



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

September 8, 2011

Dear Practitioner:

As educators of American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) students, I know you are committed to ensuring that every student has the opportunity to graduate from high school prepared to succeed in college and careers. To help achieve this objective, the Office of Elementary and Secondary Education (OESE) of the U.S. Department of Education (ED) invites you to participate in the second annual Federal Technical Assistance Workshop Day – *Strong Partnerships, Successful Students* on October 26, 2011, in Albuquerque, NM.

Together, working on a cradle to career strategy, we can ensure more AI/AN children enter school ready to learn, more students graduate from high school college- and career-ready, and more go on and graduate from college.

Unfortunately, we know that too many AI/AN students are performing at levels below their peers and are not graduating from high school. Estimates from ED show that more than one third of AI/AN students from the Pacific and Northwest regions of the U.S. fail to graduate high school on time.

These statistics make one thing clear – in the area of education, ED must do more to support your efforts to help AI/AN students succeed. This event aims to help build the capacity of teachers, leaders, parents, and other stakeholders to access and utilize ED programs to promote college and career readiness and close the achievement gap between AI/AN students and their non-native peers.

Our job is to support innovative strategies that lead to improved academic achievement of every AI/AN student. We need your participation to support great teachers and leaders, and, to provide high quality, culturally relevant education that takes AI/AN students from cradle to career. ED Senior Officials and program staff will be in attendance to spotlight the Administration's reform agenda, ED initiatives, programs and funds available to support innovations.

This one-day event is conveniently scheduled prior to the opening of the 42nd Annual National Indian Education Association (NIEA) Convention. There is no registration fee for the event. To attend, you may register immediately online at www.edtaworkshops.org and access the agenda, a list of workshop topics, lodging and travel information. Otherwise, you may register onsite October 25th and 26th before the event. We encourage you to attend and we hope you will be able to join us as we build and improve the quality of AI/AN education across the nation.

Sincerely,

/s/

Michael Yudin
Acting Assistant Secretary
Office of Elementary and Secondary Education