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18 participating in BIA program at UM

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MISSOULA--

Final sessions of a three-day employment assistance conference sponsored by the Bureau of Indian Affairs get under way at 9 a.m. Thursday (May 21) at the University of Montana.

Roy Buffalo, area employment assistance officer for the BIA in Billings, said a total of 18 employment assistance officers and their assistants from each of Montana's seven Indian reservations and from the Wind River Reservation in Wyoming are participating in the conference.

"The main purpose of the three-day program," said Buffalo, "is to provide in-service training for the employment assistance officers, who are responsible for administering the vocational training program on each reservation under the BIA."

Three UM faculty members are conducting the business sessions in Main Hall. They are Dr. Robert L. Van Horne, dean of the UM School of Pharmacy; Robert S. Van Slyke, assistant professor of education, and Dr. John M. Atthowe Jr., a UM psychology professor.

Topics covered include alcohol and other drugs, test interpretation and vocational counseling. Participants also received a tour of the Missoula Vocational-Technical Center.

Missoula Mayor Richard F. Shoup keynoted the opening sessions of the in-service training program with a discussion about the requirements for employment with the city and county.