

Call for Proposals: 20th Anniversary IEFA Best Practices Conference



Theme: **Place, Purpose, & Practice**

Dates: **March 4th, 5th, & 6th, 2027**

The Indian Education for All (IEFA) Unit cordially invites educators, administrators, tribal members, community leaders, and educational stakeholders to submit session proposals for the **20th Annual Indian Education for All Best Practices Conference**.

This milestone anniversary conference focuses on cultivating meaningful relationships and using authentic, culturally sustaining practices to ensure every student understands and contributes to Montana's full history and identity. We seek proposals that showcase innovative strategies, high-quality resources, and successful practices for integrating the Essential Understandings Regarding Montana Indians and promoting culturally responsive teaching across all content areas and grade levels.

Conference Theme & Vision: Place, Purpose, & Practice

In this landmark 20th year, our primary focus is actionable, hands-on, and place-based learning. As you prepare your proposal, we encourage you to align with this year's theme: "Place, Purpose, and Practice." Consider this an opportunity to showcase your expertise to your peers, convey the excitement and relevance of your topic, and model effective instructional practices.

Mandatory Workshop Requirement:

Our primary goal for this 20th Anniversary event is that every participant leaves every session with clear, practical tools they can apply immediately in their school or classroom.

All breakout sessions (**1-hour or 2-hour workshops**) must incorporate:

1. A Tangible Takeaway: Attendees must walk out of your session with at least one physical resource ready for immediate use (e.g., a daily teaching guide, curriculum map, poster, guidance document, physical artifact, or printable flyer).
2. An Actionable Implementation Plan: Sessions must include a hands-on activity that allows participants to apply your framework or lesson to their own educational setting.

Example: A session on "Braiding Sweetgrass for Young Adults" might provide a daily teaching guide, a printable instructional handout, and a hands-on sweetgrass braiding activity that teachers can replicate with students.

OPI Professional Development Provider Requirement

To be approved as a facilitator, instructors must agree to complete the OPI Professional Development Provider Application and be officially approved:

- Proposals may be submitted prior to provider approval; however, proposals cannot receive final approval until the applicant is registered as an approved OPI Professional Development Provider.
- To apply, please visit the [OPI Professional Learning Providers Page](#) and click on the Instructor Application link.
- Upon receiving official confirmation as an approved PD Provider, instructors must email confirmation to julie.jeffers@mt.gov.
- Session Attendance Tracking: Facilitators must track attendance during their session (via QR code or other designated sign-in method) and log attendance records into a form/sheet. All attendance documentation must be submitted to the Indian Education for All Unit (julie.jeffers@mt.gov) within one week of your workshop date.

Proposal Submission Instructions

Please complete the official submission form as accurately and thoroughly as possible. To ensure proper tracking, clear review, and accurate scheduling, please submit a separate form for each distinct presentation or session you wish to propose.

[Call for Proposals](https://forms.gle/AS9MJm7BdywPkaNa6) can be found here: <https://forms.gle/AS9MJm7BdywPkaNa6>

Thank you for contributing your expertise, innovation, and passion to this milestone event. We look forward to reviewing your proposals and celebrating 20 years of IEFA together!

Sincerely,

Indian Education For All Team

Mike Jetty

Julie Jeffers

Carrie McNab

Dr. Brooke Gondara

