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Head Start Teacher Awarded Child Care Credential



Photo Submitted

One of Akwesasne's Headstart teachers, Iris Herne, achieved her personal goal and was recognized for her efforts in the Early Childhood Profession.

Iris Herne of Akwesasne has been awarded a Child Development Associate (CDA) Credential in recognition of outstanding work with young children. The credential was awarded by the Council for Early Childhood Professional Recognition in Washington, DC which represents the Early Childhood Profession.

CDA is the only major national effort to improve child care by evaluating and recognizing the skills of individuals providing

care. Although the first credential was awarded just over 15 years ago, 49 states plus the District of Columbia already included CDA in child care licensing regulations. Others are considering similar action.

Parents who use child care are especially concerned today about their children's welfare. Every candidate for the CDA credential is observed working with your children and is evaluated by a team which includes early childhood

experts and a parent. There are three observations made and the last observation is what the final decision is based on.

When Indian Time talked with Iris she mentioned her final observation team consisted of Bonnie Phelps from Watertown, Diane Smoke representing Head Start's Parent Community and a CDA representative from Albany. There were thirteen components to the evaluation which included Safety, Health, Learning Environment, Physical, Cognitive, Communication, Creativity, Child Self-awareness, Social, Family Program and Professionalism. The candidate must demonstrate ability to work with families to develop children's physical and intellectual capabilities in a safe and healthy learning environment.

Iris is one of two people in Akwesasne to earn this certification which enables her to teach Headstart anywhere in the United States. She traveled to Watertown and Paul Smith's College for classes and after one and half years has obtained her goal. She enjoyed the opportunity to get to know different families

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Kawehnoke Students Attend National Science Fair

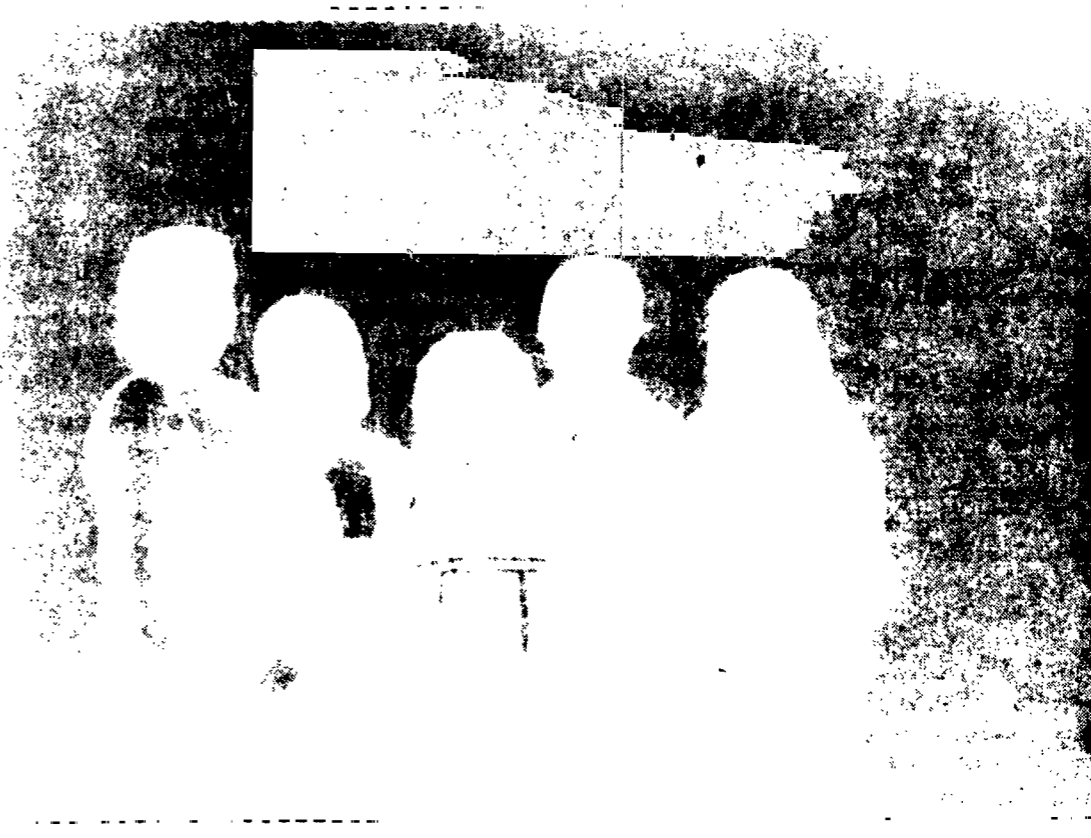


Photo credit: A.M.S. Staff Member

Students of A.M.S. who attended the Earth and Space Science Division at the National American Indian Science and Engineering Fair.

L-R: Penny Peters, Chris Thompson, James Sawatis, Ryan Seymour and Lindsay Roundpoint.

The sun may not have been shining on Milwaukee, Wisconsin on Saturday, April 11 but it surely was a bright day for those students from Akwesasne Mohawk School as they competed against approximately 500 other students in the National American Indian Science And Engineering Fair held at the University of Wisconsin Milwaukee.

Penny Peters, a grade 8 student from A.M.S. on Cornwall Island took a 1st place award from among all grade 7 and 8 students throughout North American. Penny is the daughter of Joe and Lucille Peters. Penny presented a

project on Astrology which was judged under the area of Earth and Space Science. All students participating in the competition were judged according to grade level, type of project, knowledge of material, and overall presentation.

A.M.S. was well represented at this event. In addition to Penny Peters, there were four other A.M.S. students in attendance. Ryan Seymour (grade 7), son of Robert and Marie Seymour and Chris Thompson (grade 7), son of Jerry and Connie Thompson, presented a project on the Human Eye. Lindsay Roundpoint (grade

8), daughter of Bruce and Lucy Roundpoint, presented a project on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (Mandy Francis, daughter of Tommy and Marilyn Francis, worked with Lindsay Roundpoint on this project but was unable to attend this event.) James Sawatis (grade 5), son of John and Shirley Sawatis, presented a project on Probability.

All students did extremely well. Each participant scored very well with the judges. They are to be congratulated for their hard work

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Japanese Television Crew Returns to Akwesasne



Last Wednesday this Japanese film crew came back to the Akwesasne Communications Society. From l-r: Shu Yamazaki; producer, Shun Yokoo; cameraman, and Alex Endo; engineer.

by Derrick Paul/Staff.

On March 24 a Japanese Public Television film crew paid a visit to the Freedom School and the offices of CKON/Indian Time.

They were doing a documentary on Native American Education and on a suggestion from Jake Swamp, they went to the Freedom

School.

During their visit to the Communications Society building they shot some footage of the staff and used some Mohawk Language dialogue from Donnie Sharrow (Country Sparrow). Due to some technical problems this piece was not acceptable. They returned to

CKON on Wednesday April 15 to do another piece.

This time Dan Thompson was on hand to provide the dialogue. This was not related to any certain issue but rather to get some kind of Mohawk Language and this time Indian Time cameras caught the group.

Traditional Council Response to Justice System

The Mohawk Nation Council of Chiefs is the National representative body for the Mohawk people. The Mohawk Nation is a member of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, which owes its existence to the Kaianerekowa or the Great Law of Peace. The Mohawk Nation today, and its brother nations are the heirs of this Great Law of Peace and its principles. It is our responsibility to carry forward its democratic ideals.

When there are threats to our democracy or the participation of our people in their community governance, we must protest. We therefore protest and oppose the actions by the Tribal Council to establish a policing and court system that lacks our people's knowledge, consent, or full participation. It was our hope that the present Tribal Council would follow the good work of previous Tribal administrations in furthering the concept of a workable justice system that could be supported by the whole Akwesasne community.

We are aware that the St. Regis Mohawk Tribal Council has

visited various Native Nations to experience first hand the justice systems that other Native people have instituted based on their own traditions. We are disappointed that the Tribal Council had failed to observe the obvious, that the first element of a justice system is the codifying of principles and laws that are acceptable to the community according to their culture and traditions.

We were also disappointed that the present Tribal Council did not use the years of community "experience-through-crisis" that demonstrated our community's need and desire for a system of law and order that applies to all of Akwesasne regardless of imposed Tribal decisions lack any community input at all. We anticipate that an approach which lacks real community participation will only result in extreme resistance within this community, and will contribute to further separatism and confusion at Akwesasne.

The Mohawk Nation Council recommends to the Tribal Council that:

1) they study the community

ideas for one justice system for the entire Akwesasne community, and 2) they work seriously with our Council and Mohawk Council of Akwesasne to further this objective.

The final product would provide the Akwesasne community with a set of self-defined statutes and create a judicial system indigenous to our community. This system, influence the Tribe's Task Force boundaries. It gravely concerns our Council that little or no sensitivity to this issue has been demonstrated by the Tribal Council.

We are surprised at how little Akwesasne Mohawk people, unlike the existing rules and regulations imposed upon our people from external elements, would be sensitive to the culture and traditions of the Mohawk people.

A justice system for Akwesasne must come from our people. A short-sighted system of laws imposed by the Tribal Council and its new police will not be tolerated by the Mohawk Nation Council or its Mohawk people.