

Alternative Education August 2016 Board Report

We had a great summer with the Blackfeet Academy Wilderness Adventure Program (BAWAP). Grade 5-8th at risk students enjoyed backcountry hiking and camping with High School mentors and adult chaperones. Students traveled to Swift Dam, and rafted on the North Fork of the Flathead river. This program is designed to help students “unplug” from the stress of everyday life and experience confidence building wilderness exploration.

We teamed with the AWARE program and students were able to make those connections that will be carried into the academic school year and provide additional support.

Ee-gah-ki-maht (Carol White Program) enjoyed a very successful summer with close to 10,000 student contacts throughout the summer. Under the coordination of Rae Armstrong the program was integrated with summer school using student workers to serve as mentors with the younger children. Volunteers from Global volunteers and workers provided by Opportunities Incorporated helped to staff the program and gave High School students excellent summer employment experiences. In addition to the daily activities that supported summer school students had access to the following activities:

- Daily swimming pool hours
- Coordination with Tribal Health Programs
- Free Basketball, Volleyball, Cheerleading and Football camps
- Waterslide trip

We also worked with Gyasi Ross and the Browning High School Rising Voices Poetry to offer a “Poetry of the Pow-Wow” program where we worked with young poets and authors to write poetry and shorts stories to capture the themes, stories, and poetry of Blackfeet Indian Days. This was highlighted by be several students reading original poetry during Saturdays Grand Entry.