

Nevada Indian Commission
Education Advisory Committee for Native American & Alaska Natives
March 3, 2014

Main Site: Western Nevada College, 2201 West College Parkway, Carson City, NV
Videoconference sites: Reno, NV; Fallon, NV; Las Vegas, NV; McDermott, NV

Present: Sherry L. Rupert, Executive Director, Nevada Indian Commission; Deborah Larson, Administrative Assistant, Nevada Indian Commission; Fredina Drye-Romero, Education Programs Professional – Indian Education, Nevada Department of Education; Paula Smith, Nevada Urban Indian, Saundra Mitrovich, Outreach and Retention Coordinator, University of Nevada, Reno; Jillian Fillmore, Education Coordinator, Washoe Tribe of Nevada & California; Amber Burroughs, Student Outreach, Truckee Meadows Community College; Della Frank, Equity and Diversity Program, Clark County School District; Laura Watters, Family Advocate, Moapa Band of Paiutes; Patrick Naranjo, University of Las Vegas, Assistant to Ombudsman and Assistant to V.P. Diversity Initiatives, UNLV; Mary Williams, Education Director, Fallon Paiute Shoshone Tribe; Christopher A. Kypuros, Ph.D. Director of Financial Aid & Scholarships and Academic Endeavors, UNLV; Amber Burroughs, Truckee Meadows Community College

I. Invocation

A. The invocation was given by Fredina Drye-Romero.

II. Welcome and Introduction

A. Sherry Rupert introduced the Commission's new Administrative Assistant, Deborah Larson. Sherry then stated that Lynn Manning and Lori Pasqua would be unable to attend. Sherry agreed to chair the meeting. She then called the meeting to order at 9:50 am and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

III. Initial Public Comment

A. There were no initial public comments made at the meeting.

IV. Approval of December 9, 2013 Meeting Minutes

A. Sherry Rupert made a correction to the spelling of Lori Pasqua's last name. Paula Smith moved to approve the December 9, 2013 meeting minutes with the change, seconded by Fredina. The motion carried.

V. Approval of Appointment of Representative Forms to the Education Advisory Committee for American Indian and Alaska Natives

A. Sherry explained that there were three candidates: Laura Watters, Family advocate for the Moapa Band of Paiute Social Services Department; Dr. Christopher Kypuros, Director of Financial Aid & Scholarships, UNLV School of Dental Medicine; and Patrick Naranjo, Assistant to Ombudsman & Assistant to VP Diversity Initiatives.

B. Sherry then asked for approval of these candidates and explained that if approved in committee, the names would then have to be voted on by the Nevada Indian Commission Board of Commissioners for approval at their March 2014 meeting.

- C. Fredina made a motion to approve the forms, Paula seconded the motion. The motion carried.
 - D. Sherry extended congratulations to the new appointees, advising them that they would receive a copy and confirmation of official membership of Education Advisory Committee for American Indian and Alaska Natives.
- VI. Discussion on Planning for the 2016 National Indian Education Association (NIEA) Convention, Reno, Nevada
- A. Sherry advised she wanted to start formulating a plan. She said that as the host planning committee, there will be responsibilities to fulfill, most of them cultural components of the convention. She asked the committee to please keep tribal leaders in mind for making opening remarks, and elders for saying prayers, and the group would be expected to coordinate a social powwow. She stated this may be an opportunity to have cultural groups come and provide information throughout the convention. Sherry asked everyone to please start thinking about resources that could be included in the agenda. She added that the committee should include as many tribes as possible. She said it would be good to start getting lists together of people who might be interested or people the committee thought might be interested in providing cultural presentations or providing prayers from each of the communities.
 - B. Dina has been working on the NIEA Convention Planning Committee for Anchorage (2014). She stated that she would have a better idea of what will be needed when the new structure is put in place. She said the NIEA Executive Director is coming to Reno, specifically to attend the Summit and to discuss the 2016 NIEA being held in Reno, Nevada. She said the best time to set up a meeting with the committee is some time after March.
 - C. Sherry asked for input about possible resources from groups in regions that the committee feel should be involved. Sherry mentioned the Eagle Wings Dance Troupe. She also added that Pyramid Lake possibly had two groups. Sandra stated that she would email further information to Sherry. Mary from Fallon did not know of any group. Sherry stated that the Walker River Paiute Tribe also had a group, and that Patty Hicks was the contact. Patrick, at UNLV, said he had access to a Buffalo Dance Group at Hopi. Sherry asked Sandra if she had a specific drum group in mind. Sandra relayed information about the group Echo Sky and Grand Coup. Paula added that she knows Five Feathers and Soft Sand Lowry and Lance West Chief. Sherry mentioned that Ralph Burns and Ken Paul from Pyramid Lake also do the Eagle Dance that is very powerful. Dina asked about Bird Singers. Sherry asked if Moapa has a group. No one was certain. Sherry stated that we really need someone from Eastern Nevada. Sherry thought that Alfreida Jake from Elko Band Council might be a good contact for Eastern Nevada. Sherry then asked the group for ideas on elders who would be willing to provide prayers. She stated that the Indian Commission uses Ralph Burns for Northern Paiute. Someone else mentioned Reynelda James.
 - D. Sherry asked about Southern Nevada. Patrick Naranjo stated he could coordinate with one of the reservations from the Paiute Tribes in Las Vegas. Dina stated that Juanita could come up with some names.

- E. Sherry explained that one thing she did at the American Indian Achievement Awards Banquet was to have traditional storytellers. She added that this was very well received by everyone. People embraced the whole meaning of the stories. She said that this was an innovative component to incorporate the language and tradition. Sandra agreed. Sherry stated that they used Ralph Burns for the Paiute, and used Norm Cavanaugh for the Western Shoshone, and Juanita Kinlichinie from Moapa. They were all well received.

VII. Committee Member Comments and Announcements

- A. Paula Smith advised of a Powwow on March 8, 2014, at Wooster High School, from 1:00pm to 7:00pm. She invited everyone. She said it will be a health fair and a powwow, with health fair and informational vendors.
- B. Sherry stated that the Nevada Indian Commission was working on the Nevada Tribal Tourism Conference, taking place at the Hyatt Regency Lake Tahoe Resort, Spa and Casino, in Incline Village, April 22 - April 24, 2014. She said she would be working with different tribes to bring awareness to tribal tourism and to positively impact their economy. She added that tourism has an educational component that we all benefit from; by educating the traveling public about who American Indians are, and as Indian people, educating other American Indians and the youth. The first day of the three-day conference will be informational with presentations. Sherry invited Tauck Tours. Tauck Tours is the largest and oldest tour company in Northern America. They incorporate native culture into their tours, especially in the southwest. Sherry invited Roger Saterstrom to share with the Nevada tribes how he builds tours, why he includes certain things and how he prices and packages a tour. The Director of the Department of Tourism and Cultural Affairs will be speaking about incorporating the Tribes and the American Indian culture into the marketing of the State of Nevada. Sherry explained that this was the first year the Department included American Indian dancers into their summer and winter ad campaigns. They have been asked to show the commercials at the conference, and explain the continued work with the tribes. The second day will be hands on activities. Roger will work with tribes on itinerary building and tour development and have the National Tribal Geographic Information Support Center work with the attendees to explain how GIS technology can be used to assess community needs and where tourism can be implemented. The third day will be the mobile workshop, used to immerse attendees in the Washoe culture. A bus will take attendees to various areas around Lake Tahoe, speaking about the diverse culture. Demonstrations will be held on spear fishing and fish trapping. The group will continue to Cave Rock, and learn its importance to the Washoe people.
- C. Dina and her task force developed a curriculum guide about the History and Contemporary Lifestyles of Northern Paiute, Southern Paiute, Washoe and Western Shoshone Peoples. Sherry discussed the importance for this to be required school curriculum. Currently it is a voluntary decision for school districts. The Nevada Indian Commission feels that all children should learn about the Great Basin Tribes. To ensure this, Sherry advised that she is moving forward with legislation to require the use of the tribal curriculum that has been developed.

Sherry has sent the proposal to the Governor's Office and will be discussing this March 6, 2014, to see if the Governor supports this proposal.

- D. Patrick added that his office has been officially awarded the 2014 Nevada Summer Transit Institute Grant. His office will be hosting the event at University of Nevada Las Vegas, July 14-28, 2014. He said the priority of this program is to seek native students in Nevada. Patrick will be sending out information and looking for native children from schools in all rural and urban areas in Northern Nevada.
- E. Patrick added that UNLV will be hosting an American Indian student graduation event for Clark County students. Patrick said that he was working with Cheryl Nelson, and Chuck Masoka for the Indian Education Opportunities Program Youth Conference, scheduled for May 2 or 3, 2014. He added that this conference was a collaborative effort to present a youth forum for native children in Clark County.
- F. Laura Watters and Della Frank arrived.

VIII. Indian Education Updates:

- A. Nevada Department of Education – Fredina Drye-Romero, Education Programs Professional-Indian Education
 - 1. Dina said that in January 2014, the Nevada Department of Education (NDE) held the first Language and History Symposium. The Department was pleased that approximately 120-150 people were in attendance. In collaboration with Moapa Valley Paiutes, and UNLV's office being supportive, they were able to showcase the statutes and the curriculum guide. Dina thanked both groups and Clark County for their cooperation. She also thanked the Law School for hosting the event.
 - 2. The Curriculum Guide will be moving forward in the 2015 Legislature. They will be working on videos for teachers for professional development. Fredina thanked Sherry Rupert. She will be posting the lesson plan on You Tube for professional development. This will be posted and start at the end of March.
 - 3. On March 17- 18, 2014, Dina will be hosting the 7th Annual Indian Education Summit in collaboration with UNR and the Nevada Indian Commission. There will be various workshops to assist educators around the state. Some of the workshop topics include drop-out prevention and parent planning. There will be a final agenda available at end of the week.
 - 4. First Lady Kathleen Sandoval will provide some opening remarks at this year's event. Everyone is excited and pleased to have her. This will also be the premier of the Tribal Early Childhood Education Video. This will be the first time anyone has seen it. The purpose of the video is to emphasize the importance of early childhood education; starting early with children is extremely important, as education starts when they are young.

5. NDE will be working with the NIEA convention planning committee in Anchorage, AK, this year. They will be developing the convention around the theme, “Building Education through the Generations”.

B. Tribal Education Programs

1. Jillian, at the Washoe Tribe, has been busy implementing webinars. This Wednesday is the first webinar identifying and developing at risk literacy skills. Jillian has been working to improve the relationship and communication with school districts. Absences and dropout rates are related, and communication with the tribes and school districts is the key.
2. In Moapa, Laura has been creating workshops, “Preparing for Your Future.” This webinar assists young adults. The Paiute Tribe’s Youth Camp will be doing an educational summit with surrounding tribes.

C. County School District Programs

Della has held three workshops with different topics; financial aid, sports, how to apply and read transcripts, what score means, and community involvement. Representatives from Arizona State University have been reaching out and college tours are coming up soon. Mr. Padikan developed a finger popping technique that increased math scores, by incorporating rhythm and movements with the fingers.

D. Universities & Community Colleges

1. Patrick at UNLV will be holding a youth conference, July 14-28, 2014. Patrick is also hopeful about hosting a graduation with Clark County School District.
2. Dr. Christopher A. Kypuros is an advisor for Native Americans. The first meeting is this month. He is working on a film panel discussion group for Cherokee Work for Water and is also helping the American Indian Student Association at UNLV.
3. Sandra has been working with Dina on the Indian Education Summit. On March 24, 2014, Sandra will have a follow up conference with middle schools and collaborate with the school district to discuss enabling 7th and 8th graders in getting to college. On March 29-30, the University will hold the Powwow Princess Pageant.
4. On May 2, 2014, there will be a graduation reception for all of the American Indian graduates. There will be some restructuring in the fall. Sandra will be reaching out to different groups, all natives are supported and all different ages, specifically to do work with dropout prevention and how to achieve peer mentoring.
5. Sandra stated that there is a diverse pool of applicants (66) for the Director position in her office. This pool has been narrowed down to the top 12 and Sandra is hopeful that a decision will be made by June, 2014. Sandra solicited comments or thoughts from the committee on the recruitment.
6. Sandra said that she is collecting books at the Indian Education Summit for the Head Start program. She added that there would be a 5k or 3k fun

walk starting at 6:30-7:30am. There is a new Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation (DETR) grant to assist students, ages 18-19, to help finish programs through high school. Sandra will send the information out through the list serve.

7. Amber mentioned their partnership with the Washoe County School District and offered that she could be the liaison between the American Indian students and TMCC.

E. Other Indian Education Programs

1. Paula Smith advised that the Washoe County School District produced surveys showing that girls are outscoring boys by 20 to 1. Tutoring is available.

IX. Agenda Items for Next Meeting

- A. Report on the Summit
- B. Approval of Appointment of Representative Forms
- C. NIEA and our expectations

X. For Possible Action: Scheduling and Location of Next Indian Education Advisory Committee Meeting

- A. The next meeting is scheduled for May 5, 2014.

XI. Final Public Comment

- A. Dr. Christopher A. Kypuros commented that he presented at the Native American Chamber of Commerce mixer on January 24, 2014. The mixer was well attended and had a lot of reconnections.
- B. Dr. Kypuros is on a planning committee for American Indian access to healthcare workshop. This will be a collaboration of the UNLV, School of Dental Medicine and the University of California, School of Dental Medicine. They are seeking the best and brightest for dental or medical fields, health care, biomedical, study skill and test taking. There will be tours of the University Medical Center. They are looking for 25 students nationwide, all transportation will be covered. This event will be August 7-10, 2014.
- C. Sherry stated that the Stewart Father's Day Powwow will be held June 13-15, 2014, and may be incorporating a fun run the Saturday morning of the Powwow.
- D. Della had an Indian Education survey and interviewed 5 students a couple weeks ago. She was trying to interpret the information to have families understand the importance of early education.

XII. Adjournment

- A. Fredina Drye-Romero moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Christopher Kypuros. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 11:12am.