



MHA Education Recognition 2019

Greta Young Bird-White Calfe

Greta (Young Bird) White Calfe was the daughter of Benjamin and Jessie Young Bird. In 1951, Greta married Oscar White Calfe and they operated a cattle ranch. She also started her teaching career in a one room school that year. She taught first thru the 8th grade and her other duties included being the nurse, cook for the “hot lunch program as well as maintenance. In 1961, she taught 5th & 6th grades at the Cannon Ball School on Standing Rock Reservation. In 1971, she became assistant teacher, of first and second grades at the White Shield School. After Mrs. Breuer retired, Greta taught the first grade in White Shield until she retire in May 2005.



Greta became the volunteer coordinator for the Children Incorporated program for the White Shield student k-12, which is a program that provides financial assistance to students by sponsoring them in order to improve their educational experience and provide some of their daily needs. In the early 1990’s Greta and a few other passionate Sahnish, (meaning themselves), educators within the school decided to begin working on a curriculum focused on the Sahnish Language and Culture. They created the Sahnish Cultural Society with this mission in as well as a desire to educate the neighboring communities. She served as President of the organization until this year 2019.

Melvina Everett, Greta’s aunt named her “Women Who Teaches Children”. She spent 53 years in the classroom. Greta states that her great love for teaching and children is one of the great joys of her life. She says that she has always lived her dreams, if she had to do it all over again, she wouldn’t change a thing.

AWARDS: 1964 – Education Award, American Legion Post of Cannon Ball; 1969 – Conservation Award, McLean County Soil Conservation of McLean County; 1987 - Outstanding Community Leadership and Promoter of Education, White Shield Pow Wow Committee; 1988 – North Dakota Teacher of The Year First Runner up DPI; 1988 – Outstanding Indian Educator of the Year, DPI, 1989 – Outstanding Educator of the Year DPI; 1990 – Children and Youth Appreciation Award, Governor Sinner’s Committee of Children and Youth; 1990 – Dedicated Coordinator Service Award, Children Incorporated; 1991 – Continental Humanitarian Award, Governor Sinner; 1992 – North Dakota Indian Teacher of the Year Award; 1998 – Tribute to Greta White Calfe, White Shield School; 2005 – Special Recognition of 32 years of Service, Children Incorporated