

A LETTER TO TEACHERS FROM FORREST CUCH

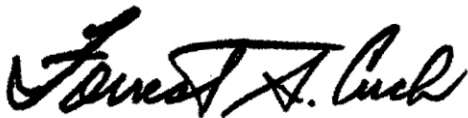
Dear Educators:

For too many years, we have only provided a glimpse of the history of Utah's American Indians in the classroom. Though unintended, this quick fix was a disservice to both the American Indian and non-Indian students of our state. The result has been marginalization of Utah's Indigenous people and their cultural presence in our state. Over time, marginalization manifests as a form of unintentional dehumanization of Indigenous people, which can be very devastating to native people, especially our youth. Carried further, this lack of accurate depictions and renditions of our history only reinforces Hollywood clichés and stereotypes. It is thus no wonder that both Indian and non-Indian people struggle with a full understanding of what actually happened in the past—the true history of this land.

This Utah Indian Curriculum Project, funded by the 2008 general session of the Utah legislature, was designed to change all that. Sponsored by the Division of Indian Affairs, Department of Community and Culture, the project was developed by the American West Center at the University of Utah in cooperation with the University of Utah's KUED Channel 7, the PBS American Experience's five part national series, *We Shall Remain*, and the Utah State Office of Education—Indian Education Specialist and Social Studies Section.

It was always been our intent to not only develop a curriculum that is thorough, well designed, and well organized but also to make it easy to access for teachers and to make their job of presenting Utah Indian history easier and more meaningful. We think we have succeeded in accomplishing our objectives. We hope that you will enjoy and utilize this information to its fullest extent possible. And it is our fond hope that better understanding between all people will emerge from this work.

Sincerely,



Forrest S. Cuch, Director
Division of Indian Affairs

