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Indian training conference is this week in Great Falls, Rocky Boy

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IMMEDIATELY

INDIAN TRAINING CONFERENCE
IS THIS WEEK IN G.F., ROCKY BOY

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local + cs +

MISSOULA --

The University of Montana School of Education and Department of Indian Studies will sponsor a two-day Center Satellite Conference under the People Personnel Services Program (PPSP) on Thursday (Nov. 11) in Great Falls and Friday (Nov. 12) on the Rocky Boy Indian Reservation 11 miles east of Box Elder.

Conference headquarters will be the Rainbow Hotel, Great Falls. Registration will be from noon-7 p.m. Wednesday (Nov. 10) at the hotel.

Keynote speaker for Thursday's program will be William M. Mills, 31, U.S. Olympic gold medal winner in the 10,000-meter run, who is assistant to the U.S. commissioner for Indian affairs. Mills currently lives in San Diego, Calif. He is a consultant and liaison to the Olympic Committee for Minority Group Athletes and he is a member of Big Brother, Inc., of San Diego.

Mills, a Sioux Indian from Pine Ridge, S.D., will speak at 8 p.m. Thursday in the Rainbow Room at the Rainbow Hotel. The talk is open to the public without charge.

Floyd Westerman, who is a recording artist and Sioux Indian from South Dakota, will be featured in a free public concert at 7 p.m. Friday (Nov. 12) at the Rocky Boy Community Center, Rocky Boy Reservation.

This week's conference is a follow-up program to an eight-week institute held at the University of South Dakota, Vermillion, this summer. The PPSP was launched this summer at the South Dakota school under a grant from the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare to train persons for their master's degrees in guidance and counseling. Satellite schools under the PPSP include UM, the University of Wyoming, Laramie, and Eastern Washington State College, Cheney.

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Rick LaPointe, Rosebud, S.D., a UI student and confernce coordinator, said about 40 persons representing six states will be among conference participants. Participants will include five UI graduate students who are studying for their master's degrees.

LaPointe said Rocky Boy was selected as "the target community" for this week's conference because Rocky Boy is the only reservation in Montana which has an all-Indian school board and school district.

"We expect about a dozen participants to attend the conference from the Rocky Boy area," LaPointe said, "including Cliff Hanson, Box Elder, and Bert Corcoran, Havre, school superintendents at Box Elder and on the Rocky Boy Reservation, respectively."

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