

# Education

## Congratulations to College Students

Congratulations to these college students on a commendable job in school this past Fall semester.

These students completed the semester with a 3.0 or better.

**A 3.0 is a B average**

Linda Jordan  
Emily Lauzon  
Ellen Cook  
Lisa Pembleton  
John Bay  
Eric Thompson  
Chastity Hart  
Melissa Seymour  
Robin Stone  
Heather Cook  
Troy Thompson  
Lori Laffin  
Derwin Terrance  
Julie Vercillo  
Joann Dufrense  
Allen Johnson

Potsdam College  
Potsdam College  
Potsdam College  
Paul Smiths  
Southern Maine  
Oswego State  
Clarkson  
Clarkson  
Plattsburgh State  
Brockport State  
Syracuse  
Keuka  
Buffalo State  
Fredonia State  
St. John Fisher  
Stanford

These students completed the semester with a 3.5 or better.

Kristen Rusello  
Daniel Garrow  
Tsiiorasa Barreiro  
Courtney Smoke  
Kris Cooke  
Alison Lauzon  
Michele Mitchell  
Renee Jock

Kentucky  
Ball State  
Tompkins Cortland Community  
St. Lawrence  
Potsdam College  
Potsdam College  
Potsdam College  
Potsdam College

## 1996 National Unity Conference

OKLAHOMA CITY — Officials of United National Indian Tribal Youth, Inc. (UNITY), a Native American youth leadership organization, announced today that OKLAHOMA CITY is the site of its upcoming 22nd national conference which is expected to attract more than 1,000 American Indian and Alaska Native youth.

According to J.R. Cook, executive director of UNITY, the National UNITY Conference is for Native American youth ages 15-24 seeking to enhance their leadership skills. During the five-day event, youth leaders will take an in-depth look at issues impacting them such as education, alcohol and drug abuse, teen pregnancy, cultural heritage, prejudice/racism and gang violence.

Under the banner theme of "Celebrate UNITY!" the conference is scheduled for June 21-25 at the Clarion/Comfort Inn Hotel and Conference Center, 4345 Lincoln Blvd. Call (405) 528-2741 for hotel reservations.

All conference activities and workshops are designed to equip youth with skills they need to take charge of their lives and become contributing members of their

communities. Workshops will be offered on how to develop communication skills, set goals, develop a healthy self-esteem, and improve problem solving and organizational skills.

Several youth participants will have the opportunity to gain hands-on experience while serving as speakers, group leaders, hosts, facilitators and emcees of conference activities.

Conference registration is \$55 per youth or advisor if received by June 1. Late or on-site registration is \$65. For more information about the National UNITY Conference and registration forms, contact UNITY at (405) 424-3010 or P.O. Box 25042, Oklahoma City, OK 73125.

Based in Oklahoma City, UNITY is a national, non-profit organization that has provided leadership training to American Indian and Alaska Native youth since its inception in 1976. UNITY's mission is to foster the spiritual, mental, physical and social development of American Indian and Alaska Native youth and to help build a strong, unified and self-reliant Native America through involvement of its youth.

## Province's Funding Cuts are Affecting Students

### Ontario's Public School Boards Say "NO" to More Provincial Cuts

(TORONTO) — The province's funding cuts to education are affecting students, say Ontario's public school board trustees who met with MPPs today at Queen's Park to explain the impact of the province's funding cuts on students, employees and local property taxpayers.

"Public school boards across the province have examined the provincial government's measures in "cost cutting" that were provided to school boards in March, and they're telling us that they don't come close to offsetting the province's cuts to education," says Donna Cansfield, president of the Ontario Public School Boards' Association.

"What the provincial government has done is given school boards an impossible task by dumping its debt problem on school boards and communities without providing the necessary restructuring measures. Ontario's public school boards say a loud "no" to any more provincial funding cuts to education."

School boards have until the end of April to finalize their budgets, but so far student programs and services such as junior kindergarten, adult day school, transportation, school supplies, sports, outdoor education, computers, family studies and music have been affected by the province's funding cuts.

"These losses are just the beginning of the devastation that is mounting in our public school system," says Cansfield. "On top of these cuts are reductions in the numbers of teachers, educational assistants, special education teachers, custodians and lunch-hour supervisors — all of whom contribute to the quality of students' education."

The depth of the province's cuts is much greater than the government is letting on. "The provincial government has effectively cut education funding by over \$500 million this year, while some public school boards have had their provincial grants slashed by as much as 30 per cent. This in on top of half a billion dollars in cuts due to the social contract. The deep cuts are creating havoc in all school boards, which have been downsizing to accommodate provincial funding cuts for several years. Many school boards' budgets were already cut to the bone and they're loathe to have local property taxpayers bear the brunt of the province's cuts. Now we fear that some boards may be on the verge of bankruptcy."

Cansfield said that public school boards remain committed to working with the provincial government to find ways to downsize, but are angry that the government failed to provide necessary provincial assistance to help boards manage the provincial funding cuts. "Instead, the provincial government asked school boards to develop local solutions to solve provincial problems."

Cansfield said that public school boards are attempting to deal with the challenge and, in many communities across the province, boards are working with employee groups to make the cuts in as least disruptive a manner as possible. "Yet boards are being undermined by some provincial union leaders who are not practising what teacher preach in classrooms — to reach workable solutions using a team approach, making solutions impossible in most boards," says Cansfield.

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