

Nevada Indian Commission  
 February 22, 2016  
 Education Advisory Committee for Native American and Alaska Natives Meeting Minutes  
 Western Nevada College, Carson City, Nevada

Committee Member	Seat Filled	Present	Absent
Lori Pasqua	Washoe Tribe of NV & CA	✓	
Fredina Drye-Romero	NV Department of Education	✓	
Rob Borges	Douglas County School District	✓	
San San Tin	Reno-Sparks Indian Colony	✓	
Rhonda Knight	Washoe County School District	✓	
Patrick Naranjo	University of Nevada, Las Vegas	✓	
Rita Imus	Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada		✓

NIC Staff Present: Sherry L. Rupert, Executive Director Chris Ann Gibbons, Program Officer, Nevada Indian Commission

Others Present: Matt Robinson, Tribal Liaison, Silver State Health Insurance Exchange; Sandra Mitrovich, Outreach & Retention Coordinator, Center for Student Diversity, University of Nevada, Reno; Lori Schoen, Developmental Specialist IV, Nevada Early Intervention Services; Stephanie Wyatt, Developmental Specialist III, Nevada Early Intervention Services

- I. Invocation
  - A. Sherry Rupert gave the invocation.
  
- II. Welcome and Introductions
  - A. Lori Pasqua called the meeting to order at 9:40am and asked everyone to introduce themselves.
  
- III. Initial Public Comment
  - A. There were no initial public comments made at the meeting.
  
- IV. Approval of January 11, 2016 Meeting Minutes
  - A. With no changes made, Rob Borges motioned to approve the January 11, 2016 meeting minutes, seconded by San San Tin. Motion carried.
  
- V. Approval of Appointment of Representative Forms for the Education Advisory Committee for Native American and Alaska Natives
  - A. Sherry Rupert reported five appointment forms had been received for the Education Advisory Committee for Native American and Alaska Natives – Rita Imus, Native Workforce Program Specialist, Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada; San San Tin, Education Department Manager, Reno-Sparks Indian Colony; Rhonda Knight, Indian Education Specialist, Washoe County School District; Fredina Drye-Romero, Education Programs Professional, Indian Education, Nevada Department of Education; and Lori Pasqua, Pre-College Advisor, Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California.

- B. Rob Borges motioned to approve the Appointment of Representative forms for Rita Imus, San San Tin, Rhonda Knight, Fredina Drye-Romero, and Lori Pasqua, seconded by Patrick Naranjo. Motion carried.
- VI. Additional Discussion on Merging the Tribal Early Childhood Education Advisory Committee with the Indian Education Advisory Committee (IEAC)
- A. Sherry Rupert began by saying that this issue has been on this agenda as well as being on the agenda for the Tribal Early Childhood Advisory Committee (TECAC) for several meetings. The TECAC met last October 2015 and members expressed concern on the merger and how it would affect its standing with the Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC). Sherry called Patty Oya of the Nevada ECAC, who then referred her to the ECAC's chairperson, Marty Elquist. Ms. Elquist stated that she had no problem with the merging of the two committees and that she was pleased meetings about Early Childhood Education would continue. Sherry said that Ms. Elquist also invited the group to attend an ECAC meeting.
  - B. Sherry also said she spoke with the Nevada Indian Commission's (NIC) Senior Deputy Attorney General on how he thinks the re-organization of the Committee should be done. The Attorney General suggested that the TECAC be moved under the IEAC and have the by-laws revised to include early childhood education. Sherry asked the members of the Committee for their suggestions of new by-laws and to have them ready to discuss at the next meeting.
  - C. Sherry said the NIC Board Meeting will take place on March 24, 2016 and the finalization of the merging of both Committees will be on the agenda for approval.
  - D. Sherry commented that this process has taken awhile, but now that concerns have been alleviated, she would like to meet and conduct business as soon as possible.
- VII. Update on the Nevada Indian Education Strategic Plan Revision
- A. Sherry said she doesn't have an update to give because there have been no meetings since last year. She went on to say that she is currently working on preparation for the NIEA convention and still needs to get input from the higher education representatives as well as representatives from early childhood education. She will then give an update when she is able to.
- VIII. Discussion on Planning for the 2016 National Indian Education Association (NIEA) Convention to be held in Reno, NV
- A. Sherry said the following people were on the phone for the planning meeting held on Wednesday, February 3, 2016: Gina Morrow and Marla Healey from the Wells Band Council, Lynn John, Kari Emm, Mary Williams, Stacey Montooth, Patrick Naranjo, San San Tin, and Della Frank.
  - B. Sherry said that there is a local Convention Planning Committee (CPC) that consists of three members at large and three from Nevada. These members are Sherry Rupert, Fredina Drye-Romero, and Lynn John. Sherry said that she, Fredina, and Lynn have been assigned to three subcommittees. Lynn is the chairperson for Volunteers, Sherry is the chairperson for Cultural Events and Activities, and Fredina is the chairperson for

organizing the Powwow. On February 3, 2016, this Nevada Convention Planning Committee went through the responsibilities of each of the subcommittees and was able to obtain good recommendations and was able to share with the CPC the following day. The Nevada committee meets prior to the National Convention Planning Committee, which meets on the first Wednesday of the month from 3:00 – 4:30pm. Sherry is excited that the committees are coming together to work on the necessary items. When Sherry attended the National Convention Planning Committee meeting, she was told that they are impressed that the Nevada CPC is so organized and has many good ideas going into the planning. Sherry stated that she will coordinate cultural night, opening and closing sessions, protocol, elders, and tribal leaders. The next CPC meeting is March 2, 2016 at 3:00pm and all are invited to attend. Sherry will send out a “Go-To Meeting” and will e-mail the details out to the NIC’s Indian Education listserv.

- C. Fredina commented that she and Sherry attended the Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada meeting on February 19, 2016 and gave a PowerPoint presentation on the NIEA and who they are, what they do, how the convention came to Nevada, and responsibilities of the tribes. She said she will contact them for volunteers, sponsorships, and donations – anything they can do to help showcase Nevada and bring 4,000 – 5,000 people to Reno.
- D. Patrick is looking at how UNLV will participate and support the NIEA Convention. He is hopeful that UNLV will have a more formal role by April.

#### IX. Indian Education Updates:

- A. Nevada Department of Education, Fredina Drye-Romero
  - 1. Fredina reported that the Nevada Department of Education (NDE) has a new superintendent, Steve Canavero.
  - 2. She reported that she will travel to McDermitt and Owyhee schools to meet the new director. She stated that it is a support visit only and she is not there to monitor.
  - 3. She will also be traveling with the Indian Education Advisory Board for a meeting at West Ed Comprehensive Center in Phoenix, Arizona. Saundra Mitrovich will accompany her to meet with State agencies as well as colleges and universities. Saundra said she is excited to participate in the group.
  - 4. Fredina is working on the Summit and that Early Bird registration has been extended for another week and that scholarships are still available. She is excited that the National Johnson O’Malley (JOM) is sending the regional JOM to have a Title VII Office of Indian Education webinar available at the Summit. She is trying to have UNITY come for the youth component as there are no youth councils in Nevada. Mary Williams is working on getting a youth council started in Yerington. The Summit will be having a youth component this year for the first time at \$75 for two days. A large group of students will be coming from Washoe County and some from Clark County as well. The Summit will also have parent workshops hosted by Washoe County Parent University. Parents can register for \$75 if they come through the school districts. Fredina thanked Rhonda Knight for her assistance with the Summit. Fredina commented that she is unsure as to whether the tribal college workshop facilitated by Stacey Emm will occur.

## B. Tribal Education Programs

1. Lori Pasqua from the Washoe Tribe reported that Head Start transition meetings were held a few weeks ago. Parents had the opportunity to meet education staff and learn about current programs under the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program. She said that her office is waiting for fiscal year monies and have had to wait for incentive scholarship approval for higher education students. She has reviewed six scholarship applications with five approved and one denied due to lack of information. Lori also shared that the Higher Education office will be doing a Federal Application for Student Aid (FAFSA) in Dresslerville and Alpine county on March 3, 2016. College 101 will be held on March 10, 2016 and for parents who have students going away to college, there will be a Talking Circle night on March 24, 2016.
2. San San Tin from the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony reported that childcare and Head Start programs are going well. The 2016 Head Start registrations will begin on April 1, 2016 and will have 35 spaces to fill. The K-12 programs are collaborating well with Washoe County School District. All three principals from Hungry Valley elementary, middle, and high school are getting together and meeting with parents to help families and students. There will be a federal review on their 477 Program and will take place on March 15, 2016 for a week. San San also said that she is getting ready for summer programs.

## C. County School District Programs

1. Rob Borges reported that the districts are currently working on developing Memos of Understanding (MOUs) for Douglas County, Alpine County, and Carson City to develop formal agreements which allows staff access to student records with parent approval. He said that the Title VII counts are due to the grants manager on Tuesday, February 23, 2016. Rob stated that he attended the National JOM Association Conference January 31 – February 3, 2016 in Washington, D.C. He shared that the Modernization Act going through Congress is exciting for the program because reporting measures for student counts will be based on census rather than individual tribes. Rob also attended the Douglas County School District Strategic Plan meeting in January and met with the new superintendent, Teri White. She recommended that all early childhood programs be moved to one school so that resources are better used and to get a more streamlined approach to education for children. Rob shared that they proposed a possible early childhood education student teacher program where high school students can learn skills to become educators or explore vocational trade certifications in certain areas. Biomed is being taught at Douglas County High School, for example.
2. Rhonda Knight reported that she is working with tasks associated with the Parent University workshops that will be held at the Indian Education Summit and is collaborating with the Family School Partnerships to provide

payment of the fee for families to attend, will provide transportation, as well as supervise the children's activities. She also shared that students from the Paiute language classes of North Valleys High School, Reed High School, and Spanish Springs High School are beading lanyards for the participants that will be attending the Summit. She said that she is doing "Meet and Greets" at all of the high schools to give them information on how Indian Education can provide additional resources, what it pays for, scholarship information, and letting them know that her department has two Student Graduation Advocates who support Native American students. Rhonda commented that she will be attending the Shaw Middle School Board of Trustees meeting on March 8, 2016 and is excited for the upcoming Paiute Language Bowl on April 21, 2016.

#### D. Universities and Community Colleges

1. Patrick Naranjo, University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV), reported that several events have taken place since the last IEAC meeting. On January 9, 2016, the Language and History Symposium was a successful event followed by the Native American Student Association's (NASA) "Powwow on the Strip." Patrick mentioned that UNLV is still exploring strategies for Native outreach and was pleased to announce that they will be able to host cultural events from here on out. The NASA raised about \$3,500 in fund-raising for the student organization's various expenses. Patrick commented that it was nice to see them have the capacity to do the things they want to do. Patrick said that on February 19, 2016 they held a "Pizza handgame mixer" with students from the College of Southern Nevada (CSN). He said that he is interested in doing a support system for the Native students and is talking with Dr. Saundra Cosgrove to help implement this effort. His plan is to eventually introduce the group formally to the IEAC. Patrick shared that he is guest-lecturing a service learning course with Dr. Anna Smedley at UNLV. The course will highlight the scholarship behind the traditional cultural places and sacred site protection. He and Dr. Smedley will be facilitating dialogue with the Sierra Club and some of the southern tribes. His goal is to have more discussions about the necessary next steps in getting the community involved in protecting areas. Patrick shared that he is still having meetings to coordinate the travel of the NASA students to the Indian Education Summit in March. Patrick stated that he is hopeful that more Native outreach planning will be taking place in the months to come. Sherry asked Patrick if he was part of this planning and he replied yes. He will be attending a planning meeting on April 5, 2016 along with members of the faculty to discuss strategies and recommendations on how to proceed. Lori Pasqua told Patrick that she works with tribes and has knowledge of grants for cultural preservation. She also mentioned that the Washoe Tribe's cultural preservation person, Darryl Cruz, is knowledgeable about the preservation of cultural sites. Lori said she will send Patrick an e-mail with Darryl's contact

information. Sherry offered that NIC Board Chairman, Richard Arnold, also has knowledge of the sacred sites and has worked a lot with federal agencies as well as the tribes in southern Nevada.

2. Sandra Mitrovich, University of Nevada, Reno (UNR), reported that she is very excited about all of the information that is coming out of Southern Nevada. She is also excited about the partnership between UNR's Native American Student Organization (NASO) and UNLV's Native American Student Association (NASA) and how students from both organizations will be brought to the Summit. Sandra said that she is really excited about the youth conference at the Summit and having both groups acting as mentors for the day. She stated that the NASO will be hosting a Powwow along with the Center Native Alumni Chapter. Meetings usually occur every Friday on campus, but last Friday was canceled due to Native actress and activist, Julia Jones' visit. Students from NASO are planning a trip this summer to tour graduate schools on the west coast. Sandra said that the Intertribal Higher Education Program hosts a Wolf Pack "Chat and Chew" every Friday to reach Native students and introduce them to different types of resources. She mentioned that the Intertribal Higher Education Program is also working on fully funding a foundation account for three positions -an intern, a graduate student and a graduate intern in a Letter of Appointment (LOA) position. The funding would also provide the ability to send one student to the National Indian Education Association (NIEA) Convention each year. The LOA job description will include grant writing to fund interns currently working on educational leadership and the higher education intern to present a curriculum at the Natchez schools. Sandra reported that there are several events coming up. There will be a Diversity Summit April 6-7, 2016; the Western Social Sciences Association conference will be held on April 14-16, 2016; the annual UNR Powwow will be held at the Lawlor Events Center on April 16-17, 2016; and the American Indian/ Alaska Native Graduate Celebration will be on May 1, 2016 in the Joe Crowley Student Union Theatre.

#### E. Other Indian Education Programs

1. Lori Schoen, Nevada Early Intervention Services (NEIS), reported that she and Stephanie Wyatt are working on providing screenings to children who may benefit from their music therapy program, "Toddlers Rock". She said that she will meet with the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony to introduce the "Toddlers Rock" program on March 8, 2016. Stephanie added that NEIS director Karen Shaw recently met with the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe about their MOU for early intervention services.

#### X. Committee Member Comments and Announcements

- A. Sherry reported that the Stewart Father's Day Powwow will be June 17-19, 2016 and that there will be a new event this year: gourd dancing both Saturday and Sunday before the main grand entry.

- B. Sherry mentioned that the Tribal Tourism Conference will be on April 27-28, 2016, at the Governor's Mansion in Carson City. National speakers have been invited to share their expertise and initiatives in different parts of the country.
  - C. The NIC and the Washoe Tribe are partnering together to host students from UNLV for their Alternative Spring Break trip, March 20-25, 2016. The trip is 75 percent service oriented with 25 percent recreation, and accommodations will be at the Gym of the former Stewart Indian School. The students will be assisting with various projects, such as rebuilding the fence at the Baptist church, improving the condition of the Stewart cemetery, and overall clean-up at the Catholic church. For recreation, they will be taking a day trip to Lake Tahoe with Ben Rupert providing his cultural knowledge of the area. On another day, they will go to the Pyramid Lake Cultural Center and visit with Ralph Burns. The Commission is excited to have them!
  - D. Sherry commented that the NIC is gearing up for end of the year field trips for the youth of Nevada. She invited the members of the Committee to advise her of any organizations that may be interested in touring Stewart and learning more about its history.
  - E. Saundra thanked Rhonda and the Paiute language students for beading lanyards for the Indian Education Summit.
- XI. Agenda Items for Next Meeting
- A. Approval of February 22, 2016 meeting minutes.
  - B. Approval of Appointment of Representative Forms
  - C. Indian Education Advisory Committee By-law Revision
  - D. Nevada Department of Education Presentation
  - E. Please e-mail Sherry with additional agenda items
- XII. Scheduling and Location of Next Indian Education Advisory Committee Meeting
- A. The next meeting is scheduled for May 9, 2016.
- XIII. Final Public Comment
- A. Matt Robinson reported that he is the Tribal Community Liaison for the Silver State Health Insurance Exchange. He said he is looking forward to working with the Committee and wants to outreach to everyone in the state, particularly those in the rural and tribal communities.
- XIV. Adjournment
- A. Fredina Drye-Romero motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Rob Borges. The meeting was adjourned at 10:52am.