

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 7, 2014

### **GGS is Awarded IEFA Grant**

Gallatin Gateway, MT – Gallatin Gateway School (GGS) was awarded a K-12 Indian Education For All (IEFA) Grant designed by Ms. Davis, fourth-grade Gallatin Gateway teacher. The grant contained goals to develop culturally proficient teachers, cooperatively plan relevant IEFA instructional lessons, and design a third-grade research/writing project incorporating IEFA.

This grant, in the amount of \$4200, develops cultural proficiency of students and enhances classroom lessons through increased teacher knowledge and inclusion of accurate enrichment materials for lessons. At the initiation of this project, the present GGS IEFA handbook was completed to reflect both the legislation of IEFA as well as specific school requirements. Teachers participated in two workshops to examine and design instruction based on best practices in teaching IEFA. Additionally, staff attended two professional development opportunities hosted by renowned experts in the field. With the efforts of this grant, GGS staff taught approximately twenty new IEFA lessons in kindergarten through eighth grade. The process included both reflecting on individual teaching experiences and seeking feedback to continually improve instruction. Lastly, in coordination with the significant writing project at GGS, the third-grade class participated in the inception of a research project exploring the history of Montana's tribal nations. The success of this project is expected to be carried forward as a tradition in subsequent third-grade classes.

In sharing her thoughts on her year implementing the 2014 grant project, Mrs. Davis stated, "The success of this grant rested on the collaborative efforts of the staff at GGS. We have been administratively supported by continued training as well as emerging resources and curriculum to enrich our instruction of IEFA. With the staff's genuine passion for educating our students in the history specific to Montana, we appreciate the opportunity this grant allowed our staff to share an accurate picture of the lives and experiences of all Montanans."

For more information about the grant, please contact:

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