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UM STUDENT RECEIVES SCHOLARSHIP TO STUDY INDIAN CHILD WELFARE ACT

MISSOULA--

The implementation of the federal 1978 Indian Child Welfare Act will be part of a study made by University of Montana senior social work student Kenneth C. Sprott, of Castro Valley, Calif.

Sprott received a \$1,000 Watkins Scholarship from the UM College of Arts and Sciences to make the study which will include the reasons for the law and an examination of the law itself.

According to Sprott, Congress enacted the legislation in response to the large numbers of Indian children who were being displaced from their natural families into institutions or homes which did not meet the social and cultural needs of the children due to culturally biased standards in child placement programs.

The new law, Sprott explained, was designed to promote the stability of Indian families, insuring that removal of children from their natural home occurred only when clearly warranted and that stringent placement standards were met. He added that the law also recognized the authority of tribal courts in child welfare cases.

Sprott said that he will research the implementation of the law in western Montana to determine what procedures agencies have developed for its enforcement; whether those procedures are adequate changes from past practices; and how affected families and officials have reacted to the programs.

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UM STUDENT RECEIVES ACHOLARSHIP--add one

Faculty adviser for Sprott's project is John Spores, associate professor of social work at UM.

Sprott, son of Charles and Helen Sprott, is a 1972 graduate of Castro Valley High School.

Since the program began in 1978, a total of 114 UM students have been awarded the competitive Watkins scholarships based on their prior academic achievements and the quality of their research proposals. The scholarship funds come from the \$353,000 Gordon and Anna Watkins Endowment at UM.

Gordon Watkins was a 1914 UM alumnus who was a Welsh coal miner before he immigrated to the United States in 1906. He received the doctor of philosophy degree from the University of Pennsylvania in 1918 and an honorary doctor of laws degree from UM in 1940.

Watkins taught in Illinois and California universities and was provost of the University of California at Riverside until 1956. He also authored several books and articles on economics and labor relations and acted as a federal arbitrator and international consultant in economics. While at UM Anna Davis Watkins was secretary to the UM president and graduated in English in 1915. Both died in 1970.

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