

INFORMATION ON THE SEPTEMBER 27TH RIBBON-CUTTING CEREMONY AT 2630 NORMAL AVE. ON THE MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY BILLINGS CAMPUS

Welcome to our day of celebration for a new facility where indigenous learning and achievement will thrive. Our celebration includes the usual ribbon-cutting activity to showcase the building and reveal its new purpose. The event will also demonstrate indigenous achievement exemplified by the courage of our contemporary warriors. The audience will experience the respect that Native people have for veterans and they will learn something culturally steeped in centuries-old traditions from the re-telling of their coup stories. The event will give the MSUB community an opportunity to step into the center of Native culture by participating in an authentic Native “give away” tradition. Native people have a high regard for reciprocity as a means to keep relationships in balance and to express respect, honor, and gratitude. The “give away” is an example of Native reciprocity customs. Some members of our audience will present gifts to the red dress jingle dancers. The color red represents the awareness movement to increase the public’s knowledge of the disproportionately high rate of missing and murdered indigenous women in the U.S.A. and Canada. The dress is associated with the power of women, prayer, healing, and the role of women in keeping up the spirits of their communities during difficult times. The red dress jingle dancers will dance for healing the loss of far too many women’s lives. Their dance is our prayer.

THE JINGLE DRESS

The jingle dress originates from an Ojibwe father’s dream during the time of World War I. The man’s daughter was very sick and not getting better. He feared that his daughter would die, so he sought a vision to help him during this difficult time. The vision he received instructed him to create a dress with rows of metal cones and a style of dance steps to go with the dress. His daughter danced in the dress as the vision prescribed and she recovered completely. She formed the first Jingle Dress Dance Society.

The jingle dance has grown in popularity since the 1980s with the expansion of powwow competition across the nation. The dress is associated with the power of women, prayer, healing, and the role of women in keeping up the spirits of their communities during difficult times. As the powwow circuit grew, many Native communities adopted the jingle dress dance.

At the 2017 Gathering of Nations Powwow, the largest powwow in the world, Headwoman dancer, Tia Wood of Saddle Lake Cree Nation, Alberta used her position to bring attention to the 1,000+ missing and murdered indigenous women in the United States and Canada. She called

for dancers to wear red jingle dresses and participate in a dance to honor the missing and murdered indigenous women in hopes the dance would help heal those devastated by violence against indigenous women as it had done for generations.

The dance, the sound of the jingles, and dresses are deeply meaningful to Native people. When performed in large numbers the spiritual effect is significant. A video of Tia Wood's special honoring dance at the Gathering of Nations Powwow is available on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-nplGNcOAHU>, Tia Wood Special - 2017 Gathering of Nations.



**Montana State University Billings
American Indian Outreach**



Ribbon-cutting Ceremony

Celebrate the new home of American Indian Outreach at 2630 Normal Avenue on September 27th at 3:00 p.m.

AGENDA

- Ribbon-cutting
- Counting Coup on a new tipi
- Counting Coup on the new building
- Red Jingle Dress dancers in honor of missing and murdered indigenous women
- Reciprocity gifts
- Refreshments
- Building tours

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