

Nevada Indian Commission
Education Advisory Committee for American Indian and Alaska Natives
March 2, 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; Lori Pasqua, Pre-College Advisor, Washoe Tribe of Nevada & California; Fredina Drye-Romero, Education Programs Professional – Indian Education, Nevada Department of Education; Rob Borges, Education Coordinator, Washoe Tribe; Mary Williams, Education Director, Fallon Paiute Shoshone Tribe; Jennifer Zarco, Outreach and Recruitment, Truckee Meadows Community College (TMCC); Jonathan Lowery, Indian Education Advisor, Nevada Urban Indians; Christopher Hicks, National Science Foundation, University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV).

- I. Invocation
 - A. The meeting was called to order at 9:37am. The invocation was given by Fredina Drye-Romero.
- II. Welcome and Introductions
 - A. Vice-Chairwoman, Lori Pasqua 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. Fredina made a motion to approve the May 5, 2014 Meeting Minutes, seconded by Mary Williams. Motion carried.
- V. Approval of September 8, 2014 Meeting Minutes
 - A. There were the following minor corrections to the May 5, 2014 minutes:
 1. Item VIII, sections 1 and 3, revise the Nevada Department of Education’s acronym to read NDE instead of DOE.
 2. Item VIII, section 1a. Remove “Fredina’s Western Shoshone” and change to Nevada Department of Education (NDE).
 - B. Fredina made a motion to approve the September 8, 2014 Meeting Minutes with the noted corrections, seconded by Mary. Motion carried.
- VI. Approval of January 5, 2015 Meeting Minutes
 - A. Mary made a motion to approve the January 5, 2015 Meeting Minutes, seconded by Fredina. Motion carried.
- VII. Approval of Appointment of Representative Forms to the Education Advisory Committee for American Indians and Alaska Natives
 - A. Sherry reported that she had not received any Appointment of Representative Forms for the Committee’s approval.

- VIII. Update on the Nevada American Indian Alaska Native Education Summit
- A. Fredina reported that approximately 150-160 people have registered for the Education Summit so far. She is happy to have extraordinary presenters. Mr. Runninghorse Livingston will be the Key Note with his presentation titled, "Redefining Self-Determination through Teaching and Learning." He will also be giving a workshop titled, "Teachitvity Techniques for Engagement during Math." Tanaya Winder will be presenting during the luncheon on the first day. She is the Director of Upward Bound at the University of Colorado, Boulder and is an amazing motivational speaker. In addition to these speakers, Ahniwake Rose, the Executive Director for the National Indian Education Association (NIEA) will be presenting on day two.
 - B. Fredina reported that the NIEA will be having their convention October 13-17, 2015 in Portland, OR and she is hopeful that some Committee members will be able to attend.
 - C. Fredina said that she is serving on the NIEA planning committee for the 2015 Convention to be held in Portland, October 14-17, 2015. The 2016 Convention will be held on October 4-8, 2016, in Reno.
 - D. A representative from The American Indian College Fund will be having a workshop at the Summit titled, "Developing Your Vision While Attending College." The workshop will introduce a series of four handbooks that assist students through the process of deciding to go to college as well as learning about money management and financial aid.
 - E. Fredina stated that a full agenda for the Summit will be made available online as soon as possible.
- IX. Scheduling of Nevada Indian Education Strategic Plan Revision Meeting
- A. Sherry reported that there is a group that will be meeting to work on the Strategic Plan for this Committee. Sherry will send out a tentative date to Fredina and Lori. It will either be April 7 or April 8, or April 23 or April 24, 2015. Fredina and Lori will check their schedules and respond with the best date.
- X. Committee Member Comments and Announcements
- A. Sherry thanked the members of the group that came to the Legislative Tribes Day on February 11, 2015. She estimates that over 200 people and approximately two dozen legislators attended the event throughout the day.
 - B. Sherry reported on the Stewart Indian School Living Legacy Initiative budget hearing. The legislators are giving positive feedback and sharing their own experiences with Stewart and what it means to them. Prior to the Governor's State of the State address, Stewart had only 900 'likes' on Facebook and now there are over 1,000.
 - C. Sherry stated that Senate Bill (SB) 63 will create a gift fund for the Nevada Indian Commission (NIC) and designate the NIC as the coordinating agency for the Stewart Indian School campus. Currently, the NIC, State Public Works Division (SPWD), Buildings and Grounds (B&G), State Lands, and the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) all have some authority at the school, but not all entities communicate on what projects will be worked on. It would be beneficial to have one agency coordinate activities at Stewart and be certain that all guidelines are followed. On Friday, February 27, 2015, SB 63 passed the Assembly and will now advance to the Senate.
 - D. On March 2, 2015, Assembly Bill (AB) 15 will be heard. This bill originates from the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. They propose to sell two parcels of land at Clear Creek and proceeds from the sale would be placed in a separate fund for the benefit of the Stewart Indian School. An advisory committee consisting of State Lands, SPWD, NIC, and B&G would decide which projects would be approved.
 - E. Sherry reported that the NIC assisted Fredina in coordinating the mobile workshop that will take place on Sunday, March 15, 2015, and that Ben Rupert will be the tour guide as the motor coach travels around Lake Tahoe. Fredina stated that anybody can sign up on the Summit registration website and

- pay the separate fee. Sherry asked the group to advise her of the final count by March 13, 2015 so she can notify the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony of the required number of lunches for all attendees.
- F. Sherry stated that the NIC is coordinating the 7th Annual Nevada Tribal Tourism Conference on April 28-30, 2015 to be held at the Nevada State Museum in Las Vegas, NV. In addition, the NIC has been working with the Las Vegas Paiute Tribe to plan a tourism-related mobile workshop during the Conference as well.
 - G. Lastly, Sherry commented that the NIC will be coordinating the Stewart Father's Day Powwow that will take place on June 19-21, 2015 at the Stewart Indian School in Carson City.

XI. Indian Education Updates

A. Nevada Department of Education (NDE)

1. In January, the NDE hosted the 2nd Language and History Symposium at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV). The event was in partnership with the Moapa Band of Paiutes and UNLV. Approximately 150 people attended the one-day event. Fredina said she is hopeful it will become an annual event as well as be presented in other parts of the state.
2. Fredina reported that the NDE has identified 25 schools as Focus Schools. The two schools that Fredina follows up on are Owyhee Elementary and Middle School and McDermitt Elementary School.

Sherry encouraged members of the Committee to go to the Legislature and testify for educational policies as well as any issues they feel strongly about. She said that the Governor's ideas on educational reform won't be easily accepted as people will not want to pay higher taxes. Sherry also mentioned that she spoke briefly with Steve Canavero of the NDE, regarding the Victory School Initiative. She will contact him again to discuss how to engage the tribal communities with this initiative and will report back to the Committee on her findings.

3. Fredina added that the deadline date for surveys on the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) Reauthorization did not expire as previously thought. She is encouraging participation in the surveys due to their importance and when the surveys are received, she can give the information to the tribes and the community. Fredina will send out more information on the ESEA's new deadline for surveys.
4. Christopher Hicks asked the IEAC committee for a "course of action" to better collaborate with the higher education institutions for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) partnerships within the Native American community. Lori asked if he could give a presentation at the May meeting. Sherry advised that Mr. Hicks' presentation last 10-15 minutes. He stated that he will coordinate his presentation with Denise for the next meeting.

B. Tribal Education Programs

1. Mary Williams, Fallon Paiute Shoshone Tribe, is sponsoring a free training for Fallon's community members on April 7-9, 2015. White Bison's Sons of Tradition program will address the young boys in the community. The curriculum will provide a character-building framework that will enable youth, ages 13-17, to create healthy identities for themselves as young Native men. Mary will send out the flyer with information to the list serve. The Reno-Sparks Indian Colony, Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe, Yerington Paiute Tribe, Walker River Paiute Tribe, Yomba Shoshone Tribe, and the Lovelock Paiute Tribe have all expressed interest in the program. Please contact Mary for more information.
2. Mary commented that she would like to set up a time to meet with other Committee members during the Indian Education Summit to discuss first steps for the Career Day she is planning and will send out a notice asking to meet for approximately 30 minutes. Mary shared her disappointment in the lack of members at today's meeting. She also mentioned that Chris Hicks is her nephew and she encouraged him to reach out to this Committee on how to incorporate STEM into tribal education programs. She feels that STEM will excite the children and get them

involved in science. Fredina commented that she is excited that Mary attended the Sons of Traditions workshop and brought it back to her community.

Mary said that she recently attended the National Dropout Prevention Forum in South Carolina and is training to be a Dropout Prevention Specialist. When she gets her certification she will be a resource to the Committee. Lori commented that she is glad to hear of Mary's plans to be a Dropout Prevention Specialist and Fredina said that she would share materials that were presented to the Equity Assistance Center last year on their Dropout Prevention and Early Warning systems. Mary responded that she is familiar with the Churchill County Warning system and will begin implementing all that she has learned.

2. Lori Pasqua, Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California reported that she is currently working under the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Scholarship. Lori shared that the Washoe Tribe's new Council Chairman, Neil Mortimer and the new Vice Chairwoman, Deirdre Jones are excited to be working with education programs. She commented that if the Committee needed speakers, the new council members would be happy to attend meetings and introduce themselves. Lori stated that she worked on the Higher Education Incentive Scholarships. Eleven applications were submitted and 6 were approved. The Incentive Scholarships are awarded by the tribal council for members with a 3.0 GPA or higher during the fall semester and the \$5,000.00 scholarship is divided among the students that apply. An education committee oversees the scholarships and it includes Stewart Community, Carson Community, Dresslerville and Off-Reservation. Lori shared that a member of the Woodfords Community is being sought to join this committee. Lori also mentioned that a College and Career Fair will be held in August and she invited Mary to attend to gain knowledge about how to set up a career fair. She also stated that there will be a youth conference in September.

Lori said that she has noticed that parents would like to attend trainings, but that the locations are often too far away. To remedy this, Lori is working on bringing trainings such as cultural monitoring and government-to-government negotiation classes to the community so the adults don't have far to travel.

C. County School District Programs

1. Rob Borges, Education Coordinator for the Washoe Tribe, reported that the tribe has recently received fund deferral letters from Alpine, Douglas, and Carson Counties for the Title VII grant. The Education Committee oversees the Johnson O'Malley (JOM) fund and meets regularly. They recently met in February 2015 and will meet again next Monday, March 9, 2015. Rob said that it's great having a committee to seek clarification and guidance from. After an incident with a child occurred, the Education Committee developed an Education Department Action Plan to prevent injuries from happening again. Rob stated he is also working on summer planning with the Cultural Department to expand the summer enrichment program to include guest speakers and more field trips to cultural sites. Rob said that several people will be attending the Indian Education Summit. Rob also mentioned that he is working on an "Opt-out" letter for parents that don't want their kids to participate in their services. He stated that he has attended both the Dresslerville and Stewart Community Council meetings to explain what his program offers to families. Rob has recently hired three new staff members in the past two months. One is at Carson High School, one at Seeliger Elementary School and one at CC Meneley Elementary School in Dresslerville. Lori commented that she and Rob have been working on brochures for their respective programs. This will include one for her scholarships and a brochure introducing staff to the families and community members. Rob also commented on a program that he found called "Birthright" – a collection of 100 poems from Native poets in Montana. He said that it coincides with work done by the Montana Office of Public Instruction to develop curriculum ideas around the Native-focused poems. He stated that on the website, it showcases the poets reading their own work. He commented on their wonderful work and is hopeful that this type of program can be implemented in the state of Nevada in the future.

D. Universities & Community Colleges

1. No updates were given at the meeting.

E. Other Indian Education Programs

1. Jonathan stated that he is developing his program and that he works under three different contracts, the JOM contract, Title VII Indian Education with the Washoe County School District, and the High School Graduation Initiative. In developing the parent committees, he often attends Parent Advisory Council (PAC) meetings. The JOM program committee just started recently and has elected a Chairman, Vice-Chairperson and Secretary. To prepare for his next JOM meeting in two weeks, Jonathan is working on the bylaws.

Nevada Urban Indians works alongside the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe and the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony and collaborates with them as much as possible. He commented that based on consent forms, he is working with 12-14 of the 21 schools allotted to the Nevada Urban Indians program. These include 10 middle schools, 7 high schools and 4 elementary schools. He works with counselors and the administration to try and promote his Indian Education program and although he has experienced some resistance from a few schools, he believes it is due to them not having much of a Native American population. Other schools are proactive, however, and welcome the services that he provides. Jonathan commented that tutoring is offered biweekly on Tuesdays from 5:00-7:00pm through the JOM program. Jonathan stated that he is trying to implement more culture into the schools because he feels this component is lacking. He shared that he is big in the powwow circle and encourages his students to participate in them and other events. Jonathan shared that when he meets with his students, it's usually for 25-40 minutes and he discusses academics, behavior, attendance and culture with them. Group size varies and can be as high as 9 students participating or as low as 2 students, depending on the school. He is sure to tell his students that he is local and grew up at Pyramid Lake so he is able to make connections and relate to them.

Sherry asked Jonathan if he was currently on the Committee's list serve and when he said no, Sherry said that Denise would add so he can receive communications from the Committee. She also said that when he becomes a member of the Committee, he will have the ability to send education-related communications out on the list serve to other members.

XII. Agenda Items for Next Meeting

- A. STEM presentation from Mr. Hicks
- B. Update on the Strategic Plan
- C. Any Appointment of Representative Forms
- D. Meeting minutes

XIII. Scheduling and Location of Next Indian Education Advisory Committee Meeting

- A. May 4, 2015 is the date of the Committee's next meeting and will be videoconferenced at the same sites. Christopher Hicks requested for Denise to identify the point of contact for setting up the Cheyenne campus meeting room. He said that the lights were off and that he had to turn the equipment on himself. Sherry stated that it is out of the NIC's control and that Denise can only e-mail the State's videoconferencing scheduler and inform them of the lack of set-up. Denise will find out whether the next meeting can be held at the UNLV campus instead of Cheyenne.
- B. Jonathan asked for confirmation that the next meeting will be from 9:30-11:30am and Sherry said yes. Sherry also informed Jonathan that there is videoconferencing to the UNR campus as well.

XIV. Final Public Comment

- A. Jonathan mentioned the Diabetes Powwow on March 7, 2015 at Wooster High School in Reno. It is a competition powwow and Grand Entry begins at 12 noon.
- B. Christopher Hicks thanked the Committee for having him at the meeting.

XV. Adjournment

- A. Fredina made a motion to end the meeting at 10:53 am and Mary seconded the motion. Motion carried.