

WORLEY -- The Coeur d'Alene Tribe donated \$1.8 million to further education in Idaho during a ceremony at the Stensgar Pavilion Tuesday morning.

Since 2001, the Tribe has given more than \$12 million toward educational endeavors. This year's distributions are among the highest ever.

"This money not only represents the success of the Tribe's Casino, but the vision of our elders who believed that gaming was a means to an end," Coeur d'Alene Tribe Chairman Chief Allan said. "I believe education is the key to success and economic prosperity for our people and the entire region."

The Tribe gifted money to schools, scholarships, and programs on and off the reservation. A total of 15 school districts received funding, including Coeur d'Alene, Post Falls, Lakeland, St. Maries, and Wallace.

Washington State University and North Idaho College also received donations.

The Idaho Meth Project received funding to help combat methamphetamine addiction across the state.

The Tribe's offer to donate 5 percent of its gaming revenues to education in Idaho was not required by the state during compact negotiations. The provision was included in the compact at the Tribe's request even after the state's response that such a donation was unnecessary.

"The Tribe committed to this because we believe in investing in our kids, our community and the future of Idaho," Allan said. "The Tribe always goes above and beyond. The kids of Idaho are the real winners today."

Coeur d'Alene Casino Resort Hotel CEO David LaSarte-Meeks praised the casino's employees for their efforts.

"The employees care very much about the Tribe's efforts and generosity," said LaSarte-Meeks. "In fact, it's a motivation for us, and one that we bring to work every day. Just like thousands of other parents, our employees have children in schools across the region. Every person in every job here understands the commitment to schools and to the children."

Plummer Worley \$160,000.

Coeur d'Alene School District \$15,000.

Post Falls School District \$10,000.

Lakeland School District \$15,000.

Timberlake High School \$15,000.

St. Maries School District \$20,000.

North Idaho College \$23,500.

Idaho Meth Project \$100,000.

Washington State University Camp Larsen \$200,000.

Kootenai School District \$10,000.

Kellogg School District \$10,000.

Wallace School District \$10,000.

Human Rights Education \$5,000.