



Excerpts from the Nebraska Department of Education Annual Report December 31, 1880.

*"Our school population has nearly doubled to 1,772 pupils." Lincoln Public Schools*

*"Distinguish between knowledge and skill; and remember that skill cannot be acquired but by practice."*

*"...girls should be taught to cook ...and only prepare young ladies to keep their own homes."*

And we will continue to drum for our students in 2008



**nebraska  
department of  
education**

## Nebraska represented at the Partnerships for Indian Education Conference

The *Partnerships for Indian Education Conference*, co-sponsored by the US Department of Education and the US Department of the Interior was held in Rapid City, South Dakota July 8-10, 2008. While attending the meeting to give a keynote address, U.S. Deputy Secretary of Education, Ray Simon, met with State Department of Education representatives to discuss the revitalization of the National Indian Education Task Force that began as an initiative of the Council of Chief School Officers. The state representatives shared with Mr. Simon their goals for Indian education on the national level and the value of continued partnerships between the states and the US Department of Education as well as the importance of ongoing collaboration between the states to achieve not only the Task Force goals but also the goals of the Presidential Executive Order that called for the National Conference on Indian Education.



Mike Jetty (Montana), Keith Moore (South Dakota), Carol Remp (Nebraska), Ray Simon, Deputy Secretary of Education, US Dept of Ed., Debora Norris (Arizona), Mary Jane Oatman-Wakwak (Idaho), Bob Parisian (North Dakota)

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## A New School Year Brings a New Look to *The Drum*

*Carol Remp*

Welcome to the 2008-09 school year! The Nebraska Department of Education has undergone some changes since our last issue. On May 7, 2008 I was named to Program Coordinator for Multicultural/Diversity Education. I am however still serving as the liaison for Native American education. In regards to *The Drum* this change means that instead of having just a Native American education focus each edition will have a specific theme and we will be publishing more often. I will continue to use *The Drum* as a means of regular communication between the NDE Office of Multicultural Education and every school district and school building across the state. My focus will continue to be to provide teachers with classroom resources, help you find grants for local or regional projects, assist in providing more scholarship resources for your diverse students, and share news about the exciting events occurring around Nebraska as they relate to Multicultural Education. Feel free to submit information for inclusion in *The Drum* about local events or student accomplishments.

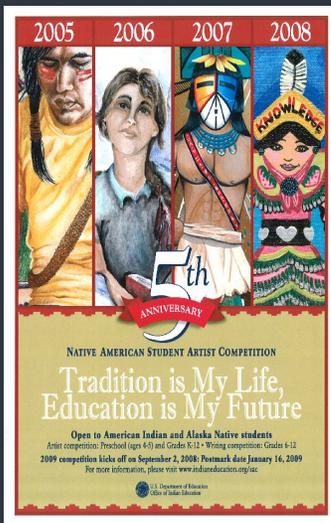
## View their artwork and essays at our website

We encourage all schools to participate in this event which will kick off September 2. Full details on our website and future in the newsletter.

Every child is an artist. The problem is how to remain an artist when we grow up.”

Picasso

“Keep in mind that the person to write for is yourself. Tell the story that you most desperately want to read.” Susan Isaacs.



## Nebraska students receive honors.

### Liberty Elementary-Omaha Public Schools

Nebraska students from Liberty Elementary, Omaha Nebraska placed in the Native American Student Artist competition hosted by the Office of Indian Education, U.S. Department of Education.

Special congratulations to:

Diego Gil (Rosebud Sioux), 3rd Place Art for Pre-Kindergarten. Lilliam Ngambi (Rosebud Sioux) FIRST PLACE in the art category. She is a second grader.

Jahir Fox (Blackfoot/Creek) won 2nd place in the writing category.

The artwork and essay are posted on our website and will be poster displayed at the Native American Symposium in Wayne on November 13.

### Winnebago Public Schools

McDonalds sponsored an essay contest for Chief Standing's Celebration May of 2007. Four students from Winnebago Public Schools received top honors. The students were awarded a \$50 savings bond and breakfast at McDonalds. The essays were incorporated into the tray mats distributed by McDonald's in Nebraska.

Congratulations to Cade Lee, Kadge Thomas, Vincent Bass and Nebraska Frenchman.

### Nebraska High School Graduates outscore Peers on ACT Exam

Almost three out of four Nebraska high school graduates took the ACT college entrance exam.

Nebraska continues the state's long-held tradition of scoring higher than the national ACT average as reported in the department's press release August 8, 2008. Nebraska students scored 22.1 compared to the national average of 21.1.

Nebraska continues to rank first among those states with 70 percent or more graduates taking the ACT.

Over a five-year statistical report, Hispanic students raised their ACT scores from 18.7 to 19.5. Native American students raised their scores 18.7 to 19.1. Asian American students went from 21.5 to 22.9. African American students showed a slight decline from 17.7 to 17.5.

“Art, an expression of me, an expression of you, an expression of us.”

# Nebraska Department of Education's has a State Achievement Plan Coordinator

The Nebraska Legislature enacted legislation that required the appointment of a Student Achievement Coordinator and the development of a plan to improve the educational attainment of students who live in poverty, students with limited English proficiency, and students who are highly mobile. The Coordinator is also responsible for the evaluation and coordination of existing resources for the provision of effective programs for students in the three subgroups throughout the state. The Coordinator is actively seeking input from individuals who are knowledgeable about the educational needs of the three student subgroups. The

information provided will assist with the development of the plan and the evaluation and coordination of existing resources for serving the students. The Nebraska Department of Education has entered into an agreement with the Mid-continent Research for Education and Learning organization from Denver, Colorado to work with the Student Achievement Coordinator in the development of the plan and the analysis of the data needed to evaluate the effectiveness of services for the students represented by the identified subgroups. An outline of the plan will be presented to the State Board of Education and the Education Committee of the

Legislature during the month of October. The final plan should be completed and shared with school districts, the State Board of Education, and the Education Committee of the Legislature prior to the end of June 2009.

It is my pleasure to have this opportunity to work with educators throughout the state to prepare the plan and assist school districts in meeting the needs of students with educational needs. I look forward to meeting with you and receiving your input. If you would like to visit with me or have me schedule a visit to your district please contact me.

**EDUCATOR  
BEAT**

Richard L. Schoonover  
Student Achievement  
Coordinator

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of Education

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## Teaching Math So students are Ready for College

"Rethinking High School: Supporting All Students to be College-Ready in Math," a new report by WestEd, profiles three public high schools that are successfully preparing diverse students to be college- and career-ready.

Researchers found that the high schools in Bellevue, Wash.; Norfolk, Va.; and Boston, Mass. share three elements that all work together: offering high-level math courses and support for all students; providing intensive professional development for teachers to improve their subject

knowledge and teaching skills; and using student progress and evaluations to help teachers tailor their lessons. While the schools' approaches vary, students in each have demonstrated improvement on proficiency tests.

## MULTICULTURAL EDUCATION WORKSHOP BEAT

Early Childhood Training Series designed by the Nebraska Department of Education's Early Childhood Team for all preschool and day care providers.

### REGISTRATION

Registration is free and required.

Chadron Deadline  
September 10, 2008

Wayne Deadline  
November 1, 2008

More conference details and registration on our website.



Attend, learn, networking, enjoy.

We have great opportunities for you at either conference.



**Mary Schlieder**  
Special Guest Speaker  
Chadron and Wayne

**2008 Nebraska**  
Teacher of the Year

Mary Schlieder is a special educator and author of *With Open Arms: Creating School Communities of Support Using Circle of Friends, Extracurricular Activities, and Staff Learning Teams*. She has worked as a resource teacher with kids grades 6-12 with social and behavior challenges

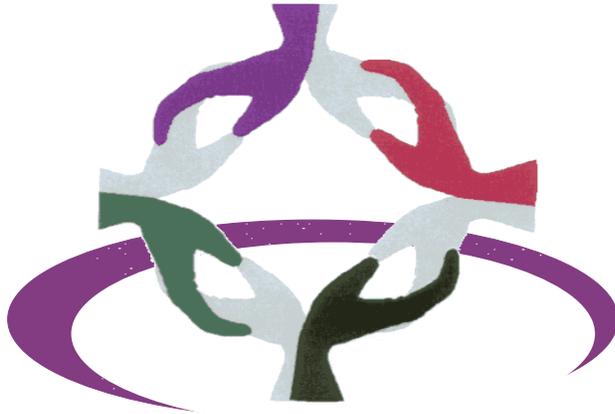
for the past 10 years and is passionate about sharing simple, inexpensive techniques which are easily implemented by busy staff in the school setting. Both will be her topics for breakout sessions

Sampling of Topics	Chadron	Wayne
Educating the Native Child in a Multi-cultural World	X	
UNMC's SEPA Science Education Programs for Native American Students	X	X
Promoting Partnerships for Safe Schools: Helping Schools and Communities Work Together	X	X
Consequences of being the Victim	X	X
Responding to an Active Shooter in Your School	X	X
Programs for Support and Developing High Ability Learners	X	X
Response to Intervention (RtI): Implementation and Strategies	X	X
Working with Special Education Students in Inclusive Settings	X	X
Success and Struggles of Implementing Positive Behavior Supports (PBS)	X	X
Inclusive Schools	X	X

**Gallery of Stars**  
Outstanding Nebraska  
Native American Youth  
Leaders  
Grades 9-12 and Postsecondary



Our Gallery of Stars are nominated by teachers, administrators or community members, for exemplary leadership capabilities in the classroom, the community and to their peers. Nomination forms and criteria are available at our website, [www.nde.state.ne.us/nativeamer](http://www.nde.state.ne.us/nativeamer)  
Deadline: September 12, 2008 (firm)



[www.nde.state.ne.us/nativeamer](http://www.nde.state.ne.us/nativeamer)



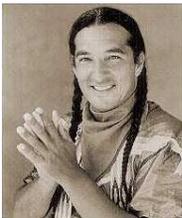
**Dr. Larry Brendtro**  
**Reclaiming Youth**

**CHADRON  
KEYNOTE**

Dr. Brendtro is founder of Reclaiming Youth International and past president of Starr Commonwealth in Michigan and Ohio. He has been a Professor of Special Education in the area of Behavioral Disorders. He is a licensed psychologist and has authored over one hundred fifty publication including ten books.

“Reclaiming Youth at Risk,”  
“No Disposable Kids,” “Kids

Who Outwit Adults,” and “The Resilience Revolution,” are among the titles of his books. Dr. Brendtro is co-editor of Reclaiming Children and Youth, a quarterly journal on strength based interventions with youth at risk. He draws on 40 years of experience in youth work, education, and treatment and holds a Ph.D. in Education and Psychology from the University of Michigan.



**Kevin Locke**

**WAYNE  
CULTURAL  
PRESENTATION  
AND  
PERFORMANCE**

When Kevin Locke (Lakota) performs the Hoop Dance, audiences around the world light up with curiosity, appreciation, hope and joy. He is known as a visionary, a preeminent player of the indigenous Northern Plains flute, traditional storyteller, cultural ambassador, recording artist and educator. Unity of humankind is reflected in this dance, employing 28 hoops, interlocking into a spherical union.

Kevin received training in the values, traditions and language of his native culture. He is a dance and musical hero and role model for youth around the world.

*Refer to page 4 for session topics and other presenters for both conferences.*

**MULTICULTURAL  
EDUCATION  
WORKSHOP  
BEAT**

Register online now for the Celebrate Diversity and Native American Symposiums

Celebrate Diversity  
Chadron State College  
September 22, 2008

Native American Symposium  
Wayne State College  
November 13, 2008



GALLERY OF STARS  
STUDENT NOMINATIONS  
NOW OPEN



## Area and regional conferences for staff development

13th Annual  
**Plum Creek  
Children's Literacy Festival**  
Early Childhood, Elementary, Secondary and Adult Offerings

October 10, 2008, Children's Day for commuting schools  
October 11, 2008 Adult Conference Day

Each year thousands of children and adults arrive on the campus of Concordia University in Seward to find nationally known authors, illustrators and literacy experts, dozens of activities and lots of books.

Authors appearing, Joan Bauer, Cynthia DeFelice, Gail Gibbons, Mike Graf and Mo Willems. [www.cune.edu/about/2040/](http://www.cune.edu/about/2040/)



18th Annual International Conference  
National Association for Multicultural Education  
**Beyond Celebrating Diversity: ReACTivating the Equity and Social Justice Roots of Multicultural Education**

November 12-16, 2008, New Orleans. [www.nameorg.org/conferences.html](http://www.nameorg.org/conferences.html)



**Heartland Latino Leadership Conference and Expo**  
November 7-10, 2008, Omaha NE  
Enlightening leadership experts on education, business, community, self-development and health & human services. [www.latinoleadership.info](http://www.latinoleadership.info)

**Digital Workshops for  
Teachers of Native American Students**

Collaboration with the Office of Indian Education

[Www.t2tweb.us/nativeamerican](http://www.t2tweb.us/nativeamerican)

“The secret of teaching is to appear to have known all your life what you just learned this morning.” *Author unknown*

**Linking to Literacy**

September 26-27, 2008, Sioux City, Iowa

Many national experts in the field of dyslexia, research, response-to-intervention, and teaching techniques for reading, spelling, and math. The program includes sessions for elementary and secondary Title I teachers, advocates, education administrators, parents and policymakers.

[www.ne-ida.com](http://www.ne-ida.com)

**EDUCATOR'S  
CONFERENCES  
BEAT**



**Native Wellness Institute National Wellness Conference**

September 15th - 18th, 2008

Atlantis Casino Resort , Reno, NV

This years National Conference will focus on creating healthier relationships with our families, our workplace, and our communities to give the gift of wellness to our generations to come. Registration and conference materials available at [www.nativewellness.com](http://www.nativewellness.com)



**A Framework for Understanding Poverty by Ruby K. Payne, Ph.D.**

November 4-5, 2008 Atlanta, Georgia

A two day workshop designed to help you understand and learn how to work with students from poverty. The workshop is valuable for all school personnel from administrators to counselors, to all educators.



**9 Strategies for Prevent Middle and High School Dropouts**

September 25-26, 2008 Denver, October 14-15, 2008 Chicago  
October 28-29, 2008 Indianapolis, December 9-10, 2008 Houston

For all educators of students grades 7-12 who are involved in or responsible for school improvement plans. [www.ahaprocess.com](http://www.ahaprocess.com)

**5th Annual Hispanic Latino Education Summit**

October 6, 2008, Omaha NE

The Nebraska Department of Education and the Mexican American Commission have teamed together again to bring you an exciting day for everyone, students, educators and parents. Guest speakers are Senor Chocolate and Richard Santana. [www.latinosummit.org/](http://www.latinosummit.org/)



Nebraska Department  
of Education

## EDUCATOR BOOK BEAT

“Children are made readers on the laps of their parents “ (1994)

Emilie Buchwald

“There is more treasurers in books than in the pirate's loot on Treasure Island.”

Walt Disney

## Verizon Grants for Literacy

The Verizon Foundation is now accepting proposals from eligible institutions for Literacy Grants. Maximum Award: \$10,000. Eligibility: 501(c)3 organizations, including elementary and secondary schools (public and private) that are registered with the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES).

Deadline: November 1, 2008.

[http://  
foundation.verizon.com/  
grant/guidelines.shtml](http://foundation.verizon.com/grant/guidelines.shtml)



### Eye on Education

[www.eyoneducation.com](http://www.eyoneducation.com)

1. 152 Ways to Keep Students in School: Effective Easy to Implement Tips for Teachers
2. Helping Students Graduate: A Strategic Approach to Dropout Prevention
3. From At Risk to Academic Excellence: What Successful Leaders Do
4. Best Practices to Help At-Risk Learners
5. Dropout Prevention Tools
6. Classroom Motivation from A to Z: How to Engage Your Students in Learning
7. How to Reach and Teach All Students—Simplified!
8. At-Risk Students: Reaching and Teaching Them (Second Edition)

### Reclaiming Youth

Reclaiming Youth suggests two publications by Dr Larry Brendtro. Dr. Brendtro will be the Nebraska Department of Education's keynote for the Celebrate Diversity Conference September 22, 2008.

1. *No Disposable Kids*
2. *Kids Who Outwit Adults*

# Enhance your professional library.

### NEA National Education Association

[www.nea.org](http://www.nea.org)

1. *America's History Through Young Voices* as a source tool for the K-12 social studies classroom.
2. *The Multicultural Resource Series: Resources for a Multicultural Classroom*

NEA also features many year round literature resources on their Read Across American website. One such resource is titled, *50 Multicultural Books Every Child Should Read*. It divides the books according to children's ages groups, provides the author, illustrator and publisher as well as the ethnic group the book is about. After our staff reviewed the list, we decided many would be excellent additions to your school or classroom libraries.. [www.nea.org](http://www.nea.org) and [www.nea.org/  
readacross/resources/index.html](http://www.nea.org/readacross/resources/index.html),



## Student Matinees at the Lied Center

The Lied Center for Performing Arts has designed performances for schools that include a day in Lincoln sight seeing. Visit their website to arrange this event, download programs and gather more information. The Nebraska Arts Council also has grants available to attend.

Kevin Locke Native Dance Ensemble, November 14 (he will also perform at the Nebraska Department of Education's Native American Symposium November 13.)

National Acrobats of China, February 6, 2009

To Kill a Mockingbird Montana Repertory Theatre, February 17, 2009

## STUDENT CORNER BEAT

## SCHOLARSHIP CORNER Monthly Picks

Xerox

[www.xerox.com](http://www.xerox.com)

For students from at-risk schools

[www.woallenfoundation.com](http://www.woallenfoundation.com)

## The death of riting

### Do we text that?

Has writing gone awry? Are abbreviated wds, symbols, and txt driving your schools' English teachers up trees? A recent survey by the College Board and Pew Internet and American Life Project found that most students say it's important to know how to write well, but a majority also said that Internet-style language is making its way into class work. The survey was



released after results from the National Assessment of Educational Progress showed that only one-third of eighth-graders demonstrate proficiency in writing. "I see creeping inarticulateness," Librarian of Congress James Billington told the *Washington Post*. Billington believes that the demise of the well-written sentence will deal a deathly blow to critical thought and storytelling. Others are not as concerned, but point to a decline in writing skills over the past four to five years. [www.asbj.com](http://www.asbj.com)

## REFLECTION BEAT

*A history of African American writing and research, from W. E. B. DuBois to Richard Wright to James Baldwin, has demonstrated that, for people of color, discussions of their life experiences and their relations with Whites are often as much about what it means to be White as they are about what it means not to be White*

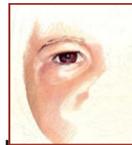


It really bothers me when a White person says, "Well, why can't we see each other as individuals instead of race being always an issue?" I always come out and say, "I can't understand why you would think we can separate race and see each other as individuals, when my ethnicity is part of who I am and something I can't ignore." (a Latina Student)



### How can you see me when you only look at part of me?

*I've noticed that in my science classes people just assume that since I'm Asian American that I'm supposed to be good at this. I struggle through classes just as they do, but there's still that stereotype that if you're Asian American and you're in the sciences you know your stuff, you don't have to study all the time. (an Asian American Male Student)*



People are constantly saying, "Oh, I thought you were white." And I say, "No, I'm Native American." And they say, "Well you look White." I tell them my mom is White. People expect this Indian with a feather in her hair. I think people make a lot of assumptions about your ethnicity. I don't mind if people ask, but it really upsets me when people make assumptions about who you are. (a Native American Female Student)

[In a Spanish class], because I was Mexican, people assumed I would know Spanish, and I didn't. When they found out I didn't really know it they said, "You're just Latina on the outside, not on the inside." (a Latina Student)

Every day, little things happen, like, one time when I was living on my hall someone was playing loud music, like M. C. Hammer was rapping. So they said to me, "Show us the 'M. C. Hammer! How you do the M. C. Hammer?"-like I'm supposed to know! I was the only Black person on my floor, and it was like I was supposed to know how to do it. I said, "I don't even dance that well." I mean, I can dance, but I can't do the M. C. Hammer and the Running Man and this other stuff. (a Black Male Student)



## Celebrate American Indian Heritage Month

The Nebraska Department of Education has worked with the Great Platte River Road Archway in Kearney to bring a dynamic program to schools or family event.

Native American Crafts  
Buffalo woman Reenactment  
Sign Language and more

Programs are October 31, November 7, November 14 and November 20.

Visit their website for cost and additional Information [www.archway.org](http://www.archway.org) or contact Ronnie at 308-237-1000 ext 102



# Will our children be healthy in 10 years?

## Nation At Risk, Yet Again

Excerpt <http://www.washingtonpost.com>

With one in three American children overweight, the future health and productivity of the country is at risk, write Susan Levin and Rob Stein of the Washington Post. Doctors and scientists are just beginning to comprehend the devastating risks associated with childhood obesity, in which extra pounds gained early are far more harmful than those added in adulthood. Every major organ is at risk, and the damage is likely irreversible.

The surge in childhood obesity in the past 25 years is expected to add billions of dollars to U.S. health-care costs, since treatment for overweight children is three times as expensive as that for an average-weight child, according to a study cited by the article. A large portion of these costs go to emergency room admissions. Researchers have found that fat cells emit hormones and other chemicals that can permanently affect bodies that are still

maturing. "A child is not just a little adult," said David S. Ludwig, an obesity expert at Children's Hospital in Boston. "Their systems are still in a process of maturing and being fine-tuned. Being excessively heavy could distort this natural process of growth and development in ways that irreversibly affect biological pathways." <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/story/2008/05/09/ST2008050900425.html?sid=ST2008050900425>

African American, Native American and multiracial children experience a higher percentage of asthma.

Hearing and vision problems along with diabetes were higher for Native American children.

African and multiracial children have increased behavioral problems.

Multiracial children experienced more digestive allergies while skin allergies were more frequent among African American children.

Dental care was an issue across Native American, African American and multiracial youth.

## Our Children: A Health Disparity

### Survey conducted by UT Southwestern Medical Center

A recent publication surrounding a survey analyzed by the UT Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas, issued the following statements and results.

Dr. Flores wrote in a web article, "Conservative estimates indicate that minorities will comprise half of the U.S. children by 2040....Although increasing

attention is being paid to racial and ethnic disparities in health care, very little attention is directed toward children."

He also stated children in all five minority groups were "significantly less likely than whites to have visited a physician or been given a medical prescription in the past year."

The article can be found at [www.utsouthwestern.edu](http://www.utsouthwestern.edu)

## BACK PAGE

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### Native American Advisory Council Meeting

Wayne State College—  
September 3

Chadron State College—  
September 22

RSVP Peg Kirby at  
peg.kirby@nebraska.gov

## Cultural, history lessons learned at new camp

By KERRI REMPP

Chadron Record staff writer

Thirty strangers became friends while learning traditional Indian dances, eating hard tack and studying local history at Fort Robinson last week.

The two dozen-plus Panhandle students bonded while fishing, playing old-fashioned baseball and soaking up culture at the first-ever Old Stories, New Voices Intercultural Youth Program in Nebraska.

The camp has its roots in a program started 12 years ago by the Colorado Historical Society and the National Park Service.

"We were noticing that there were a lot of kids that were never able to get outside," said Bobbe Hultin, the program's administrator, adding that kids also weren't visiting museums or connecting with the state's history.

An idea arose to organize a week-long "living history" camp for city children who do not have the opportunities to explore the outdoors. The CHS and NPS worked together to take kids to Fort Garland in San Luis Valley. The former military fort is a crossroads of cultures, Hultin said.

"The kids get to live in the actual barracks that Kit Carson lived in," she said.

They learn first-hand about the frontier west, the various cultures that inhabited the valley and the importance of historical preservation. Kids have daily responsibilities and hear anti-gang, anti-drug and stay-in-school messages.

The program was so successful it was recognized by First Lady Laura Bush with the Presidential Coming Up Taller National Award, as well as receiving an Award of Merit from the American Association for State and Local History, a Denver Kids, Inc. 2004 Service Award and a NPS Foundation 2000 Education Award.

That success led to a desire on the part of the organizers to do more for more kids. Research showed it was the only program of its kind in the nation, Hultin said, and they decided to write a grant request to expand the program. The National Endowment for the Humanities awarded the Old Stories, New Voices Intercultural Youth Program

\$365,000 to expand into Texas, Pennsylvania and Nebraska.

One stipulation of the grant, however, was to offer more in-depth opportunities. The Colorado camp at Fort Garland traditionally served dozens of new kids each year. Under the expanded program, the same children will take part in an increasingly in-depth living history study each year for three years.

The plan calls for the students in Nebraska to return to Fort Robinson again next year, where they will work more closely with the Chadron Native American Center and organizations on Pine Ridge to learn what was taking place in the lives of Native Americans during the Civil War, as well as in the region and state in general. Then, in 2010, the top 15 students from each of the four states are selected for a bus tour to important Civil War sites. The trip will begin in Glorieta Pass and end up in Gettysburg on the anniversary of the Gettysburg battle. "It's going to be a once in a lifetime experience," Hultin said.

Last week, organizers kicked off the Nebraska version of the program.

"It's a fully integrated program," Hultin said. Students explore the art, music and food of the Native Americans one day and live the life of a Buffalo Soldier stationed at Fort Robinson the next.

During Native American day, the students saw the spot where Crazy Horse was killed, studied the Cheyenne breakout, fished, played shinny – a Plains Indian ball-and-stick game – and tasted pemmican. They hiked to the Red Cloud Agency site and took part in traditional Native American dances.

"Each day has a theme. On that day the music, the cuisine and the activities center around that," Hultin explained.

The week's other activities included learning the gun drills Buffalo Soldiers performed, using wooden guns, horseback riding, march formations, old-fashioned baseball and snacking on hard tack. The students, 8-10-year-olds from across the Panhandle and Pine Ridge, also toured all of Fort Robinson's museums and learned

what life was like for the women and children who lived there. They concluded the week by writing an essay about their experiences as if they were either a soldier or an Indian in 1874.

As they ate lunch in the mess hall Friday right before their graduation from camp, the students buzzed excitedly about everything they'd learned and taken part in. The various activities topped the "my favorite" list for nearly everyone, but the students were also intrigued by the cultural exchange with the kids from Pine Ridge and the knowledge they picked up about life in the 1800s.

"It was different for them than it is today," said Trissa Turner, a 12-year-old from Oshkosh.

They discovered that the uniforms worn by the Buffalo Soldiers were hot and the blankets were itchy, said Sydney Riggs, 9, of Crawford. The career didn't pay well, either, added 11-year-old Angelina Riggs of Colorado. They earned only \$13 every two months.

"The Nebraska kids have been fantastic," Hultin said. "It's been a great camp."

Nine students from Pine Ridge participated in the camp, sharing their culture through dance and stories.

Lawrence Pacheco, came director, said the group of Nebraska kids was by far one of the best groups to work with, as they were the most willing to learn about each others cultures. At graduation, referring to an exercise with M&Ms earlier in the week, Pacheco said, "As we did with the M&Ms, we learned color doesn't matter. What came here as strangers leaves as a family."

As the students gathered in a circle after graduation to say goodbye, Pacheco challenged them all to return to their communities and make an impact just as they had made at camp.

"This group here will make a difference, not only on history but in society," he said.