



October 30, 2006

To Whom It May Concern:

As the Native American Assistant Vice Provost in the Office of Equity and Diversity at the University of Oregon, I am responsible for developing Native American initiatives for the UO. I am pleased to support this exciting and important series of events sponsored by the Native American cultural arts program, Painted Sky, and Oregon Public Broadcasting. The multi-dimensional music and dance production "For the Generations: A Native American Music Special," will feature some of the finest vocal and dance talent from the First Nations peoples. Although my main concern is our Native Students and the several Native programs we have here, who would benefit a great deal from this project, I see this as an important diversity building tool that can be used across all programs, schools and departments on campus as we strive to meet our diversity mandates. I will work to make this happen.

I am impressed with the knowledge, expertise and talent that has been gathered together to carry out this timely project. I am especially glad to see that Arlie Neskahi is involved, as I have worked at length with him, and have witnessed his work first hand in performances, lectures, pow wows and other contract work both at the UO and in other venues. Arlie is professional and dedicated to the promotion of Native American music, dance, art, and indigenous knowledge and worldview. In my opinion, the involvement of Mr. Neskahi alone guarantees a top notch professional production. This national special will raise the level of awareness among adults and youth, and impact public attitudes and knowledge about Native American people and our music throughout the country. It will encourage Americans to explore Native American cultural history and the musical arts, as well as help

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to inspire pride and a stronger sense of identity in Native American youth nationwide.

The University of Oregon and the Office of Institutional Equity and Diversity are honored to support this project as it will raise the consciousness about Native American people and their music here at the UO, the state of Oregon and throughout the country, and more importantly be a source of inspiration and pride for our people. Sepk'eec'a, nanookia sa?saaMaks.

In Indian Spirit,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Thomas J. Ball". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'T' and 'B'.

Dr. Thomas J. Ball, Modoc/Klamath
Assistant Vice Provost, OIED
University of Oregon