

Nevada Indian Commission
Education Advisory Committee for American Indian and Alaska Natives
September 8, 2014

Main Site: Western Nevada College, 2201 West College Parkway, Carson City, NV
Videoconference Sites: Fallon, NV; Owyhee, NV; Las Vegas, NV McDermitt, NV; Reno, NV

Present: Sherry L. Rupert, Executive Director, Nevada Indian Commission; Denise M. Becker, Administrative Assistant, Nevada Indian Commission; Lynn John, Chairwoman, Indian Education Advisory Committee; Fredina Drye-Romero, Education Programs Professional – Indian Education, Nevada Department of Education; Deena M. O’Daye, Workforce Specialist, Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada; Lori Pasqua, Pre-College Advisor, Washoe Tribe of Nevada & California; Cheryl Nelson, Equity and Diversity Program, Clark County School District; Della Frank, Equity and Diversity Program, Clark County School District; Patrick Naranjo, University of Las Vegas, Assistant to Ombudsman and Assistant to Vice President Diversity Initiatives, UNLV; San San Tin, Reno Sparks Indian Colony, Education Department Manager; Laura Watters, Moapa Band of Paiutes; Jennifer Zarco, Student Success Specialist, Truckee Meadows Community College.

I. Invocation

- A. Della Frank gave the invocation. The meeting was then called to order at 9:50 a.m. by Lynn John.

II. Welcome and Introductions

- A. Sherry thanked everyone for attending.

III. Initial Public Comment

- A. There was no initial public comment.

IV. Approval of May 5, 2014, Meeting Minutes

- A. The May 5, 2014 Meeting Minutes were tabled until the next meeting.

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

- A. One Appointment of Representative Form was submitted for approval at this meeting: Lance West, Principal for McDermitt Combined School. San San made a motion to approve Lance’s appointment and Fredina seconded. Motion carried.
- B. This form will move forward to the Nevada Indian Commission for final approval.

- VI. Review and Discussion on Nevada American Indian and Alaska Native Education and Strategic Plan
- A. Sherry advised everyone that the Strategic Plan was a five year plan and the plan is now in its fifth year. She suggested that a working group be established. Lori asked if any volunteers wanted to head the subcommittee and Patrick, Fredina, Deena, Laura, Lori and Della consented.
 - B. Fredina made a motion to create the subcommittee and Laura seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion carried.
- VII. Committee Member Comments and Announcements
- A. Sherry mentioned the Nevada Indian Commission will hold its American Indian Achievement Awards Banquet and Silent Auction on November 15, 2014 at the Governor's Mansion in Carson City. The Commission awards in four categories: American Indian Community Leader of the Year, American Indian Youth Services Role Model of the Year, American Indian Youth Ambassador of the Year and the Contributor/Supporter of the Year.
- VIII. Indian Education Updates
- A. Nevada Department of Education – Fredina Drye-Romero, Education Programs Professional-Indian Education
 - 1. Fredina reported that the Nevada Department of Education's (NDE) Lesson Plan Writing Retreat showcasing the *History and Contemporary Lifestyles of the Northern Paiute, Southern Paiute, Washoe and Western Shoshone* Curriculum Guide was held at Pyramid Lake High School from July 16 – July 18, 2014, and was a success. Educators and others were taught the history, culture, and current events of the Great Basin Native American Indians. Those that attended gained tribal perspective on the history and contemporary lifestyles of the tribes in Nevada.
 - 1a. Sherry commented that the NDE's Curriculum Guide was not picked up by the Governor's office as there are several initiatives going into the budget. The NIC will continue to work with and support the NDE in the endeavor to move this guide forward.
 - 2. The American Indian Alaska Native Education Summit Committee is under way now. The Summit will be held at the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR) from March 16-17, 2015, with a mobile workshop on March 15th at Lake Tahoe.
 - 3. The NDE is hosting a Higher Education Workshop on October 21, 2014 at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV). The dates for the same workshop at UNR are pending.
 - 4. The National Indian Education Association (NIEA) Convention will be held in Alaska from October 15-18, 2014. Fredina said that if any of the committee members had the desire to go, to please try and attend this year.

- B. Tribal Education Programs – San San Tin, Reno-Sparks Indian Colony, Education Department Manager
1. San San reported that there are 52 students signed up for Head Start at the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony (RSIC), and that there is a waiting list of five children.
 2. The RSIC is assisting students by providing the necessary school supplies – 300 are children, 38 are higher education students, and 12 are vocational students.
 3. San San mentioned that October 1, 2014 will be “Walk Your Child to School Day” and on Nevada Day (November 1, 2014) at 1:00pm there will be a Native Pride march.
- C. County School District Programs – Cheryl Nelson and Della Frank, Clark County School District, Equity and Diversity Program
1. Cheryl mentioned that on September 23, 2014, there will be college workshops that Patrick Naranjo from UNLV will be hosting.
 2. Della said that for their backpack distribution program in May, 36 backpacks were delivered. In June, representatives from Nellis Air Force Base came by and 30 students participated in the science program.
- D. Universities & Community Colleges - Mary Williams, Western Nevada College (WNC), Fallon; Jennifer Zarco, Truckee Meadows Community College (TMCC), Patrick Naranjo, UNLV
1. Mary stated that there are 28 students in the Higher Ed program and she is getting ready for the spring semester. Students from the Yerington Paiute Tribe and the Walker River Paiute Tribe attend WNC, Fallon. Mary suggested that the group plan a Career Day with Native professionals for the students. Please advise Mary or Sherry if there is any interest in planning this Career Day.
 2. Jennifer is in charge of Student Outreach at TMCC. She is planning a workshop asking students, “Where do you want to go upon graduation?” This workshop will take place on November 20, 2014 from 11:30am – 1:00pm in the Red Mountain Building, Room 256.
 3. Patrick stated that UNLV’s 2014 fall enrollment listed 594 American Indian/Alaska Native students and 522 students identified themselves as multi-race. Patrick also stated that his office is hosting an exhibition depicting the history of indigenous cultures in Southern Nevada. The Braunstein Gallery at UNLV is displaying basketry and pottery of the Southern Paiute and Western Shoshone from October 2014 – May 2015. Patrick also said that his office is sponsoring a table at the NIEA convention.
- E. Other Indian Education Programs – Deena O’Daye, Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada (ITCN)
1. Deena reported on the youth conference that was held in August. There were cultural workshops identifying what the different clans meant, for example, what is the significance of water? People from Las Vegas and McDermitt learned different cultural

dances. She added that the ITCN will have a summer conference as well. Like Patrick, Deena said the ITCN will be sponsoring a table at the NIEA convention in Alaska.

IX. Agenda Items for Next Meeting

- A. Discussion of a possible Career Day for Native peoples in a profession.
- B. Strategic Plan Revision Review

X. Scheduling and Location of Next Indian Education Advisory Committee

- A. There was a request to hold a strategic planning meeting and report the information to the September meeting.

XI. Final Public Comment

- A. Della mentioned that the Clark County School District is holding a contest to encourage high school students to produce videos.
- B. The NIC will be having three bills introduced for the Nevada Legislative Session.
- C. Lori asked for a time of silence in observance of Commissioner William Oliver's recent passing. She stated that Mr. Oliver was a kind, funny man.
- D. Fredina asked the group how they plan to celebrate "Rock Your Mocs" Day on November 15th.

XII. Adjournment

- A. Patrick made a motion to end the meeting at 10:46am and Laura seconded the motion. Motion carried.