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NEWS RELEASE

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American Indian, Bloomfield Teacher Receives National Writing Award

Santa Fe, NM -- While Michael Thompson's students took their summer break from writing, he traveled to Washington, DC, to receive a national award for his writing.

Thompson, a member of Mvskogee Creek tribe, is English Department Chairperson and Instructor at Bloomfield High School in the Four Corners. He received the Gold EXCEL Award for "Feature Article-Magazine" from the Society of National Association Publications (SNAP). Thompson's article, "Honoring the Word: Classroom Instructors Find That Students Respond Best to Oral Tradition," was published in the *Tribal College Journal*, Vol. 19, N.2, Winter 2007 Issue.

Dr. Veronica C. Garcia, NM Secretary of Education, said, "Congratulations to Michael Thompson. Instructors like him who also write for national publications help to communicate what works in education which in turn contributes to our vision of improving all student achievement in our schools."

The 28th Annual EXCEL Awards program judged over 1,000 magazines, newsletters, scholarly journals, electronic publications, and websites. SNAP representatives wrote about the winning entries, "With a record-breaking number of entries, it was more difficult than ever to win an award. The awarded submissions displayed superior quality and truly represent The Best and The Brightest in the association community."

Judges commented, "Use of the first-person narrative, approachable tone, and inductive organization of the piece was a great way to approach an article discussing oral tradition. It was well researched."

Thompson is a frequent contributor to the *Tribal College Journal* (TCJ), a national quarterly magazine based in Mancos, CO. Published by the American Indian Higher Education Consortium, TCJ chronicles the challenges and successes of the tribal colleges and Native Americans in higher education.

Rachael Marchbanks, Publisher of the *Tribal College Journal*, said, "This award reflects the high quality writing in our magazine. Since many American Indian instructors who work with American Indian students were quoted in the winning article, it is an award for Indian education, too."

Thompson also serves on the NM English Language Arts Advisory Council and the English Language Learners Network Leadership team for the National Writing Project (NWP). His article can be read on the NWP website at www.nwp.org/cs/public/print/nwp_au/1222 and on the *Tribal College Journal* website at www.tribalcollegejournal.org

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