

Nevada Department of Education

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May 27, 2015 Nevada Indian Commission Board Meeting Report

The Nevada Department of Education hosts a number of meetings across the state to focus on the academic achievement of American Indian/Alaska Native students. The following are various meetings that have been hosted over the years, which include the Annual American Indian/Alaska Native Education Summit; the Language & History Symposium; the Lesson Plan Writing Retreat; and the Higher Education Workshops. This report will specify all, except for the higher education workshop since planning has not occurred for this event.

In addition, to the meetings that are hosted across the state, the NDE works with various stakeholders that are included in the latter part of this report.

Language & History Symposium

The Nevada Department of Education hosted the 2nd Language & History Symposium and partnered with the Moapa Band of Paiute Tribe and the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, on January 24. The purpose of the Symposium is to create a forum where tribal communities can collaboratively engage with one another to identify strategies for specific outcomes; to discuss the history of tribes, specifically the indigenous tribes of Nevada; to gather resources that can be incorporated into respected tribal communities and to develop long term sustainable goals.

The content was focused on tribal communities and how they could use resources to develop their language programs on a budget. Also, how to develop interactive lessons using best practices in language acquisition. The presenters who provided the content were from the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony Language & Culture Department. We had a discussion around technology that provided examples of building social networking websites and mobile apps around digital storytelling and documentaries.

This year approximately 50 students registered and participated in activities that provided innovated ways to retain the tribal language. Also, the students talked to the adults and elders about what they thought of tribal language revitalization.

We hope this event will continue to be supported by the tribes in the area and also the university.

American Indian/Alaska Native Education Summit

Reno, NV – On March 16 and 17, 2015, the Nevada Department of Education (NDE) partnered with the Nevada Indian Commission, the University of Nevada, Reno's Center for Student Cultural Diversity, and the West Comprehensive Center, at WestEd, to host the 8th Annual American Indian/Alaska Native Education Summit (Indian Education Summit), at the University of Nevada, Reno's Joe Crowley Student Union. The University of Nevada, Las Vegas also supported the event, along with others on the planning committee, that include representatives from the Clark, Washoe, Humboldt and Elko County School Districts, the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California, and the Pyramid Lake High School.

This year's theme, *Transforming for the Future: Closing the Achievement Gap for American Indian Students*, allowed the 200 registered people to gather resources to work toward closing the achievement gap for American Indian students. National presenter RunningHorse Livingston, from the Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, teacher, trainer and coach for mathematics was the keynote during the Summit. Ms. Tanaya Winder, from the Duckwater Shoshone Tribe, Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe, and Southern Ute Tribe, a poet, performer and motivational speaker joined us for the day. On the second day, Ahniwake Rose, the Executive Director for the National Indian Education Association (NIEA) provided national Indian education updates, as well as other pertinent information that affects tribal communities nationwide. Ahniwake also spoke about the October 13-17, 2015 NIEA Convention in Portland, Oregon, as well as to the NIEA Convention coming to Reno, on October 4-8, 2016!

The Mobile Workshop that took place on Sunday was the kickoff to the Summit. Approximately 25 participants signed up to experience a unique tour of Lake Tahoe, Nevada, home to the indigenous tribes in the area. The workshop featured an American Indian guide that provided a tour and traditional art presentation and demonstrations. The Nevada Indian Commission assisted with the mobile workshop and did an outstanding job! Thank you.

One of the main attractions during the Indian Education Summit is the *Pesa Namanedu* Award ceremony, which has been presented since 2010 to honor individuals who have made significant contributions to Indian Education in Nevada, and is presented by the Nevada Department of Education during the Indian Education Summit. *Pesa Namanedu* means, "Something that has been done well," in the Northern Paiute language.

Next year the Summit will take place on March 21 & 22, 2016. Our hope is to continue the mobile workshop.

Lesson Plan Writing Retreat

The Lesson Plan Writing Retreat (LPWR) was started so that Nevada educators could come together and design lesson plans to enhance the *History and*

Contemporary Lifestyles of the Northern Paiute, Southern Paiute, Washoe and Western Shoshone Curriculum Guide (Curriculum Guide). During the LPWR, teachers are able to learn from tribal members about the rich perspectives to either learn or enhance their knowledge on the historical and contemporary lifestyle of the Great Basin Native American Indians.

This year the LPWR is scheduled throughout Nevada at the following locations:

July 6 & 7, tentatively scheduled for Elko, NV

July 16 & 17, scheduled at the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR)

July 29, 30 & 31, scheduled at the Lake Mead Visitor's Center and the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV)

National Indian Education Association

This year the NIEA Convention will take place in Portland on October 14-17, 2016. I am on the Convention Planning Committee for Portland, OR NIEA Convention. I also serve on the anticipated local planning committee for Nevada. We have been preparing our colleagues in Nevada for the convention in 2016 by providing emails and highlighting the event at the Education Summit for the past three years.

Future dates for the NIEA Convention:

Portland, Oregon, October 14-17, 2015

Reno, Nevada, October 5-8, 2016

Orlando, Florida, October 4-7, 2017

Hartford, Connecticut, 2018

Minneapolis, Minnesota, 2019 – an anniversary for NIEA

West Comprehensive Center Board

I am on the board for the West Comprehensive Center, comprised of department of educations in the following states: Nevada, Arizona and Utah. We will meet in Oklahoma on June 3-4, 2015 with other comprehensive centers throughout the regions. In October 2014, we met and narrowed down our goals to ensure student achievement for American Indian students.

Region IX Equity Assistance Center at WestEd Nevada Advisory Board

We are working with Region IX Equity Assistance Center to develop culturally appropriate environments for American Indian students by creating training modules. Module One: Introduction – High quality education about American Indian students; Module Two: Essential Understandings, Education for and about Indian people in Nevada; Module Three: Introduction Bennett's Developmental Model of Intercultural Sensitivity; Module Four: Effectively Teaching Students who are

Different from you; Module Five: Effectively Teaching All Students; Module Six: Culturally Appropriate and Relevant Materials about American Indians.

We are still in the working stages of gathering resources to finalize the training. We are excited to work with the Churchill County School District and a Washoe Tribal employee who has worked in the Douglas County School District for a number of years. The Equity Assistance Center has been extremely helpful in putting together researched based materials for this document.

Other

- The Nevada Department of Education comprised a team to attend the *Southwest Pathways Conference* in Scottsdale, Arizona, on May 28 & 29, 2015. Mrs. Sherry L. Rupert will also attend.