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North Dakota

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June 4, 2001

Dr. Jeffrey Clark
Department of Sociology and Anthropology
North Dakota State University
PO Box 5075, SU Station
Fargo, ND 58105

Dear Dr. Clark:

I am delighted that we will be able to work with you and Dr. Slator on the creation of a virtual presentation of Like-A-Fishhook Village/Fort Berthold, and in the inclusion of artifacts from that site in the Digital Archive Network for Anthropology that you have been creating. I also enthusiastically support your effort to produce educational software based on that site information. I am certain the Immersive Virtual Archaeology program will be a highly useful tool for teaching archaeology.

Education is, of course, one of the primary goals of our institution. Projects such as yours, also seeks to make our collections more widely and easily accessible, which is of enormous value to museums, educational institutions, and the general public. For that reason, we will make the full artifact and document collections of the Like-A-Fishhook/Fort Berthold site available to you.

As a member of the advisory group for our upcoming new exhibit, *Era of Change*, you are well aware of what we are trying to accomplish at the North Dakota Heritage Center. This group consists of educators in several disciplines, tribal members, museum specialists, and others who bring diverse skills and knowledge to the development of direction and content for this exhibit. We are all excited by the prospect of including in the exhibit a computer kiosk that will allow visitors to navigate through the virtual site as an exciting way of viewing artifacts in their cultural context. This new way of visualizing museum collections has the potential for children today, especially those of Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara ancestry, to participate in a personal journey to a site of such cultural and historical significance.

I look forward to the partnership between North Dakota State University and the State Historical Society of North Dakota on this forthcoming venture, and I am excited that we can share our knowledge and resources. This is a wonderful opportunity to link science and history with technology to introduce the visitor to Like-A-Fishhook Village and Fort Berthold, once a real place, now a virtual experience.

Sincerely,

Claudia J. Berg
Director, Museum & Education Division

Accredited by the
American Association
of Museums