The Coeur D’Alene Tribe’s contributions to the education of Indian and non-Indian youth in northern Idaho and eastern Washington have been both generous and extraordinarily effective.

The Plummer-Worley Joint School District Number 44 on the Coeur D’Alene Indian Reservation, for example, had a graduation rate of 34 percent ten years ago. Today it is 90 percent, and the District’s Superintendent Judi Sharrett says, “I do not believe this would have been possible without the assistance of our tribal neighbor.”

In 1992 the Coeur D’Alene Tribe signed a compact with the state to have gaming on the reservation. The Tribe insisted that at least five percent of the net gaming revenues go for the financial support of education. To date, the Tribe has invested almost $20 million in education.

The Tribe has invested in Head Start, Child Care, tutoring in the early grades for children who fall behind as well as a tutoring program that allows University of Idaho education students to work with middle and high school students. It has funded duel enrollment programs that allow college courses to count both as high school and college credits. It has supported college preparation courses as well as a “Back to the Earth” project that engages students in science, technology, engineering and math. It has also supported vocational training and career counseling for tribal youth.

The Tribes’ donations to school districts also go to support new technology in the classroom, music and art programs, the purchase of books, and sports programs. It has also funded a “Weekend Nutrition Backpack” program that helps feed students who would otherwise go hungry.

What’s more, no Coeur D’Alene child falls through the cracks. The Tribe’s Education Department tracks every child and young person’s progress from pre-school to Ph.D.

“We wanted to give back to education because giving back is part of our culture,” says the Chairman of the Coeur D’Alene Tribe, Chief Allan. “It’s who we are.”

The Coeur D’Alene Tribe's contributions to the education of Indian and non-Indian youth in northern Idaho and eastern Washington have been both generous and extraordinarily effective.

The Plummer-Worley Joint School District Number 44 on the Coeur D’Alene Indian Reservation, for example, had a graduation rate of 34 percent ten years ago. Today it is 90 percent, and the District’s Superintendent Judi Sharrett says, “I do not believe this would have been possible without the assistance of our tribal neighbor.”

In 1992 the Coeur D’Alene Tribe signed a compact with the state to have gaming on the reservation. The Tribe insisted that at least five percent of the net gaming revenues go for the financial support of education. To date, the Tribe has invested almost $20 million in education.

The Tribe has invested in Head Start, Child Care, tutoring in the early grades for children who fall behind as well as a tutoring program that allows University of Idaho education students to work with middle and high school students. It has funded duel enrollment programs that allow college courses to count both as high school and college credits. It has supported college preparation courses as well as a “Back to the Earth” project that engages students in science, technology, engineering and math. It has also supported vocational training and career counseling for tribal youth.

The Tribes’ donations to school districts also go to support new technology in the classroom, music and art programs, the purchase of books, and sports programs. It has also funded a “Weekend Nutrition Backpack” program that helps feed students who would otherwise go hungry.

What’s more, no Coeur D’Alene child falls through the cracks. The Tribe’s Education Department tracks every child and young person’s progress from pre-school to Ph.D.

“We wanted to give back to education because giving back is part of our culture,” says the Chairman of the Coeur D’Alene Tribe, Chief Allan. “It’s who we are.”