campus, Missoula

Subject: National Lewis and Clark Education Center Press Conference
(You are the first of the congressional speakers -- Three minutes allowed)

Names of People: Lauren Mackay, UM Continuing Education/EOS staff contact,
George Dennison, UM President (will introduce you)
John Kuglin, EOS Executive Director
Alex Philp, EOS Assistant Director
Senator Conrad Burns
Representative Rick Hill

Group or Association: UM School of Education's Earth Observing System Education Project (EOS), creator and clearinghouse for the new National Lewis and Clark Education Center (a Lewis and Clark Bicentennial public/private education cooperative)

Recent MSB Contact: George Dennison, UM President
Torian Donohoe is the former assistant director of the EOS project

Current Concerns: The UM’s NASA-funded Earth Observing System Education Project is the creator of this new National Lewis and Clark Education Center. The Center is a Lewis and Clark Bicentennial education venture/partnership, with the mission to assist educators, schools, and the public understand The Lewis and Clark Expedition (1803-1806) and its context in today’s world.

Through a extensive partnership (the Lewis and Clark Data Consortium), The Center will utilize advanced technologies to reach a wide educational audience across the nation. The Center will be the digital (Internet) and physical clearinghouse for information about the Expedition and the Trail.

One major piece is the website www.lewisandclarkeducationcenter.com
Issue Status: The NASA funding for the EOS Project came through one of Senator Burn's committees, but you have been thought of as very supportive also.

Recommended response: Last August 2, 1999, you spoke to school children and teachers at the first annual Rendez-Vous, a UM-EOS campus "Lewis and Clark camp" in which the initial plans for this L&C Center were discussed. There were demonstrations of some of the technologies that would be available through the L & C Center. The staff noted that your speech to the "camp" was great because you tied in some great L & C stories and your own love of the topic. Another group of kids and teachers will be in the audience for the press conference Tuesday.

Note that this is also the occasion of the second annual Rendez-Vous "camp" and as a speaker last year, you were impressed with and supportive of the plans and technologies first presented. You are very proud that this largely Montana effort, by largely Montana talent, will result in this major contact point to the L & C Bicentennial (2003-2006).

It confirms your vision of an educational agenda as a foundation for economic development. The educational opportunities and advanced technologies available through this new L & C Education Center will help our young people and teachers stay ahead of the technology curve – perhaps even enable them to put their talents to use in Montana in ways that will resonate for another 200 years, as did those intrepid adventurers, Lewis and Clark.

As you said to last year's Rendez-Vous gathering, "If Lewis and Clark could cross the Continental Divide, we can conquer the digital divide." And here we are today, looking forward from a high place to the future before us.