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NEWS

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UM INDIAN TRAINING CONTINUES UNDER \$508,732 IN FED. FUNDS

MISSOULA ---

Federal funds totaling \$508,732 will make possible the continuance of a basic education and prevocational Indian training program for the second year at the University of Montana.

The program, sponsored by the UM Division of Extension and Continuing Education, recently was awarded \$150,818 from the Department of Health, Education and Welfare; \$137,750 from the Department of Labor, and \$220,164 from the Bureau of Indian Affairs to continue the program during the 1968-69 academic year.

Dr. Allen Pope, UM director of adult education and Indian training, said he believes the program is unique in the nation. It involves the training of 100 Indians in the areas of basic education and prevocational orientation.

Family life education is provided for trainees and their wives, and a Day Care Center not only provides child care services while parents are in class, but also includes educational experience designed to help the child when he enters public school.

Trainees selected must be at least one-fourth Indian, must have lived on a Montana reservation for at least the past six months, and must be in the fourth- to eighth-grade achievement level. Trainees include married men, single men or women, widows, divorcees or unwed mothers.

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Concerning Indian training at UM, Dr. Pope said, "Our mission is to take people who do not have the education necessary to succeed in vocational training. We train them in reading and language arts, social studies and mathematics, and introduce them to different types of jobs so that when they finish our training they can go on to vocational schools and succeed." In addition, the wife is receiving training designed to help her become a fully functioning member of the family in either a rural or an urban environment.

The 1967-68 Indian training program proved to be highly successful and several improvements have been made for this year. More counselors are guiding trainees during the 1968-69 program and a redesigned curriculum includes tribal culture classes.

Improved coordination between prevocational laboratories and basic educational facilities has helped to improve training operations. Twelve full-time and two part-time employees assist in training Indians in the University program.

The UM program received nationwide publicity last July when a news clip filmed at UM and on the Flathead Indian Reservation north of Missoula was shown on the Huntley-Brinkley NBC television news program.

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