

Nevada Indian Commission  
Education Advisory Committee for Native American & Alaska Natives  
January 11, 2016 Meeting Minutes

Main site: Western Nevada College, 2201 West College Parkway, Carson City, NV

Videoconference sites: Fallon, NV; Owyhee, NV; Las Vegas, NV; Reno, NV

Present: Sherry L. Rupert, Executive Director, Nevada Indian Commission; Chris Ann Gibbons, Program Officer, Nevada Indian Commission; Lori Pasqua, Pre-College Advisor, Washoe Tribe of Nevada & California; Lynn Manning-John, Vice-Principal, Owyhee Combined School, Rob Borges, Education Director, Washoe Tribe of Nevada & California; Fredina Drye-Romero, Education Programs Professional, Indian Education, Nevada Department of Education; Saundra Mitrovich, Outreach and Retention Coordinator, Center for Student Cultural Diversity; San San Tin, Education Director, Reno-Sparks Indian Colony; Fran Maldonado, Tribal Liaison, Department of Child & Family Services; Rita Imus, Native Workforce Specialist, Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada

- I. Invocation
  - A. The invocation was given by Sherry L. Rupert.
  
- II. Welcome and Introductions
  - A. Lynn Manning-John called the meeting to order at 9:35am and asked everyone to introduce themselves.
  
- III. Initial Public Comments
  - A. There were no initial public comments made at the meeting.
  
- IV. For Possible Action: Approval of September 21, 2015 Meeting Minutes
  - A. Lynn requested a correction under item X. Lynn said she is Vice-Principal of the Owyhee Combined School.
  - B. Lynn requested a correction under item XIII. The sentence should read “Lynn’s sister has gained a national audience of Native youth as one of her articles is featured in the publication, Indian Country Today.”
  - C. With the changes made, Lori Pasqua motioned to approve the September 21, 2015 meeting minutes, seconded by Fredina Drye-Romero. Motion carried.
  
- V. For Possible Action: Approval of November 9, 2015 Meeting Minutes
  - A. Lori Pasqua requested a correction under item IX. The sentence should read “Each participant received a card that certified them as a tribal monitor.”
  - B. With the change made, Lori Pasqua motioned to approve the November 9, 2015 meeting minutes, seconded by Rob Borges. Motion carried.
  
- VI. For Possible Action: Additional Discussion on Merging the Tribal Early Childhood Education Advisory Committee with the Indian Education Advisory Committee

- A. Sherry began by noting the Tribal Early Childhood Advisory Committee (TECAC) Chairperson Sherry Ely has returned to work at the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe, but in a different capacity. Sherry said that Sherry Ely no longer works in early childhood education and because of this, no longer feels comfortable being in a leadership role for the TECAC. Also Sherry said that Theresa Rowe, the TECAC Vice-Chairperson was not able to attend this meeting.
- B. Sherry said at the last TECAC meeting, the Committee voiced their concerns over the merger as they do not want TECAC to lose its identity and get lost in the larger picture of education. TECAC also would like to make sure that on a state level, they do not lose their place on the Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council if they are not their own committee. Sherry said she would talk to Patti Oya from the State Early Childhood Education Office about TECAC's role on the Advisory Council and report back to TECAC. Also, Sherry noted that attendance at TECAC meetings has dwindled and there is not enough participation to meet the minimum quorum to carry out business at a meeting.
- C. San San Tin said she is a member of TECAC and believes it is a good thing to merge the two committees. San San also noted she is also part of the State Advisory Council and the Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) is a grant program that helps to fund tribal child care centers. The CCDF has a tribal section and they hold periodic conference calls where early childhood education issues are discussed.
- D. Lynn said the issue of TECAC not losing their identity if part of this Committee would be remedied by making sure they have a standing agenda item at each meeting. Sherry agreed with Lynn as the TECAC would become a subcommittee of the Indian Education Advisory Committee and would work on specific issues, concerns, and projects regarding early childhood education.
- E. Lori asked if TECAC would still have their own by-laws. Sherry replied that information on the TECAC would be included in the Indian Education Advisory Committee by-laws.
- F. Lynn said she would be willing to attend the next TECAC meeting to discuss the merger.

VII. Update on Nevada Indian Education Strategic Plan Revision

- A. Sherry reported that due to the holidays, the strategic plan subcommittee has not had a chance to meet, but are three-quarters of the way through the plan and have two goals left to review; they are early childhood education and higher education.
- B. Lynn said they need to have representatives from those areas to discuss the goals. She suggested discussing it at an upcoming TECAC meeting and Saundra suggested sending out a doodle poll for the next subcommittee meeting and have it coincide with the TECAC meeting so that more people may be able to participate.

VIII. For Possible Action: Discussion on Planning for the 2016 National Indian Education Association (NIEA) Convention to be Held in Reno, NV

- A. Sherry said that she, Lynn, and Dina are on the Convention Planning Committee (CPC) for the 2016 NIEA Convention. The last CPC meeting was held via teleconference on January 7<sup>th</sup> and prior to that meeting, the CPC had gone over the Convention guidelines and sought volunteers for the 6 Convention subcommittees. Sherry said that Lynn is the Chair of the Volunteers Subcommittee, Dina is the Chair of the Powwow Committee and that she is the

- Chair of the Cultural Events/Activities Subcommittee. Sherry read a list of “possible” Committee members for the Nevada Committee for the Convention. The next CPC meeting is scheduled for February 4, 2016.
- B. Sherry said that NIEA’s fundraising goal is \$160,000 and they are still working on a theme for the Convention.
  - C. Sherry said she is excited that Nevada is this year’s host as it is a great opportunity to showcase our tribes and show what they are doing in regard to Indian education. It would also be great to nominate someone from Nevada to receive one of the awards given at the Convention.
  - D. Fredina reminded Sherry that NIEA needs a photo for the Convention save the date. Also, a call for artists for the Convention artwork will be sent out next month with a deadline in March for submissions.
  - E. Lynn said as the Chair of the volunteer subcommittee she is looking for volunteers, but noted that volunteers have to pay the registration fee if attending the Convention. Lynn noted that she is working on presenting information about the Convention at tribal council meetings in northeastern Nevada. Lynn said it would be great if Committee members could help by encouraging their Tribes to send large delegations to the Convention. Sandra added that she can initiate volunteer signups and can bus volunteers to and from the Convention. San San added that she will help get the Convention presentation on the RSIC Tribal Council agenda. Dina added that she has been the Convention Volunteer Subcommittee Chair before and will get the information that she gathered to Lynn. Lori suggested securing a certain number of volunteers from each Nevada tribe.
  - F. Sherry asked Lori if she would like to be on the NIEA Convention’s hospitality subcommittee. Lori replied yes, she would be interested in helping out.
  - G. Sherry discussed possible speaker gifts for the Convention with the Committee. She said it would be great to have items made by Nevada tribes. Fredina said she could donate 10 miniature tule ducks and suggested seeking donations from native artisans.
  - H. Suggestions for gifts for Convention attendees included pine nuts, miniature soap brushes, sage/cedar, medicine bags, small laminated cards with different languages, and Indian tea. It was also noted the attendee count is usually around 5,000 people and that youth groups could help put together the gifts.
  - I. Sherry said a date will be sent out for the Nevada Committee to meet and discuss the preparations for the Convention in further detail.

#### IX. Indian Education Updates

- A. Nevada Department of Education – Fredina Drye-Romero, Education Programs Professional – Indian Education
  - 1. Fredina announced the 8th Annual American Indian/Alaska Native Education Summit will be held on March 21-22, 2016 at the University of Nevada, Reno. The theme of this year’s event is *Student Potential: The Focus & Future of Indian Education* and keynote speakers will be Hattie Kauffman, Tarajeon Yazzie-Mintzand and Matika Wilbur. Also, Fredina noted that because of this year’s theme, students, as well as their parents and families, are encouraged to attend the Summit. In addition, NIEA will be

leading a World Café, the Washoe County School District will assist with workshops on family engagement and there will be a youth component.

2. The 2016 History and Language Symposium was very successful. Fredina said approximately 150 people attended the program which was held at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV). Also, the UNLV Native American Student Union hosted a social powwow which was the first time a powwow had been held on campus.
  3. Fredina said last week she participated in a cultural competency training module at Churchill County High School and got a good response from the teachers.
  4. Fredina noted the Higher Education Workshop at UNR went very well. Lori added there were good presenters and she learned a lot. Fredina thanked Sandra Mitrovich and Kari Emm for their help. Sandra added there are some teachers doing amazing things with amazing results. One example is Natchez Elementary School which received a 100% pass rate on their testing. Sandra said we need to highlight these teachers and that this is a good example for native students.
- B. Tribal Education Programs
1. Lori Pasqua from the Washoe Tribe reported the Tribe's Education Department is already getting ready for their summer programs which will include language and culture. Lori said as a Pre-College Advisor, she is working on planning trips for students to local colleges including Western Nevada College (WNC), UNR, Lake Tahoe Community College, Sierra Nevada College and Truckee Meadows Community College (TMCC). Also, on June 10th they will be hosting a native youth conference for students in their service area. The conference will be held at the Carson Valley Inn. Lori said that currently, she is working with 11 high school seniors and for the first time is working with 9<sup>th</sup> graders from Douglas High School. In addition, the Tribe had 25 adults apply for vocational scholarships and this year all 10 applications for higher education scholarships were funded.
  2. Lynn Manning-John from the Elko County School District reported they currently have 300 students at Owyhee Combined School which is 25 more than last year and they have 15 seniors. Also, basketball regionals will be held February 18-20 in Reno and Lynn encouraged the Committee to attend and support native teams. Also, the School is doing recruitment for certified teachers as right now they have some long term substitutes. Lynn said she will be going on a teacher recruiting trip to Kansas and Oregon to hopefully bring some recent graduates from Haskell and University of Oregon to come and teach in Owyhee. Lori asked if there is a housing allowance for teachers. Lynn replied that Elko County provides subsidized housing in an apartment complex and there is a \$10,000 teacher signing bonus.
  3. San San Tin from the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony reported their Head Start had a Federal review last week where 27 questions were asked. The Head Start is reviewed every 5 years, currently they have 52 children enrolled and many areas are reviewed, including programming, staff and fiscal. Also, the Tribe does incentives for good grades in k-12 and currently the Tribe has 48 students in higher education and 12 students enrolled in vocational. In addition, they are working with the Washoe County School District to plan their youth conference, working on their summer programs and are looking for someone to develop language and culture curriculum for the Tribe.

4. Fran Maldonado from the State Division of Child and Family Services reported that WNC offers a certificate in Early Childhood Education and wanted everyone to know that each semester two three-credit classes are offered in this area. In addition to teaching, Fran said she gives presentations on early childhood education and is a trainer for the Nevada Registry. San San said she needs another early childhood teacher in their Head Start. Fran said she could definitely help recruit a teacher.
- C. County and School District Programs –
1. There were no County and School District Programs represented at the meeting.
- D. Universities and Colleges
1. Saundra Mitrovich from the University of Nevada, Reno reported the Native American Student Organization is planning their Spring Powwow, the Powwow royalty pageant will be held April 16<sup>th</sup> and the Powwow will be held on the 17<sup>th</sup>. Also, Saundra said the Inte-Tribal Higher Education Initiative is moving from an initiative to a program and is looking for ambassadors to do outreach and help with retention and graduation. Also, Student Services is looking for names to give an honorary degree to a native person within the community, someone who has had a great impact on the community.
  2. Fredina said that Patrick Naranjo is preparing to leave UNLV. Sherry said she will follow-up with the UNLV President on the situation. Saundra asked if the Board of Regents have been contacted. Sherry replied no, but it is a good idea. Saundra gave Sherry the name of a Regent who may be able to help.
- E. Other Indian Education Programs
1. Rita Imus from the Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada said she would like to be added to the Indian Education e-mail distribution list and she has completed the Appointment of Representative Form. Rita said she is a Workforce Specialist and currently has 97 youth and 67 adult clients committed to the program for two years. Rita also noted they are looking for someone to work part-time in their Elko office.
- X. Committee Member Comments and Announcements
- A. Sherry said the Nevada Indian Commission now handles all scheduling for the Stewart Gym which includes state agencies, non-state organizations and tribes. Sherry also noted that tribal organizations and tribal individuals now fall under the Commission for insurance purposes.
  - B. Sherry reported the Commission is working on the Master Plan for the Stewart Facility and in addition, will be working on an interpretive plan, marketing plan and business plan.
  - C. Sherry wanted to let Committee members know the Tribal Ecological Knowledge Summit will be held March 1-3, 2016 in the Stewart Gym. The Summit will focus on incorporating Traditional Ecological Knowledge into the process that federal agencies will use in management of sagebrush ecosystems. Sherry also said Governor Sandoval has been invited to the Summit.
  - D. Sherry announced the 2016 Nevada Tribal Tourism Conference will be held April 26-28, 2016 in Ely, Nevada.

- E. Lori announced the Washoe Tribe's travel plaza will be opening in February and the Tribe is also working on adding a casino to the plaza.
  - F. Lynn reminded Committee members to update their Appointment of Representative Forms for the Committee and if anyone is unsure if their appointment has expired, please contact the Commission.
- XI. Agenda Items for Next Meeting
- A. Approval of January 11, 2016 meeting minutes.
  - B. Discussion on merging the Tribal Early Childhood Education Advisory Committee with the Indian Education Advisory Committee
  - C. Approval of Appointment of Representative Forms
- XII. For Possible Action: Scheduling and Location of Next Indian Education Advisory Committee Meeting
- A. The Committee added an additional meeting to the schedule. The next meeting was scheduled for February 22, 2016.
- XIII. Final Public Comments
- A. There were no final public comments made at the meeting.
- XIV. Adjournment
- A. Fredina Drye-Romero motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Lori Pasqua. Motion carried.
  - B. The meeting was adjourned by 11:26am.