

1-14-1972

## UM publication deals with improving education of Indian students

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### Recommended Citation

University of Montana--Missoula. Office of University Relations, "UM publication deals with improving education of Indian students" (1972). *University of Montana News Releases*. 22259.  
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UM PUBLICATION DEALS WITH  
IMPROVING EDUCATION OF INDIAN

MISSOULA--

The seventh in a series of publications produced by the Division of Educational Research and Services (DERS) at the University of Montana focuses on improving the education of American Indian students.

The publication, entitled "Individualization of Instruction: The American Indian Student," was written by Donald E. Hjelmseth (pronounced Jelm-Seth), a graduate assistant in the DERS, and Dr. Lyle L. Berg, an assistant professor of education and DERS director. It was edited by Alonzo T. Spang, former director of Indian Studies at UM, who is now superintendent of the Northern Cheyenne Agency, Lame Deer.

In a chapter entitled "The Situation," the publication quotes Clarence Wesley, chairman of the San Carlos Apache Tribe in Arizona:

" 'The handicap from which Indian children suffer most is that usually the off-reservation public school is too busy following the state adopted curriculum and meeting the needs of all the students to make the adaptations necessary to meet the needs of the non-English speaking Indian child who is already behind his group in knowledge of how to study and in comprehension.' "

The article from the University, which says that teachers of Indian students should try "to understand the main differences between (Indian and non-Indian) cultures"--including both traditional and current cultural concepts--compares the Indian way of life with the non-Indian way of life.

It defines the Indian way of life as being present orientated, lacking time consciousness, giving, having respect for age, being cooperative and having harmony with nature.

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It says the non-Indian way of life is future orientated, has time consciousness, is saving, puts emphasis on youth, stresses competition and seeks conquest over nature.

The article also points out that (1) a curriculum for the Indian student should be designed to allow the individual child to progress in each field of study at his own pace in a nongraded school organization and (2) the entire community should have a role in the design and implementation of the child's education.

Copies of "Individualization of Instruction: The American Indian Student" may be obtained from Dr. Lyle L. Berg, University of Montana School of Education, Missoula, Mont. 59801, or from the ASUM Bookstore on campus at a cost of 50 cents per copy. The DERS is sponsored by the education school.

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