



The Ziiibiwing Center received this award March 21, 2014 for “ outstanding work in educating tribal citizens and the general public about Anishinaabe culture, history and lifeways.”

Watermark
Michigan Indian Education Council
2014 Distinguished Service Award

WHEREAS the Michigan Indian Education Council (MIEC) was founded in 1996 to carry on the long-time efforts of the Michigan Education Association in its sponsorship of the Critical Issues in Indian Education Conference. This conference has over its history had a significant impact on Indian education in Michigan through showcasing best practices and connecting students, teachers and parents with valuable educational resources; and

WHEREAS the mission of MIEC as stated in its articles of incorporation is to ensure continuity, collaboration, coordination, networking, and strategic planning by ensuring the preservation and promotion of our Native American culture, traditions, languages, history, values, and spirituality; and

WHEREAS in 2004 the Michigan Indian Education Council instituted an award program to annually select and honor an individual or organization for outstanding service; and

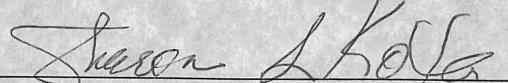
WHEREAS, the Ziiibiwing Center is a museum and cultural center built to share the history of the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan with the rest of the world. Its facilities include administrative offices, a permanent exhibit, changing exhibits, research center, meeting and conference facilities, and a gift shop; and

WHEREAS, the Ziiibiwing Center is a distinctive treasure created to provide an enriched, diversified and culturally relevant educational experience. This promotes the society's belief that the culture, diversity and spirit of the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan and other Great Lakes Anishinabek must be recognized, perpetuated, communicated and supported; and

WHEREAS, each year hundreds of school children and adults of all races come through Ziiibiwing Center and participate in the educational programs. The positive long lasting effects of this exposure to factual and culturally sensitive native experiences and perspectives enhances the well-being of native people throughout Michigan and beyond; and

WHEREAS, Ziiibiwing Cultural Society has won many prestigious awards including the 2006 Museum Award from the Michigan Cultural Alliance, the 2008 Harvard University “Honoring Nations” Award, and the 2009 Institutional Excellence in Museums Award. The nomination letter for the 2009 award said, in part, “What they achieved with their common sense, rigorous, and good-hearted approach stands as one of the finest tribal museums in the country. What they have achieved truly represents a decolonizing museum practice and sets the standard by which future presentations of Native American history and culture, be it in a tribal museum or a mainstream museum, will be judged.”

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that for its outstanding work in educating tribal citizens and the general public about Anishinaabe culture, history and lifeways, the Michigan Indian Education Council has the distinct honor and privilege to award the 2014 Distinguished Service Award to Ziiibiwing Cultural Society.


Sharon Kota, Michigan Indian Education Council President

Date: 3/21/2014
March 21, 2014