

# YEAR IN REVIEW

## 2015

### MHA Nation Tribal Business Council Passes Critical Truancy Resolution

#### Welcome from Damon Brady, Chief Education Administrator

Dosha! Please find this as the first of many publications for the future, featuring our monthly events/activities of the MHA Education Department. We had a successful and eventful 2015, and are already in the planning process for a progressive and productive 2016.

Please note, new staff came on board in August along with our marketing adviser. The newsletter content therefore begins in August.

We at the MHA Education Department look forward to hearing your input and ideas, and also invite you to give input on any thoughts or ideas you might have in making 2016 a successful year for our students, educators, and tribal members overall.

Happy New Year!

**Damon Brady**

(701) 421-7150

damonbrady@mhanation.com

On December 2, 2015, during a Regular Tribal Business Council meeting, the resolution passed *entitled "Authorization and Directive for the MHA Education Department and Fort Berthold District Court to Enforce for the Current Educational Truancy Law of the Three Affiliated Tribes,"* (Resolution No. 015-213-LKH).

In accordance with the resolution, the Three Affiliated Tribes Criminal Code contains a law for failure to send one's child to school. The MHA Education Department identified a deficiency in the enforcement of the current tribal law pertaining to failure to send children to school.

The MHA Education Department developed a Truancy Enforcement Plan encompassing the 10-day attendance rule utilized by all five schools, identifying a stepped process for each phase of prevention, intervention, and enforcement of such rule.

The resolution allows for enforcement of the Tribal Code and the Tribal Business Council adopted a Truancy Prevention-Intervention Plan. Copies of the resolution are available from the MHA Education Department.

Francine White, MHA Education Advocate explained "The present Resolution has been approved and will go into effect this **Spring semester 2016.**"

"It is good to read and learn the students' handbook for absence policies and make up days. Also we are going to be taking (2) student from each school across the Fort Berthold Reservation (K-6 and 7-12) on a trip to Valley Fair in June 2016. The two students from each school with the most improved attendance from 2015 Fall to 2016 Spring Academic year!"

If you have any further questions please contact

**Francine M. White, Education Advocate**

(701) 421-3791

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## AUGUST 2015

# COMMUNITY DRUG EDUCATION & AWARENESS CONFERENCE

Christopher Grant is the former Chief of Detectives of the Rapid City (SD) Police Department's Criminal Investigation Division and the former commander of the Rapid City Area Gang Task Force. Mr. Grant is a nationally recognized gang and drug specialist, with specific emphasis on Native American gang and drug trends.

Grant served as the Keynote Speaker for the conference, along with special guests Chairman Mark Fox and Monica Mayer, Medical Doctor and tribal member. Further guest speakers included, TAT Law Enforcement, and the TAT Drug Task Force.

Prior to the conference, Grant hosted an intensive two-day in-service training for the MHA Education Department's Education Resource Officers whom were brought on board in early August 2015.

*Photos by Vonnie Alberts*



# ANNUAL BACK TO SCHOOL BASKETBALL SHOOT-OUT



Damon Brady, Chief Education Administrator for the MHA Education Department gives area students a talk of encouragement before the basketball tourney got underway. Brady expressed the importance of focusing on discipline in education, health, and attendance for the upcoming 2015-2016 school year. Each year the tribal education department has been hosting a multitude of activities for the tribal members and in communities across Fort Berthold to encourage student success. They are now activities and events that students, parents, and educators look forward to. (August 2015)

*Photos by Vonnie Alberts*



## BACK TO SCHOOL WALK/RUN



### AUGUST 2015

The MHA Education Department hosted their annual walk/run, Back to School Powwow, Backpack Giveaway, and Education Princess honoring in late August 2015. Hundreds of employees, visitors, and students participated in the annual activities to kick-off the 2015-2016 Academic School Year across Fort Berthold.

Jude Schimmel, Native athlete and collegiate basketball player, was in attendance during the special back-to-school events hosted and sponsored by the MHA Education Department along with the current Miss Indian World titleholder Cheyenne Brady.

*Photos by Vonnie Alberts*



## BACK TO SCHOOL HANDGAME TOURNNEY/POWWOW/OTHER ACTIVITIES

The annual Back to School Powwow has become a gathering bringing together students, educators, and community members from across Fort Berthold. New Town School administration has made it a regular part of the academic school year schedule for their staff/faculty to attend. At the same time the area children of MHA are able to showcase and display their passion for dancing and powwow culture for their teachers.

A recent addition to the Back to School Powwow has been the crowning of the MHA Education Princess, the MHA Education Traveling Princess, and the MHA Traveling Princess. The princess program was created in 2013 as an opportunity for young Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara girls to serve as ambassadors and young leaders on behalf of the MHA Nation Education Department and Three Affiliated Tribes. Other family oriented activities that take place in conjunction with the powwow include a handgame tourney, horseshoe tourney, footraces, door prize raffles, bingo, and inflatables for the younger children.

(August 2015)

*Photos by Vonnie Alberts*







**SEPTEMBER 2015**

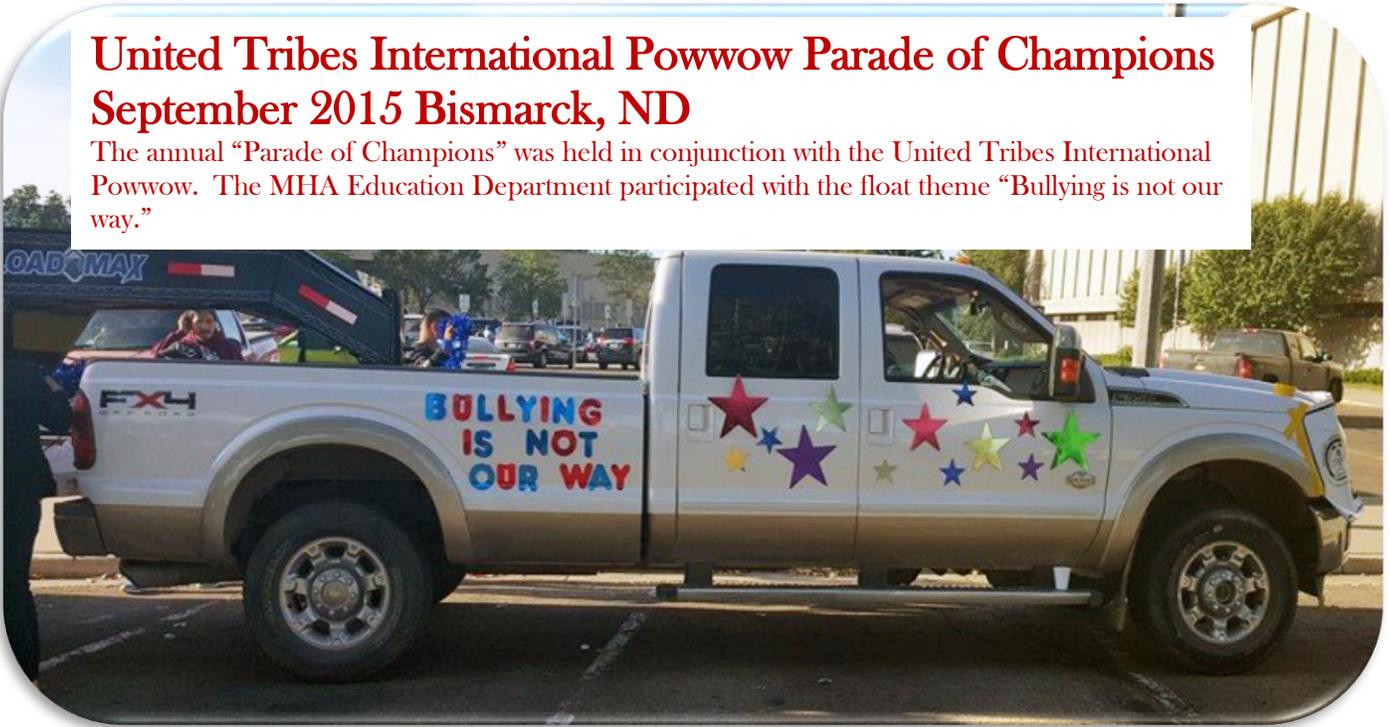
**BULLYING IS NOT OUR WAY**

In September 2015, the “Bullying Is Not Our Way” campaign was launched to address anti-bullying education, and bullying prevention. Chance Rush, One Chance Leadership motivational speaker and member of the Three Affiliated Tribes traveled to White Shield, Parshall, New Town, and Mandaree Schools to speak directly with students. "Love Being Great...bully prevention is positive role modeling..."

(Photos by Vonnie Alberts)

## United Tribes International Powwow Parade of Champions September 2015 Bismarck, ND

The annual "Parade of Champions" was held in conjunction with the United Tribes International Powwow. The MHA Education Department participated with the float theme "Bullying is not our way."





OCTOBER 2015

## MHA LEARN & LEAD AND MHA EDUCATION DEPARTMENT COLLABORATE ON ANNUAL COLLEGE FAIR FOR AREA SCHOOLS

Laurel Deegan-Fricke, MHA Learn & Lead and Damon Brady, MHA Education Department Collaborated in October 2015 to host an annual college fair for area students in efforts to spark an interest in higher education opportunities for tribal youth.

Hundreds of students from White Shield, New Town, and Mandaree Schools attended the college fair where colleges such as University of Minnesota-Morris, Dartmouth, and United Tribes Technical College to name a few were in attendance. Colleges and Universities were brought to the students.



## MHA Education Department hosts 960 Training: Mandated Reporting in collaboration with TAT Social Services

### OCTOBER 2015

Several MHA Nation tribal employees and departments whom work directly with children gathered at the Four Bears Casino Meeting rooms to receive free Mandatory Reporting Training hosted by both the MHA Education Department and TAT Social Services Program. Keynote workshop speakers included FBI agents, social workers, and local/statewide law enforcement.



## Mrs. Universe Ashley Calling Bull visits MHA Nation and shares words of encouragement with young women and the tribal community



### NOVEMBER 2015

Ashley Calling Bull, Mrs. Universe speaks to a full crowd at the North Segment Northern Lights building. She spoke to youth on the importance of setting goals and following your dreams.



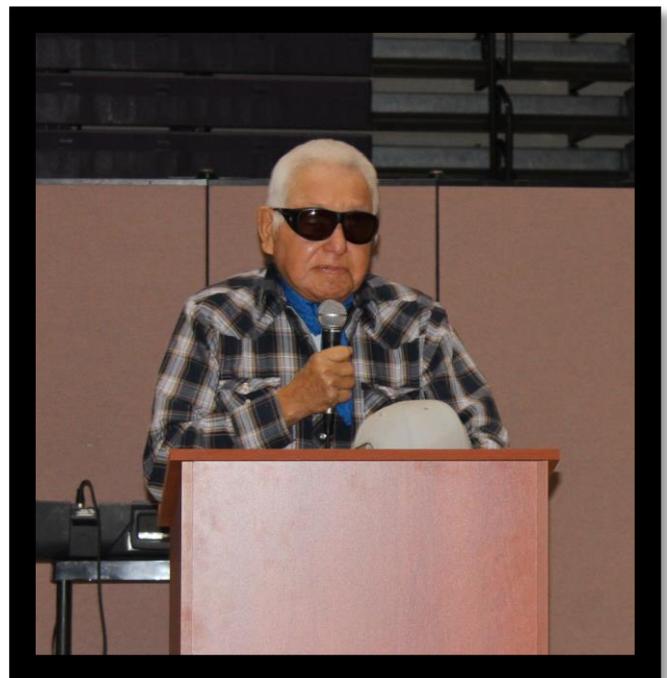


## NOVEMBER 2015

### 2015 ND State Class B Boys Cross Country CHAMPIONS

In collaboration with the Office of Chairman Mark Fox, New Town Councilman Ken Hall and Four Bears Councilman Frank Grady, and the MHA Education Department, a special recognition dinner was held for the New Town Boys Cross Country State Champions. Chance Rush, a former national collegiate cross country champion and tribal member commended the students for their discipline and dedication. "As long as you have a strong foundation there's nothing you can't do...be fearless."

MHA Nation tribal elder Art Smith also congratulated the runners, but also offered special prayers for the event, the runners, and their families. An honor song was also rendered by the Mandaree Singer. (Photos by Vonnie Alberts)



## Mandan, Hidatsa, & Arikara Education Department Staff Overview & Information

### **DAMON BRADY, *Chief Education Administrator***

Damon Brady is a 1985 graduate of New Town High School and completed his Bachelor of Science in Education from Minot State University in 1991. I have taught in various capacities over the past 24 years, from Head Start to College. My wife Valorie also completed her four-year degree in Business Administration from Minot State University. Valorie and I have five daughters and six grandchildren. I was taught at an early age by my parents Bryon and Florence Brady the importance and value of an education and what it can do for you. It is an honor and privilege to work with the current education staff that we have. I look forward to the challenges that our education department has in front of us in doing the best that we can to help those from Head Start all the way through college on our MHA Nation.

Contact Info: 701-421-7150 or [damonbrady@mhanation.com](mailto:damonbrady@mhanation.com)

### **FRANCINE WHITE, *Education Advocate***

Hello my name is Francine M. White. I am currently the new MHA Education Advocate for the Education department. I hold a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology-Criminology with a Minor in Indian Studies. I graduated from Fort Lewis College in Durango CO in 2010. I worked 7 years (2006-2013) under the Executive Secretary V. Judy Brughs Administration for the TAT Tribal Business Council. I also acted as the Adult Corrections Administrator at the Gerald Texx Fox Justice Center 7 months in 2012. I worked as the Court Advocate for the Fort Berthold Housing Authority (2013-2014). Recently I worked at the Fort Berthold District Court as the MHA Truancy Officer (2015). I am very excited to be working with the Education Department and all 5 schools addressing attendance, bullying issues, and increase high school graduation rates. In my leisure time I love spending time with my family especially my Son, Maximus.

Contact Info: 701-421-3791 or [fwhite@mhanation.com](mailto:fwhite@mhanation.com)

### **BENITA SPOTTED ELK, *Office Manager***

Do'sha, Maabi Caagic Benita Spotted Elk. I have lived in New Town all my life except for times I went away to school. I began working for the Tribe in April 1987 for Contract Credit, and then started working for the Education Department from March 3, 2001 to present. Before I started to work for the Tribe I put in 13 years in the Edwin Loe Elementary School in New Town. I enjoy my job since I do get opportunities to work with culture. Goowitc.

Contact Info: 701-421-8723 or [bspottedelk@mhanation.com](mailto:bspottedelk@mhanation.com)

### **SARA J. YOUNG BIRD, *Research & Database Associate***

Sara J. Youngbird is a member of the Three Affiliated Tribes, and mother of five, grandmother of twenty-one, and one great grandson. Sara received her Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education and Bachelor's Degree in Special Education from Sinte Gleska University. From 1989 to 1995, she was employed with the Fort Yates Public School, as well as the Standing Rock Community School from 1995 to 2000. June 2000-January 2001 she worked with the TAT CHILD Program, and served as the TAT Head Start Director from January 2001 to November 2010. Sara has been working with the MHA Education Department since November 2010 as the Research & Database Associate.

Contact Info: 701-421-0925 or [syoungbird@mhanation.com](mailto:syoungbird@mhanation.com)

### **ALYSSA STARR, *Education Resource Officer - Twin Buttes***

My name is Alyssa Starr and I am the Twin Buttes MHA Resource Officer. I was previously employed with the Boys and Girls Club so I am very familiar with the kids in our community and it helps a great deal so they're not scared of me when I tell them to come to school every day. I love my position and hope everyone else does too! I have 2 babies, a two year old girl and seven year old boy, who I get to see in school now and he loves it! I am an up and coming cowgirl and love to meet new people and have new exciting experiences!

The Twin Buttes School Principal and Superintendent is Sandy Starr. Phone #: 701-938-4396 and her email is

[sandy.starr@sendit.nodak.edu](mailto:sandy.starr@sendit.nodak.edu)

Contact Info: 701-301-0964

### **DONOVAN ABBEY, *Education Resource Officer - Mandaree***

My name is Donovan Abbey, and I live in Mandaree. I am the new Resource Officer at the Mandaree School. I have been married to my wife Caspie for over 2 years and am a proud father to 5 children.

Contact Info: 701-421-8132

**BARBARA SMITH-DESAUTEL, *Education Resource Officer - New Town Elementary***

My parents are Arthur and the late Isabelle (Good Iron) Smith. I am the 9th child of 11 children. I am originally from Mandaree, but now reside in the Woman Goes Out Division located next to Bakersfield. I am married to Wayne DeSautel and the proud mother of Shii Leigh Paul (age 15). I am the Education Resource Officer (ERO) at Edwin Loe Elementary School. I have worked with children and families for the past 30 years; 20 years ago I worked in the Mandaree school as the drug and alcohol coordinator and network specialist. I previously worked with Infants with the MHA CHILD Program and Children at the TAT Boys and Girls Club. I enjoy working with children because they bring newness to each day and they are our future!

Fun Fact: I love to cook!!!!

Contact Info: 701-421-7960

**GERTRUDE FOOLISH BEAR-MORAN, *Education Resource Officer - New Town Middle/High Schools***

My name is Gertrude Foolish Bear-Moran, and I am the Education Resource Officer for New Town Middle School and High School. I completed my four-year degree in Criminal Justice at United Tribes Technical College in Bismarck, and have previously worked with troubled youth in the MHA Juvenile Justice System with our Fort Berthold District Court. I am a proud mom of one son who is a fourth grader at Edwin Loe Elementary School, and recently celebrated my one-year wedding anniversary with my husband Tony Moran. I look forward to this school year and to encouraging students to attend school.

Contact Info: 701-421-9873

**DEBORAH HOSIE, *Education Resource Officer - Parshall***

Hello, my name is Deborah Hosie, and I have been an educator for many years. I graduated from the University of North Dakota in the area of Education; I have an Educator's Professional License in the following areas: a BS degree in the areas of Social Science/Social Studies/Native American Studies. In addition, I have a two-year degree in Early Childhood from the Fort Berthold Community College and numerous educational trainings/certificates. I have worked in educational settings all across the state of ND from Grand Forks to presently here, Fort Berthold Reservation. I am presently the Education Resource Officer for the Parshall Schools. I have always enjoyed working with students and have taught in every area from pre-school to college courses. In addition, I have experience in other areas of education as well as teaching; i.e. I was the Native American Program Director with the Grand Forks Public schools, and administered educational services for Native American students. I hope to have positive experiences for this coming year!

Contact Info: 701-661-0364

**SHANNON USES THE KNIFE, *Education Resource Officer - White Shield***

My name is Shannon Uses the Knife, and I am the Education Resource Officer for the White Shield School. I am an enrolled member of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, and was previously employed with the New Town High School. I reside in White Shield, ND with my companion Cody White Bear, and our daughter Miley.

Fun Fact: I love going on Pinterest and looking for new crafts or hobbies. I also love camping, fishing or swimming at Lake Sakakawea.

Contact Info: 701-595-6123

**VONNIEJO ALBERTS, *Marketing/Cultural Activities Advisor***

I recently joined the MHA Education Department team in August 2015, and look forward to working with everyone regarding educational activities and providing opportunities for our Tribal members. On my mother's side I am a member of the Mandan, Hidatsa, Arikara Nation, and on my father's side I am of Dakota and Lakota descent. My background is in public relations and communications, and I'm also the manager of my own small jewelry business (specializing in Plains and Southwest Native jewelry). I was previously the Public Relations Director for the Fort Berthold Community College (2012-2014), the Government Affairs Officer for the MHA Nation Chairman's Office (2008-2010), and the MHA Nation Press Secretary (2006-2008). I received my two-year degree from Fort Berthold Community College in Business Administration (May 2004). I am the proud mom of six daughters, and make it my life's work to provide only the best for my children.

Contact Info: 701-421-2642



**RESOLUTION NO. 015-213-LKH**

**RESOLUTION OF THE GOVERNING BODY  
OF THE THREE AFFILIATED TRIBES  
OF THE FORT BERTHOLD INDIAN RESERVATION**

***A Resolution entitled, "Authorization and Directive for the MHA Education Department and Fort Berthold District Court to Enforce for the Current Educational Truancy Law of the Three Affiliated Tribes"***

**WHEREAS,** This Nation having accepted the Indian Reorganization Act of June 18, 1934, and the authority under said Act and having adopted a Constitution and By-laws under said Act; and

**WHEREAS,** pursuant to Article III, Section 1 of the Constitution and By Laws of the Three Affiliated Tribes, the Tribal Business Council is the governing body of the Tribes; and

**WHEREAS,** The Constitution of the Three Affiliated Tribes authorizes and empowers the Tribal Business Council to engage in activities on behalf of and in the interest of the welfare and benefit of the tribes and of the enrolled members thereof; and

**WHEREAS,** Pursuant to Article VI, Section 5 (l) of said Constitution, the Tribal Business Council has the power to adopt resolutions regulating the procedures of the Tribal Business Council and other Tribal agencies and Tribal officials on the Reservation; and

**WHEREAS,** Article VI, Section 5 (d) of the Constitution of the Three Affiliated Tribes provides that the Tribal Business Council has the power to negotiate with Federal, State and local governments on behalf of the Tribe and to advise and consult with representatives of the Interior Department on all activities that may affect the Fort Berthold Reservation; and

**WHEREAS,** The Three Affiliated Tribes' Tribal Business Council and the MHA Education Department recognize all public and grant schools on the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation and their own respective handbook policies and procedures as they pertain to student attendance; and

**WHEREAS,** The Three Affiliated Tribes and the MHA Education Department are aware that each school's student attendance policy contains a 10 day limit/rule for absences per semester; and

**WHEREAS,** The Three Affiliated Tribes recognizes a need to ensure and provide the necessary prevention-intervention and support services to students, parents, and guardians; and



**RESOLUTION NO. 015-213-LKH**

**WHEREAS,** The Three Affiliated Tribes established the MHA Nation Education Department to provide oversight and assess the educational needs of Fort Berthold; and

**WHEREAS,** The Three Affiliated Tribes Criminal Code contains a law for failure to send child to school; Section.1000.9; and

**WHEREAS,** The MHA Nation Education Department has identified a deficiency in the enforcement of the current tribal law pertaining to failure to send children to school; and

**WHEREAS,** The MHA Nation Education Department has developed a Truancy Enforcement Plan encompassing the 10-day attendance rule utilized by all 5 schools, identifying a stepped process for each phase of prevention, intervention, and enforcement of said rule; and

**WHEREAS,** The MHA Education Department along with all 5 of the Fort Berthold Schools are requesting enforcement of the Tribal Code "Failure to Send Children to School Code" not exceeding the current minimum and maximum allowable penalties already contained in the code and proposes as follows; and

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,** that the MHA Education Department recommends enforcement of Tribal code Section 1000.9 failure to send child to school by the Fort Berthold District Court and the MHA Education Department.

**NOW THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED,** that the Three Affiliated Tribes Tribal Business Council adopts the Truancy Prevention-Intervention Plan submitted and referenced in this resolution and attached hereto; and

**(SIGNATURE PAGE TO FOLLOW)**



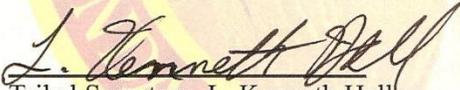
**RESOLUTION NO. 015-213-LKH**

**CERTIFICATION**

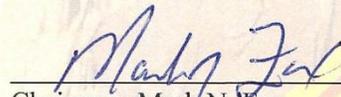
I, the undersigned, as Secretary of the Tribal Business Council of the Three Affiliated Tribes of the Fort Berthold Reservation, hereby certify that the Tribal Business Council is composed of 7 members of whom 5 constitute a quorum, 7 were present at a Special Meeting thereof duly called, noticed, convened, and held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of December, 2015; that the foregoing Resolution was duly adopted at such Meeting by the affirmative vote of 5 members, 0 members opposed, 0 members abstained, 2 members not voting, and that said Resolution has not been rescinded or amended in any way.

Chairman  Voting.  Not voting.

Dated this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of December, 2015.

  
Tribal Secretary, L. Kenneth Hall  
Tribal Business Council  
Three Affiliated Tribes

**ATTEST:**

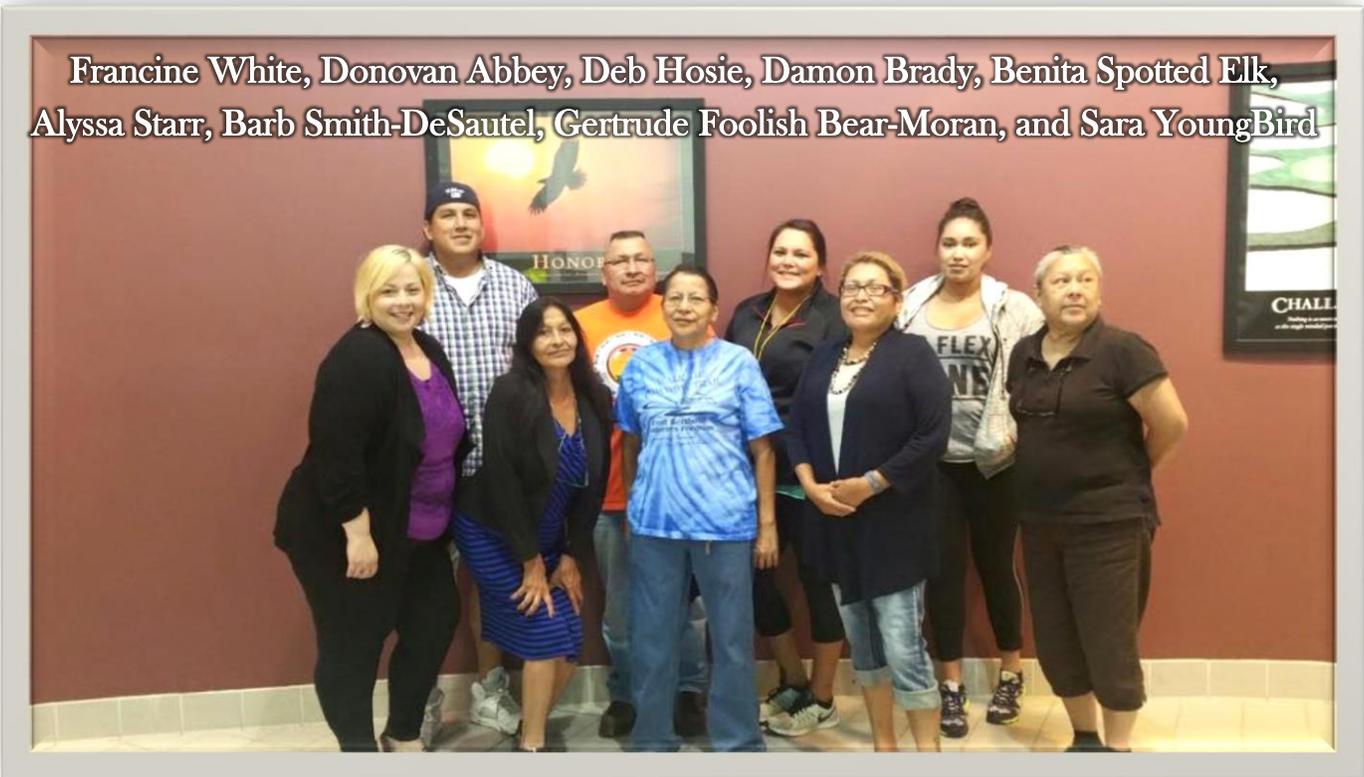
  
Chairman, Mark N. Fox  
Tribal Business Council  
Three Affiliated Tribes

### MHA Education Department Staff

Donovan Abbey, Francine White, Alyssa Starr,  
Vonnie Alberts and Shannon Uses the Knife



Francine White, Donovan Abbey, Deb Hosie, Damon Brady, Benita Spotted Elk,  
Alyssa Starr, Barb Smith-DeSautel, Gertrude Foolish Bear-Moran, and Sara YoungBird





### **TEAM EDUCATION**

In the fall 2015, the MHA Education Department, the office of the MHA CEO, the UND RAIN Program, and the Learn & Lead Program joined forces to form the MHA Team Education. The departments and programs are working together to reorganize and restructure the overall MHA Education services offered and effectively administered for the benefit of the overall tribal membership. The team meets on a monthly basis.



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**Gertrude Foolish Bear-Moran**, Education Resource Officer New Town Middle School/High School  
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**Deborah Hosie**, Education Resource Officer Parshall Schools  
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**Shannon Uses the Knife**, White Shield Schools  
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