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OIEP designed Journeying Home as a series of four conferences that would further the use and understanding of Native language and culture to improve student academic achievement. The 2002 Journeying Home conference, held in Portland, Ore., focused on language acquisition. This year's event is intended to strengthen BIA funded schools in the areas of language and cultural preservation and revitalization.

The mission of the Office of Indian Education Programs is to provide Indian students with quality educational opportunities from early childhood through life in accordance with tribal needs for cultural and economic well-being and in keeping with the wide diversity of Indian tribes and Alaska Native villages as distinct cultural and governmental entities, as well as to consider each student's spiritual, mental, physical and cultural aspects within the context of his or her family and tribe or village.

Note to Editors: *The agenda for the 2003 Journeying Home: Language and Culture Preservation Conference may be viewed via the Department's web site at www.doi.gov.*

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