

**PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION**

**Acoma Sky City School
Acoma Pueblo, New Mexico
May 21, 1999**

Acoma Pueblo Sky City Community School
Remarks by First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton

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Please be seated. Gu wha tze Hanu. I'm very happy to be here with you today and to have a chance to come and see you on the last day of school. Now I can see the teachers are applauding as well as the students. I wanted to come and see you on my way to really make it clear to the country how important Native American culture and history is. So I came to Acoma to celebrate your very long and distinguished history. But I also wanted to get a look at the future as well—to see the young people and the boys and girls who will be building this community and making it even stronger into the next century. Governor, I know that you agree that what we're trying to do here is to *honor* our past, but also to imagine a better future for all of our children.

Some of you may know that in the State of the Union speech that the President gave last January, he spoke specifically about his commitment in the budget he presented to the Congress to try to provide more teachers for our students in all of our schools in America. And it specifically included more teachers for schools in Indian countries. Because we want you to have the very best education, and we want your teachers to be able to have the support that they need to give you the best education. So it's very exciting for me to be able to come here and visit this school, to thank your principal—who has been here, she told me, for eight years as principal—and to see all of you. And to thank the teachers and the parents for doing what you're doing on behalf of the children of this pueblo and of this school.

I'm going now up to the Mesa where I will be privileged to visit the oldest church in the United States, which is part of your heritage. [Applause.] And there I will make a speech talking about how significant what you have done to protect your heritage is. And how it is truly an example for people not only other Native Americans, but people of all backgrounds here in the United States. I'm very proud to be here. I'm very grateful for the chance to come and try to bring some needed attention to what you are doing and the progress you're making and the challenges that you face as a community.

So thank you for letting me stop here to see the students. Let me wish all the students a very good summer vacation. Let me congratulate the teachers and the parents for working together to have a good school year. And let me also extend my very warmest wishes to all of you who are part of this community for everything you're doing to make it the very best possible place for your children's future. Thank you very much.