

Nevada Indian Commission  
Education Advisory Committee for American Indian and Alaska Natives  
January 5, 2015

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, Principal of Owyhee Combined School and Chair, of the Indian Education Advisory Committee; Fredina Drye-Romero, Education Programs Professional – Indian Education, Nevada Department of Education; Lori Pasqua, Pre-College Advisor, Washoe Tribe of Nevada & California; Cheryl Nelson, Equity and Diversity Program, Clark County School District; Della Frank, Project Facilitator, Equity and Diversity Program, Clark County School District; Patrick Naranjo, Assistant to the Ombudsman and Assistant to the Vice President of Diversity Initiatives, University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV); Leonardo Benavides, Coordinator of Diversity Initiatives, College of Southern Nevada (CSN); Rob Borges, Education Coordinator, Washoe Tribe; Mary Williams, Education Director, Fallon Paiute Shoshone Tribe; Sue Chambers, Churchill County School District; Jillian Fillmore, Indian Education Specialist, Washoe County School District; Deena M. O’Daye, Workforce Specialist, Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada (ITCN).

- I. Invocation
  - A. Fredina Drye-Romero gave the invocation. The meeting was then called to order at 9:50 a.m. by Lynn John.
  
- II. Welcome and Introductions
  - A. Lynn asked everyone to introduce themselves.
  
- 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 September 8, 2014 Meeting Minutes
  - A. The September 8, 2014 Meeting Minutes were tabled until the next meeting.
  
- VI. Approval of Appointment of Representative Forms to the Education Advisory Committee for American Indians and Alaska Natives
  - A. Two Appointment of Representative Forms were submitted for approval at this meeting: Patrick Naranjo of UNLV and Deena O’Daye from the ITCN. Sherry stated that she will request a letter of resignation from Starla Serawop, so the Committee can move forward with adding Deena. Lori made a motion to approve Patrick’s appointment as well as Deena’s pending Ms. Serawop’s resignation, and Fredina seconded. Motion carried.
  
  - B. These forms will move forward to the Nevada Indian Commission for final approval.
  
- VII. Discussion on the Potential for an American Indian Alaska Native Student Career Day
  - A. Mary Williams, the Education Director for the Fallon Paiute Shoshone Tribe wants to set up a Career Day to bring in local Native professionals to show students possibilities they may not have thought of

yet. Lori said she would be willing to help set the Career Day up, but needs direction on how to proceed with the planning. Sherry asked if students from the entire state of Nevada would be invited. Lori suggested that there be separate Career Days to accommodate all three areas of Nevada: southern, northern and eastern. Mary asked for assistance from the Nevada Indian Commission and Sherry stated that a subcommittee should be started so that members of the Committee could work on it. Lynn designated Mary to be the lead of the subcommittee. Lori commented that she is interested in being involved, in addition to Fredina. Lynn said that she would ask Shannon Thomas, counselor for Owyhee Combined Schools, to see if she would be interested in the subcommittee as well.

#### VIII. Committee Member Comments and Announcements

- A. Sherry commented that her 13-year old son John will be providing the invocation at Governor Sandoval's inaugural ceremony this morning. The Governor is a strong proponent for education and he wanted the youth to conduct his entire inauguration ceremony.
- B. Lori mentioned that she received a packet on the Affordable Care Act and that she doesn't know where it came from. She found it to be helpful so that she could guide her Native youth and access services. Sherry asked Lori to forward it out to the list serve so that the committee could view the packet as well.

#### IX. Indian Education Updates

- A. Nevada Department of Education – Fredina Drye-Romero, Education Programs Professional for Indian Education
  - 1. In October 2014, there was a large group that attended the National Indian Education Association (NIEA) convention in Anchorage, Alaska. Fredina's colleagues from Moapa and UNLV gave a presentation on the Language Symposium. At the ITCN meeting in December, Fredina's colleagues from the Department of Education did a workshop on Nevada Ready/Parent Involvement and to integrate it into the Department's parent handbook. She is working on the Indian Education Summit, March 15-17. There will be a mobile workshop on March 15th and Ben Rupert will be the guide. Sherry is working on the agenda for the mobile workshop. The Summit registration site is available, but the registration for the mobile workshop is separate. Any questions, please call Fredina. She is currently working on getting information out to the districts and education departments of the tribes. She is excited to be working with West Ed Comprehensive Center, UNR and the NIC.
  - 2. There will be a Language & History Symposium at UNLV on January 24, 2015.
- B. Tribal Education Programs
  - 1. Rob Borges, Education Coordinator, Washoe Tribe reported that in November 2014, the Washoe Tribe had their first annual Native Youth Conference with 59 students in attendance. There was a 4.2 out of 5 approval rating for that day's programming. In their Perfect Attendance program, there were 44 students that had perfect attendance for the fall semester. Two students that had attended the conference wrote about their experiences and their reports were published in the newsletter.
  - 2. Mary Williams, Fallon Paiute Shoshone Tribe reported that there are 29 students enrolled in their Higher Ed spring semester. As an incentive, gift cards were given to students on the honor roll. The grant season is here and they are working on completing grants.

### C. County School District Programs

1. Jillian Fillmore, Indian Education Specialist, Washoe County School District reported that she is getting settled in from the move from Reed High School. The Indian Education Programs are now being run out of the Administration building at Washoe County. She was present at the NIEA Convention in Alaska and is now on the Summit Planning Committee.
2. Sue Chambers, Churchill County School District stated that they are currently reviewing the county's bylaws. They want to present to teachers and engage them in the cultural competency program and have them include the program in their professional development plans. They are working on drop-out prevention and the school district has found that positive reinforcement works for their middle school students. They recently honored 8-9 students by going ice skating. She stated that it will be interesting to see what the effects are of kids trying to obtain their drivers licenses and how they coincide with the new attendance rules at school.
3. Cheryl Nelson, Clark County School District reported that they have held two "Planning for Your Future" workshops. Representatives from the Air Force Academy came out to discuss ways to attend the Academy. They had a financial counselor come out and do a seminar for the parents. They will be having a PSAT workshop for the students. They are looking into setting up college visits for their students.
4. Della Frank, Clark County School District stated that during November's Native American Heritage Month, 8 students from Moapa visited several schools and danced for the students there. She commented on the "Youth Spending Frenzy" and stated that they are working on setting up booths at one of the elementary schools to teach kids about financial literacy. She also mentioned that she along with three teachers, a sub and a teacher's aide are currently tutoring 26 students in Moapa. Della commented that a Step-up Program is being administered for 11 high school students in Moapa and that there were 531 student/parent contacts between August and November of 2014. She also reported that two parents and two teachers will be presenting information to the parent committee on what they learned in Alaska when they attended the National Indian Education Association (NIEA) Convention.

Lori asked Della and Cheryl when the student workshops are taking place. Cheryl responded that they are being offered on Saturdays as well as some Wednesdays (four hours, once per month).

Della added that a community meeting was held in November at the Las Vegas Paiute Tribe where all of the superintendents came out and listened to the concerns of the families and community members.

Lynn complimented the work of Cheryl and Della, stating that she appreciates their district-wide reports on such a wide area geographically and that it must be very challenging. It is impressive that they know not only the needs of the students, but their names and faces, too.

5. Lori Pasqua, Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California reported that she is working mostly with higher education now as opposed to working directly with the school districts. She stated that the tribe has come up with a new form that the advisors present as a pre-college assessment and when it has been completed, it gets sent over to Lori. Lori then goes to the schools and assists the students one-on-one. She helps the students apply for college and scholarships. Lori mentioned that she is planning a college fair in August 2015.
6. Lynn John, Elko County School District said that although she is not exactly a district representative, she does participate on the Title VII Committee for the district which is made

up of people from Owyhee and Elko. She is the onsite administrator for Owyhee Combined School and there are 100 high school students, 50 in middle and 150 elementary school students from both Nevada and Idaho. Of those students, fewer than 10 are non-Native. Lynn said that each day the Pledge of Allegiance is recited followed by 30 seconds of silence plus the daily playing of the Flag Song. She wants to make sure that both their nation and also their culture are represented. She commented that they work with their local Johnson O'Malley (JOM) Committee, which is a federally-funded program that provides supplemental education programs for Native students. This particular JOM committee provides shoes, flash drives and gift cards to the middle and high school students. Lynn also said that either a Shoshone or Paiute speaker will come to speak to both the elementary and high school students to reintroduce the language into the schools. Lynn stated that she met with Fredina and Johanna Jones, Coordinator of the Idaho Office of Indian Education and that they discussed preparations for college and career readiness.

#### D. Universities & Community Colleges

1. Patrick Naranjo, University of Las Vegas, Assistant to Ombudsman and Assistant to Vice President Diversity Initiatives, UNLV stated that he had attended the NIEA Convention in Alaska and was able to introduce himself and his role at the University. He reported that he will be working with UNLV to implement the greater goals of the NIEA to develop at UNLV. In November, there was a retreat at the Office of Diversity Initiatives in which he was able to speak to the staff and discuss his efforts and ways to bring more Indian education programs to the University. Patrick mentioned that his supervisor, Luis Valera will be following up with members of the NIEA and the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI). January 24, 2015, UNLV will be hosting the Nevada Department of Education's Language Symposium and will be sponsoring coffee breaks at the Nevada American Indian Alaska Native Education Summit in March 2015 and UNLV will be hosting a Youth Summit in April 2015 (more details to come as the event gets closer). Patrick mentioned that he was contacted by two elementary school teachers requesting that a cultural presentation be given. He is asking for anyone in Clark County that may be interested in providing information on the Southern Paiute indigenous cultures, to please contact him. Patrick also stated that he will be contacting Fredina and will coordinate more resources for the Summit in March.
2. Leonardo Benavides, Coordinator of Diversity Initiatives introduced himself by saying that prior to working at CSN, he worked in Community Relations at Senator Dean Heller's office within the Native American community. At CSN, he works mostly with the faculty, committees as well as planning events. Leonardo works closely with Dr. Sondra Cosgrove and the All Nations Native Organization (ANNO), which is CSN's Native student organization. They were instrumental in planning several events in honor of Native American Heritage Month in November. He also mentioned the President's Forum in which Native students discuss life at CSN with the President of the College in attendance. He commented that along with UNLV and the Clark County School District, CSN will be coordinating the Youth Summit in April.

Lori asked Leonardo if the Youth Summit will be open to other students in the state or only the southern part of Nevada. Leonardo said that planning is still in the early stages and that he doesn't know for sure, but that all students should be welcome. He will find out and inform the Committee as the event gets closer.

3. Cheryl stated that the Clark County School District and CSN will be organizing a conference for minority youth and that all students around the state will be invited.

Lori told Cheryl to please inform the NIC of any updates on conferences because she knows that the Washoe Tribe is interested in sending their students to them.

E. Other Indian Education Programs

1. Deena O'Daye, Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada stated that there isn't much to report on, but that in the summer there will be many opportunities for youth to be able to work within the tribes. She has contacted Owyhee, Elko, and Moapa to see if they have any students that want to work this summer.
2. Cheryl commented that in collaboration with the Guidance Department, the Clark County School District will be having the College Ready Education Workshop (CREW) in March 2015 and will have breakout sessions for minority students and their parents.
3. Lynn commented that while Barrick Gold does mining on their tribal lands, they also financially support the Owyhee Combined School. They recently sponsored new streetlights in front of the school; they sponsor busses and hopefully will sponsor the school's trip to Carson City for the Nevada Tribes Day at the Legislature.

X. Agenda Items for Next Meeting

- A. Denise M. Becker reported that the meeting minutes for May 5, 2014 and September 8, 2014 will need to be approved at the next meeting.
- B. Lori stated that the Committee needs to give an update on the NIEA subcommittee.
- C. Lynn said that an update on the long range plan subcommittee is needed as well. It will be great to revisit what the goals were then and how close the Committee is now in reaching those goals or whether the Committee has diverted.
- D. Fredina commented that there should be a Strategic Plan which shows benchmarks to specific initiatives and goals. Fredina stated the Department of Education is collaborating with the NIC on the Strategic Plan and she will send it out per Della's request.
- E. Lori suggested that at the next meeting, the Committee answers the question, "What is the Strategic Plan?" and what does it consist of?

XI. Scheduling and Location of Next Indian Education Advisory Committee

- A. March 2, 2015 is the date of the Committee's next meeting and the locations are satisfactory.
- B. Patrick inquired as to whether the meeting could be hosted out at UNLV instead of the CSN campus. Denise responded that she will find out and have an answer for him at the next meeting.

XII. Final Public Comment

- A. Sherry mentioned that February 10, 2015 is Nevada Tribes Day at the Legislature and is encouraging members of the Committee to bring students with them to the Legislative session that day. She feels that it is important for students and adults to learn about the legislative process and for them to know that they are welcome there.
- B. Sherry also stated that on January 15, 2015 the NIC is planning a Tribal Legislative Forum at the Commission which will have speakers talk with Nevada's tribal leaders. John Ocegueda, former speaker at the legislature, Lucy Flores, a recent candidate for Lieutenant Governor, and another former legislator, Ernie Adler. Sherry feels that it is important for the tribal leaders to learn about the legislative process and how the laws will affect them. She mentioned the three pieces of legislation that the NIC is supporting and she will forward the details out to the list serve when she is able.
- C. Fredina commented that this year's NIEA Convention will be held in Portland, OR beginning October 14, 2015. She is also on the planning committee for that event.

XIII. Adjournment

- A. Lori made a motion to end the meeting and Fredina seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- B. The meeting adjourned at 11:07am