

BNAS Board Report April 2026

BNAS director traveled to Bozeman to attend the “Find Your Headwaters” conferences hosted by the Montana School Counselors Association from April 8th to April 10th. Of all the conferences I have attended this one was the most unique and had some valuable discussions that, although focused on counseling, are pertinent to BNAS and Blackfoot Language Revitalization. Main topic was 1. Identify the common needs of our program? What are the fires the are burning and what are the successes. BNAS has plentiful success in each building but are in constant need for more supplies, materials, and a comprehensive curriculum pertaining Blackfeet history, culture, and language. Although a goldmine of language, history, and cultural material and lessons have been produced by many people throughout and outside of Blackfeet Country, those materials are not put in a layout that is entirely copasetic with grades Prek-12. Part of our duty is to strengthen these materials by putting them in a format that satisfies our district and educators. 2. Ask ourselves how will we meet this goal on a large scale. BNAS serves the entire district and one project needs to be broken down and delineated for each grade level. At the moment the BNAS Director and BNAS Instructional coach are hard at work in creating these materials for various grade levels. Most are still in process but the goals it is have posters and materials ready for the school year 26-27. A very critical part of creating materials that foster growth on a large scale, from Pre-K-12, is to have a uniform writing system within the Blackfoot language that each building adopts and curates. This leads to the 3rd topic from the Conference, that is we must constantly activate the learning brain. This takes pairing science we know from literacy and the neurological realities of reading and writing, trauma informed practices, cultural paradigms, and educational realities of this community. We do this with a purposeful vision (have Blackfoot language, history, and culture accessible to everyone) lead to passion supported by meaningful curriculum, which results in action (knowing Blackfoot language, history, and culture). BNAS has always understood the need to approach reteaching Blackfeet ways with a clinical approach and this conference aided in the language necessary for such conduct.

Starlab

BNAS hosted the Starlab in late March at Bullshoe and the students loved traveling through the solar system. BNAS director and Instructional coach worked together to share Blackfeet stories and scientific aspects of the objects in the sky that give us light. It is fun to experience our students and staff experience the beauty the Starlab allows us to explore.

PBS Montana

PBS Montana filmed Blackfeet immersion classes and interviewed a few of our students, primarily Aiyahna Green and will be doing a segment called “Kid Heroes.” If the star align and the editors are able to cut the footage in the timeline they gave we might be able to see the finished product in late May.