

Here is an overview of meeting and events that the Nevada Department of Education (NDE) Education Programs Professional (EPP) for Indian Education either provides, or is affiliated with.

Professional Development:

### **Language & History Symposium**

Las Vegas, NV – On January 9, 2016, the Nevada Department of Education (NDE) partnered with the Moapa Band of Paiute Tribe, the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV), to host the 3<sup>rd</sup> Language & History Symposium (L&HS), at the UNLV Student Union. The Clark County School District's (CCSD) Indian Education Program assisted with the youth portion of the program and CCSD parents volunteered. In addition, this year, the UNLV Native American Student Association (NASA) hosted a very successful social powwow, in conjunction with the L&HS.

*See attached article.*

### **9<sup>th</sup> Annual American Indian/Alaska Native Education Summit**

In 2016, the NDE is partnering with the Nevada Indian Commission, and the University of Nevada, Reno's Center for Student Cultural Diversity to host the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) Education Summit. In 2015, the West Comprehensive Center at WestEd provided technical assistance by developing ideas and outcomes for the participants, this year they will continue to assist the NDE with assessment/evaluation piece. The Summit is also supported by the planning committee that is comprised of representatives from the following school districts: Clark, Washoe, Humboldt, Elko, as well as from the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California, and the Pyramid Lake High School administrators; as well as supported by the UNLV.

This year the theme is *Student Potential: the Focus & Future of Indian Education*. This year. We will focus on our students from all perspectives, ranging from academic to social aspects. We will assess how these factors contribute to a student's success.

Our presenters have been chosen carefully to include individuals like Hattie Kauffman, who is the first American Indian reporter and anchor, and an author of an inspiration book. We have also chosen keynote presenter Matika Wilbur, an artist and social documentarian in Indian Country. In addition, we have invited the National Indian Education (NIEA) to provide a World Café session to not only prepare us for the NIEA Convention in 2016 in Reno, Nevada, but to also use the World Café as a way to continue promoting the Indian Education Advisory Committee's (IEAC) Strategic Plan. This is important since we the IEAC is updating the goals within the Strategic Plan. Although there will not be a Tribal Early Childhood Advisory Committee (TECAC) Track this

year, we felt it was very important to include elements of the TECAC and invited Dr. Tarajeau Yazzie-Mintz, the director of *Wakanyeja* “*Sacred Little Ones*” Early Childhood initiative for the American Indian College Fund to speak about its intentions to strengthen the early childhood development centers and improve children’s skill acquisitions, along with other areas of interest.

Currently there are over 270 people have registered, including approximately 25 high school students registered, and approximately 65 parents from the Washoe County School District. Those attending are school administrators, teachers, counselors, and tribal education departments, and other interested organizations.

Other interesting topics:

- Providing a Mobile Workshop to Pyramid Lake on Sunday, March 20. Tour Guide is Ben Rupert.
- Showcasing the Great Basin Artist art works at the Summit.

Meetings:

**State Education Agencies Indian Education Directors Meeting, March 2, 2016**  
West Comprehensive Center (WCC) Indian Education Advisory Board, Phoenix, AZ

The NDE and the WCC at WestEd work closely on several tasks, one being the Indian Education Advisory Board, which is made up of regional group State Education Agency (SEA) directors, Indian education leaders and advocates from Nevada, Arizona and Utah along with a representative from the National Congress of American Indians.

The purpose of the Board is to provide input and advisement to the WCC on Indian Education work in the region, to provide feedback to the Center as technical assistance provider for Indian Education to the SEAs served, and to prioritize the needs, both regionally and state specific, that inform Center work.

The WCC is one of three centers in a network that has been awarded funds to assist state departments of education in addressing the needs of Native American Indian students. In addition to our regional meetings, Advisory Board members attend meetings of this larger group both in person and through webinars. This has been a fruitful way to stay informed about trends in Indian education and to learn from the strategies and activities that other states engage in to improve American Indian/Alaska Native student achievement.

**Nevada Advisory Board, March 8, 2016**

The Region IX Equity Assistance Center (R9EAC) at WestEd Advisory Board is made up of educators from Nevada with extensive knowledge about the education and equity issues facing districts and schools across the state. The boards advice will assist the R9EAC with identifying and setting priorities regarding:

1. Strategies for maintaining an ongoing awareness and understanding of the priorities and needs in the state.
2. Services and activities that address educational equity needs in Nevada.
3. Continuous improvement of the work and services of the R9EAC.

Currently working six Cultural Competency Module for Indian Education.

### **National Indian Education Association (NIEA) Convention Planning, October 5-8, 2016**

The NDE is providing assistance to planning the NIEA Convention. I am the co-chair for the Powwow subcommittee and the Volunteer subcommittee, along with Lynn John.

Currently, we have met with the NIEA Convention Planning Committee (CPC) to provide updates to what the “Nevada Committee” has done so far, which is a lot. More updates to come 😊

### **Multicultural Education Standards Committee**

The Multicultural Education Standards Committee is affiliated with the Assembly Bill 234. We are working on to incorporate into the current social studies standards.

*The bill, is an act relating to education; requiring the State Board of Education to adopt a program of multicultural education for certain pupils; requiring certain license teachers to complete a course in multicultural education for renewal of their license; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.*

**Attachments:**

Synopsis of the Native Education: Title VI of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)

Language & History Symposium Article

**Other:**

Please see the White House Initiative on American Indian and Alaska Native Education  
School Environment Listening Session Final Report

<http://sites.ed.gov/whiaiane/files/2015/10/school-environment-listening-sessions-final-report.pdf>