

Keystone Legacies: Tracing Millersville University's Partnership with the Carlisle Indian Industrial School

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Abstract:

The Carlisle Indian Industrial School (CIIS) was the first federally-run Indian boarding school in the United States, operating from 1879-1918. The Millersville State Normal School (MSNS) was one of its partners. My research aims to identify the students who came from the CIIS to the MSNS and their experiences on Millersville's campus.

Methodology:

I searched the Carlisle Indian School Digital Resource Center for mentions of "Millersville" and accessed school newspapers, student files, and entry and departure records. I then verified students' attendance at the MSNS by cross-referencing our student catalogs and newspaper.

Student Attendance:

- 18 students attended MSNS from the CIIS
 - Regular session 1889-1891
 - Regular and summer sessions 1914-1917
- 14 Indigenous Nations
- 7 girls, 11 boys



Institutional Connections:

- CIIS teachers attended MSNS
- MSNS graduates worked in the CIIS and other Indian boarding schools
- MSNS Superintendent inquired about using CIIS printing in 1915



Student Life:

- Membership in MSNS Literary Societies
- MSNS "Indian Life" presentation in 1917
- Host CIIS students and visit MSNS students
- Reprimanded for gatherings with opposite sex
- Students drop out for familial issues



Remaining Questions:

- When was a relationship first established between MSNS and the CIIS?
- How did students pay for their MSNS tuition?
- Were students given the choice to attend MSNS?
- How many MSNS graduates were employed at the CIIS and other boarding schools?

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References:

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