WELCOME EVERYONE.  IT’S HARD TO BELIEVE BUT THIS IS THE 16th YEAR OF THE COW CREEK UMPQUA INDIAN FOUNDATION…OUR 33RD GRANT AWARDS CEREMONY.  IN THAT TIME, THE FOUNDATION HAS AWARDED $13,422,159 TO NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS IN THE HOMELAND TERRITORY OF THE COW CREEK UMPQUA TRIBE. IT MAKES US SO PROUD THAT OUR COMMUNITY, OUR HOMELAND, IS POPULATED WITH PEOPLE WHO FOCUS ON HELPING EACH OTHER.

THE FOUNDATION HAS ALWAYS PUT CHILDREN AND FAMILIES FIRST BUT EDUCATION HAS ALSO BEEN PLACED HIGH ON OUR LIST, TOO. FLEXIBILITY HAS ALLOWED THE FOUNDATION BOARD TO AWARD GRANT MONEY FOR FEEDING THE HUNGRY DURING THE HARD TIMES OF THE PAST SIX OR SEVEN YEARS.    AND WE’VE DONE A LOT OF THAT.  I ASK YOU...OF WHAT IMPORTANCE IS EDUCATION IF YOU HAVEN’T EATEN?

THOSE OF US ON STAFF AND WHO SIT ON THE BOARD ARE AMAZED WITH THE RANGE OF NON-PROFIT DEDICATON WE HAVE IN SOUTHERN OREGON.  THIS IS THE LAND OF THE COW CREEK.  THIS TRIBE HAS LIVED IN THESE SEVEN COUNTIES FOR CENTURIES.  HUNDREDS OF DEDICATED VOLUTEERS AND STAFF MEMBERS OF NON-PROFITS ARE HELPING PEOPLE EAT, GET EDUCATED, ATTEND SCHOOL, AND SO MUCH MORE.  THIS IS A PLACE OF COMMUNITY AND SHARING.  EVERYONE IN THIS ROOM IS EVIDENCE OF THAT.  IT’S AN HONOR TO HAVE YOU ALL HERE TODAY.

WE HAVE LOTS ON OUR AGENDA TODAY, PRIMARILY HANDING OUT $467,870 TO 65 TOP NOTCH ORGANIZATIONS. BEFORE WE DO THAT, HOWEVER, I WOULD LIKE TO INTRODUCE THE BOARD AND STAFF OF THE COW CREEK UMPQUA INDIAN FOUNDATION.

Dan Courtney – Chairman

Christy Cox

Chris Davidson

Vonnie McCafferty

Carol McKinney

Lee Paterson Executive Director – Carma Mornarich

Shirley Roane Program Officer- Lois Schlegel

Jackie Sohn Program Officer- Anne Batzer

Luann Urban Program Officer- Kathie Olsen

Paul Zegers