Indian Affairs - Office of Public Affairs

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WASHINGTON – Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs Carl J. Artman will be the keynote speaker on Tuesday, July 24, 2007, at the Bureau of Indian Education's first National Partnership Conference on improving Indian education. The event "Partnerships for Student Success" will take place on July 24-26 at the Renaissance Denver Hotel in Denver, Colo. The event will bring together federal and tribal stakeholders in the BIE school system to discuss making schools safe, secure and healthy learning environments while improving their students' academic performance and ability to transition successfully to post-secondary opportunities.

"The work of building Bureau of Indian Education schools into high performing institutions of learning is a continuous process requiring many hands, hearts and minds," Artman said. "The 'Partnerships for Student Success' conference is an opportunity for those who care about the future of Indian children to work together on improving the performance of BIE-funded schools and the quality of their students' educational experience."

The BIE has the overall responsibility for ensuring the implementation of federal education laws, including the No Child Left Behind Act, in 184 BIE-funded elementary and secondary schools located on 63 reservations in 23 states serving approximately 48,000 students and employing 5,000 teachers, administrators and support personnel. The BIE also provides resources and technical assistance to 122 tribally administered BIE-funded schools and 25 tribal colleges, and direction and oversight for two BIE-operated post-secondary institutions located in Lawrence, Kan., and Albuquerque, N.M.

The BIE's conference partners include the U.S. Department of Education, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Indian Health Service, the National Indian School Board Association, the Association of Community Tribal Schools, the American Indian Higher Education Consortium, the National Indian Education Association, the National Congress of American Indians, and the Tribal Departments of Education National Assembly, as well as the National Education Association and the National Museum of the American Indian.

WHO: Carl J. Artman, Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs, U.S. Department of the Interior.

WHAT: Assistant Secretary Artman is the keynote speaker at "Partnerships for Student Success," the Bureau of Indian Education's first national partnership conference on improving Indian education.

WHEN: Tuesday, July 24, 2007 The Assistant Secretary will speak during the morning portion of the program, which is scheduled to start at 8:30 a.m. and conclude at 10:30 a.m. All times are local time.

WHERE: Renaissance Denver Hotel, Concourse Ballroom, 3801 Quebec Street, Denver, Colo. Phone: 303-399-7500.

CREDENTIALS: This invitation is extended to working media representatives, who are required to display sanctioned media credentials for admittance to the event.