

For Immediate Release – September 15, 2007

ALL RELATIONS LOGO

Two tribes celebrate working together to create the country's 13th early college high school serving Native youth

Redmond, Minn.—Although Wannabi and Wissabi tribes have worked to make themselves distinct in the eyes of the federal government for decades, elders say the two Redmond tribes will celebrate the newly established All Relations High School at a Sept. 25 powwow. When it opens Oct. 1, in Minneapolis, the school will serve 300 students across the Midwest.

With the help of a \$9 million, eight-year Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation grant, the Center for Native Education works with schools, universities and tribes across the country to create partnerships around the early college program. Now with 13 members nationally and its first Minnesota school—early colleges for Native youth offer students the opportunity to earn up to two years of college credit while still in high school, in addition to learning Native culture and heritage.

“We wanted to bring together the best of the Wannabi and Wissabi wisdom and give our children a chance to learn,” said Ronald McDonald, chairman for the Wannabi Nation in Redmond, Minn., where the powwow will be held. “Early college sparks motivation and interest in learning because it challenges students, their families and even whole communities to expect more academically. We know that tomorrow’s warriors will be those among us who have an education.”

As an early college, planners say they hope the All Relations High School students will experience successful educational outcomes similar to those at other schools. Attendance, graduation rates and the number of Native students accessing higher education have increased dramatically at the other 12 early colleges for Native youth.

“We are delighted with the opportunity to work with Redmond high school students and eager to integrate the best of the two tribes,” said Center of Native Education Executive Director Linda Campbell. “Early colleges for Native youth have demonstrated that when culture is incorporated and communities are engaged, remarkable outcomes are possible.”

With the mission “Creating paths of success for Native peoples,” the Center for Native Education funds the development of educational programs for Native Americans. Visit www.CenterForNativeEd.org for more information.

###

Contact:

Mandi McCheese, All Relations community liaison
(612) 268-4140
mmccheese@antiochseattle.edu

All information, including figures, dates, locations and names, in these releases are fictional and for the use of example only
