



Understanding the Needs of Tribal Early Childhood in Indian Country

Barbara Fabre, CEO

Indigenous Visioning



2018 MN Tribal Early Childhood Tour



Tribal Early Childhood Tour

- November 6, 2018 Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe
- November 7, 2018 Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe
- November 7, 2018 Red Lake Band of Ojibwe
- November 8, 2018 White Earth Band of Ojibwe
- November 13, 2018 Upper Sioux Indian Community
- November 13, 2018 Lower Sioux Indian Community
- November 14, 2018 Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Indian
- November 14, 2018 MN American Indian Montessori Program
- January 16, 2019 Bois Forte Band of Ojibwe
- January 17, 2019 Fond du Lac Band of Ojibwe
- February 28, 2019 Prairie Island Indian Community
- Not Able to Coordinate Grand Portage



Tribal EC Tour Attendees

- **Ravyn Gibb** (Tribal Liaison – Senator Tina Smith’s Office)
- **Melanie Franks** (MN Indian Affairs Council)
- **Jenny Moses** (MN Governor’s Children’s Cabinet)
- **Tamie Finn** (Minnesota Tribal Resources for Early Childhood Care)
- **Tracy Roloff** (MNDHS – Early Childhood Systems Reform)
- **Rob Grunewald** (Center for Indian Country Development)
- **Allison Corrado** (Blue Cross-Blue Shield MN Foundation)
- **Jackie Alan** (Bush Foundation)
- **Kristine Kosek** (Otto Bremer Trust)
- **Denise Mayotte** (Sheltering Arms Foundation)
- **Missy Okerson** (Northwest MN Foundation)
- **Alberto Monserate** (MinneMinds)
- **Kristin Rosenberger** (Greater Twin Cities United Way/MinneMinds)
- **Etonde Awaah** (LaCroix-Dalluhn Consulting/Home Visiting Coalition)
- **Laura LaCroix-Dalluhn** (LaCroix-Dalluhn Consulting/Home Visiting Coalition)
- **Barb Fabre** (Indigenous Visioning)



**CLOSE
GAPS
BY** **5**

Tour Funded
by CGB5

www.closegapsby5.org





Tribal Early Childhood Tour Summary by
CDF-MN

www.cdf-mn.org

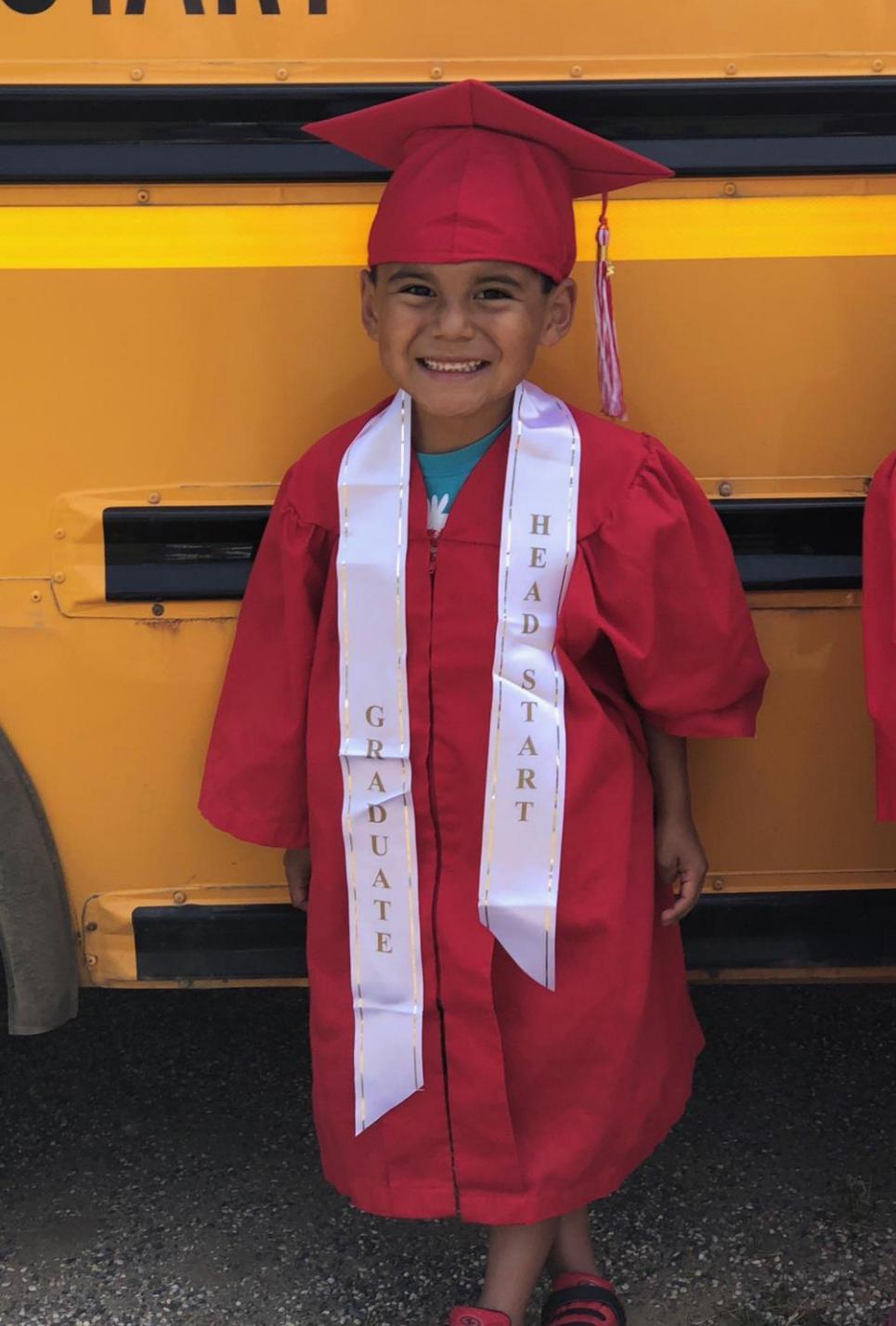




“One of the best things we can do for our community is to upgrade our early childhood system”

Cathy Chavers, Chairwoman
Bois Forte Band of Chippewa Tribal Council





Head Start – Early Head Start

- **White Earth** (8 classrooms-144 children, EHS-51 children)
- **Leech Lake** (13 classrooms-235 children, EHS-86 children)
- **Lower Sioux** (1 classroom-20 children, EHS-74 children)
- **Mille Lacs** (20 classrooms-119 children, EHS-104 children)
- **Bois Forte** (5 classrooms-47 children, EHS-32 children)
- **Red Lake** (10 classrooms-160 children)
- **Fond du Lac** (16 classrooms-115 children, EHS-104 children)
- **Grand Portage** (classroom)



Tribal Child Care Programs



- **Mille Lacs** (Center-based 214 children, SACC 24 children)
- **Leech Lake** (Family CC 10 children, Head Start Wrap-around CC 110 children)
- **Red Lake** (Center-based 329 capacity, Family Child Care 10 children)
- **White Earth** (Center-based 48, Family Child Care 216 children)
- **Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux** (Center-based 414 children)
- **Fond du Lac** (Family Child Care 10 children)
- **Grand Portage** (Center-based)





Tribal Child Care Licensing

- Red Lake
- White Earth
- Leech Lake
- Fond du Lac
- Lower Sioux
- Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux
- Bois Forte
- Lower Sioux





“We know children in our Tribal programs need something a little more unique. Our people are the best resources for determining what that is and how that happens”

Terrance Tibbetts, Chairman White Earth Reservation





*Culturally Rich Tribal Early Childhood Environments promotes literacy,
Native language and self identity*



Language Immersion



MILLE LACS (1 CLASSROOM-8 CHILDREN)



ALL TRIBAL CHILD CARE CENTERS AND HEAD
START PROGRAMS PROVIDE LANGUAGE
LEARNING WITHIN THEIR CLASSROOMS.





Success in Tribal Early Childhood

- Family Events well attended
- Parent Aware Rated
- Early Childhood Scholarships
- Strong Tribal Leadership support
- Farm to Early Care incorporated into Food Service and classrooms
- Brazelton Touchpoints
- Knowledgeable, caring and dedicated staff
- Includes on-site greenhouse and garden
- Have an established Tribal Training Advisory Committee to approve cultural trainers





Program
Challenges

Limited or lack of Child Care options

Recruitment & retention of qualified staff

Low staff wages

Waiting lists

Children's mental health needs

Children in Foster Care

Infant Care needs

Affordable and sustainable early childhood



Head Start – Child Care Wraparound Services



MILLE LACS



LEECH LAKE



WHITE EARTH



BOIS FORTE



FOND DU LAC





Montessori American Indian Child Care Center – Minneapolis, MN

Center Child Care – 30 Children (33 months through age 6)



Leroy Staples Fairbanks III,
Leech Lake Tribal Council,
District III Representative

“Giving kids what they need is just like building a house. It’s good to put money into the roof and the sides, but the most important part is the foundation.”

