

## REGIONS

### **Central**

Counties - Price, Taylor, Lincoln, Clark, Marathon, Wood, Portage, Shawano, Waupaca

### **Eastern**

Counties - Florence, Marinette, Langlade, Menominee, Oconto, Outagamie, Brown, Door, Kewaunee, Calumet, Winnebago

### **Northeast**

Counties - Iron, Vilas, Oneida, Forest, Florence

### **Northwest**

Counties - Douglas, Bayfield, Ashland, Sawyer, Washburn, Burnett, Polk, Barron, Rusk

### **South**

Counties - Adams, Waushara, Marquette, Green Lake, Fond du Lac, Columbia, Dodge, Grant, Iowa, Dane, Lafayette, Green, Rock, Walworth, Jefferson

### **Southeast**

Counties - Manitowoc, Sheboygan, Ozaukee, Washington, Waukesha, Milwaukee, Racine, Kenosha

### **West**

Counties - St. Croix, Dunn, Chippewa, Pierce, Pepin, Buffalo, Eau Claire, Trempealeau, Jackson, Monroe, La Crosse, Juneau, Vernon, Crawford, Richland, Sauk

Please visit:

[www.wiea.org](http://www.wiea.org)



Each region includes the Tribal Colleges, Tribal Schools, colleges, technical colleges and private institutions throughout the state

For more information or to volunteer, contact your regional Board Member, or write to:

**Wisconsin Indian Education Association**  
P.O. Box 910  
Keshena, WI 54135  
[vnuske@mitw.org](mailto:vnuske@mitw.org)

WISCONSIN

INDIAN

EDUCATION

ASSOCIATION



## **MISSION STATEMENT**

*“To promote educational opportunities for Indian people in Wisconsin through a unified effort of Indian and non-Indian members interested in the social and economic advancement of Indian people.”*

## Brief History of WIEA

WIEA was established in 1985 by a group of concerned Indian Educators to carry on efforts of the former Great Lakes Inter-tribal Council (GLITC) Education Subcommittee. The GLITC Education Committee began in the early 1970's but was disbanded around 1983 due to a lack of funds. Concerned Indian Educators began meeting in 1984 and formally organized in 1985 as the Wisconsin Indian Education Association.

## How WIEA Operates

WIEA has seven regions throughout the state of Wisconsin. Each region has 2 representatives serving a 2-year term. The Officers of the Board are elected at a Business Meeting held during the annual WIEA conference.

The Board establishes a meeting schedule for the upcoming year after the conference. Board meetings are held every month except December. Meetings are held in various regions throughout the state in an effort to get input from the general membership regarding their issues and concerns. The general membership is invited to attend any WIEA Board meeting. Board members from each region are responsible for setting up regional meetings throughout the year to share and gather information for the Board to either act upon or disseminate to all regions.

In its initial stages, WIEA was primarily information sharing, however in recent years the Board has become pro-active regarding issues that affect Indian Education.

## WIEA Scholarship Opportunities

WIEA applied for and was granted 501 (c)(3) non-profit tax exempt status in 1986 with the idea that fund-raising for scholarships would be one of WIEA's major efforts. Through revenue raised at the Annual WIEA conference and

private donors, WIEA has been able to sponsor an annual scholarship competition for Indian students in Wisconsin.

Since 1996, annual conference revenues have allowed WIEA to award scholarships at \$1000 each year in the following categories:

- High school senior
- Undergraduate college student
- Technical college student
- Graduate student

These are merit based scholarships requiring the students to write an essay and to be in good academic standing. Over fifty one Indian students have been awarded WIEA scholarships.

## Annual Conference

An annual statewide Wisconsin Indian Education Conference is held each year in April with Board representatives acting as conference coordinators. Each region hosts the conference on an alternating schedule.

The conference includes keynote speakers, workshops and presenters who address education issues from pre-k to postsecondary education. An Awards Banquet is held during the conference to recognize scholarship winners, the achievements of Indian Educators, students, and friends of Indian Education.

## Legislative Breakfasts

An annual Legislative Breakfast is held in Madison where Board members have the opportunity to share with State Legislators concerns and issues that affect Indian people in Wisconsin. Listed below are some of the issues brought to the attention of State legislators attending these Breakfast meetings:

- Strengthening the 1989 Wisconsin Act 31, a law that requires the incorporation of

Wisconsin Indian history, treaties and tribal sovereignty into the public school curriculum in grades 4, 8, and 10.

- Restoring the Wisconsin Indian Student Assistance Grant to the 1995 level of funding at \$2,200/academic year. In 1996 it was arbitrarily reduced to \$1,000. Currently the grant ranges from \$250-\$1100 even though the number of Indian students who apply has increased yearly.
- The Mascot/Logo issue. Currently WIEA is supporting Assembly Bill 35 which provides that a school district resident may object to a school board's use of a race-based name, nickname, logo, or mascot by filing a complaint with the state superintendent of public instruction. The school board has the burden of proving, by clear and convincing evidence, that the use of the race-based name, nickname, logo, or mascot does not promote discrimination, pupil harassment, or stereotyping.

## Major accomplishments include:

- Support and implementation of the 1989 Act 31 requiring all public schools to provide instruction in the history, culture, and tribal sovereignty of the federally recognized tribes and bands in the state.
- Educate Indian and other Wisconsin communities about the status of Indian Education issues.
- Generate funds for WIEA Organization Development.
- Develop gubernatorial questions regarding Indian education for political candidates.
- Affiliation as a state organization with the National Indian Education Association.