

their fishing areas, monitor water, and have direct input prior to any decisions regarding the Dyes Sinclair Inlets.

In Montana, Native Americans asked the state legislature to accept the reservation school into the Montana state school system, because the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) would not fund the basic necessities of the school for the children. The state accepted the request allowing the children to receive a more adequate education.

From these efforts, it would seem that the Native population is gaining a renewed consciousness about their rights and culture. But for most states, including Washington, the dwindling funds for all programs has become a crisis (Table 2). Business partnerships in cities throughout the United States such as New York, Chicago, and Detroit have provided much needed sources of funding to assist schools in reaching more realistic goals.

It is my hope that despite the economic downturn, the American Indian Heritage School will be able to draw corporate contributors to help the school meet the special needs of its students. The recognition by society that the United States is not competing on an international scale due to poorly prepared students might help focus attention on the problems we face in Native education. What better way for the work force of the future to be prepared than with the direct support of the businesses and industries that will need skilled people.