

April 16, 2020

Hello Minnesota Virtual School Families!

We would like to take a moment to introduce ourselves. We are Jamie Barton and Coya Night Pipe, your Indigenous Coordinators. We are pleased to be working closely with the Minnesota State Department of Education/Indian Education office to ensure we build a program supporting our Indigenous families. Please find the attached goals that the state has approved. We are working hard to implement these goals by the end of the 2019-2020 school year.

We would like you to know a little bit about who the Indigenous Coordinators are and our role during this grant period.

Jamie Barton is a certified teacher that works with virtual students through Connections Academy. Licensed in Secondary Education Communication Arts/Literature for Grades 5-12 and has a Master's in Educational Leadership. Teaching for ten years in which six years were spent teaching at-risk Native students in Minneapolis. This experience has been attributed to her knowledge of their culture, their needs, and awareness of the skills that will teach students how to navigate through a difficult and challenging system. During this time, she dug deeper into her Mayan culture and found that there were many similarities shared between cultures.

Coya Night Pipe is an Administrative Assistant working at MTCS Secondary schools. Prior to working at MTCS, her career started in Rapid City, South Dakota as an Instructional Assistant in an Elementary school tutoring American Indian students. She also served as an Administrative Assistant to the Indian Education program. She also has twenty years of experience in Human Resources. Ms. Night Pipe's knowledge and experience with American Indian Programs and Initiatives and her work with Indian communities, students and parents makes her a valuable asset to the grant.

We would like to invite you, parents/guardians, to join our American Indian Parent Advisory Committee (AIPAC). We understand how busy life can be however, your commitment will consist of monthly one-hour meetings, volunteering at school events and most importantly, to encourage and motivate your student to succeed.

Finally, the Minnesota State Department of Education/Indian Education Office may need documents signed not only by the Indigenous Coordinators but by an AIPAC Chairperson as well. We will provide additional details for the AIPAC Chairperson's role when we meet.

Ms. Night Pipe and I look forward to hearing from you with suggestions or questions. We are excited to work with you and thank you for your consideration. Those of you who are interested please contact Ms. Night Pipe or myself. We look forward to working with you! Please reach out with any suggestions or questions you may have.

Respectfully,

Jamie Barton Phone: 612-268-5403 Email: jabarton@mnca.connectionsacademy.org

Coya Night Pipe

Office: 952-843-9040 Google Voice: 612-440-0685 Email: cnightpipe@emailmtcs.org