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Arizona student prepares for health career in summer program

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NEWS RELEASE

July 20, 1999

Contact: Reno LoParco, project coordinator, (406) 243-4095.

**ARIZONA STUDENT PREPARES FOR HEALTH CAREER IN SUMMER PROGRAM
MISSOULA--**

Future health professionals are getting a jump on their studies in an innovative summer program at The University of Montana.

Clint Burnside of **St. Michaels, Ariz.**, is among 21 participants in UM's Health Careers Opportunity Program, a six-week session that will conclude July 31.

HCOP's mission is to prepare minority students for the rigorous academic challenges that lie ahead of them in a health-related field of study. With a curriculum focused on Montana Indians, the program takes a culturally relevant approach to intensive study, academic orientation and recreational activities.

Students tackle tough subjects like math and science within the context of weekly themes such as youth tobacco use, substance abuse and diabetes and nutrition. Other activities include community service projects, research observation and job shadowing.

Burnside, a member of the Navajo Nation, is employed with the Indian Health Service as a pharmacy technician in **Gallup, N.M.** He attended Northern Arizona University and plans to become a pharmacist.

HCOP applicants must have completed their junior year in high school and need a grade-point average of at least 2.5. They may be residents of any state and are not required to attend UM after completing HCOP. Participants are selected based on a combination of essays,

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letters of recommendations, academic performance and personal history.

To cover their expenses, students receive a stipend of \$1,680, as well as reimbursement for round-trip travel costs. UM's HCOP program, one of more than 200 nationwide, is funded through a grant from the Department of Health and Human Services.

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PS
Gallup Independent, Navaho Hopi Observer
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