

**NEVADA INDIAN COMMISSION
INDIAN EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES**

November 7, 2017- 9:30am
Via UberConference

Committee Member	Seat Filled	Present	Absent
Saundra Mitrovich	University of Nevada, Reno	x	
Fredina Drye-Romero	NV Department of Education	x	
Lori Pasqua	Washoe Tribe of NV & CA		x
Mary Williams	Yerington Paiute Tribe	x	
Patrick Naranjo	University of Nevada, Las Vegas	x	
Theresa Rowe	Washoe Tribe of NV & CA, Head Start		x
Della Frank	Clark County School District		x
Jonathan Lowery	Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada	x	
Miguel Martinez	Truckee Meadows Community College		x

NIC Staff Present: Sherry L. Rupert, Executive Director; Denise M. Becker, Administrative Assistant III

Others Present: Stephanie Wyatt, Development Specialist, Nevada Early Intervention Services; Felicia Siyuja, Education Director, Fallon Paiute Shoshone Tribe; Lynette R. Fisherman, Child Care Coordinator, Fallon Paiute Shoshone Tribe; Debrah Rocco, Social Worker, Moapa Band of Paiutes; Kari Emm, Transfer Coordinator, University of Nevada, Reno; Tina Warren, Title IX, Child Care Development Fund, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

I. Invocation

Ms. Drye-Romero provided the invocation.

II. Welcome and Introductions

Chairwoman Mitrovich called the meeting to order at 9:37am and asked all those present to introduce themselves.

III. Initial Public Comment

There were no initial public comments.

IV. Approval of May 2, 2017 Meeting Minutes

Mr. Naranjo made a motion to approve the May 2, 2017 Meeting Minutes and Ms. Drye-Romero seconded. The motion carried.

V. Approval of Education Advisory Committee for American Indian and Alaska Native Appointment of Representative Forms

Executive Director Rupert presented one Appointment of Representative Form for approval on the Education Advisory Committee. The approval request was for Chelsey Solemsaas, Education Director, Washoe County School District.

Ms. Drye-Romero made a motion to approve Ms. Solemsaas's Appointment of Representative Form and Ms. Williams seconded. The motion carried.

VI. Discussion and Review of Additional Recommended Revision to the Indian Education Advisory Committee (IEAC) By-laws

Ms. Rupert stated that although the recently revised By-laws were approved by the IEAC at the previous meeting, they have not been ratified by the Nevada Indian Commission Board. At the Nevada Indian Commission Board meeting on August 14, 2017, approval was denied due to numerous edits that the Board is requesting be made. Ms. Rupert recommends that a By-law revision subcommittee be formed to work on these corrections. Chairwoman Mitrovich, Mr. Naranjo, Ms. Emm, Mr. Lowery, and Ms. Drye-Romero are interested in volunteering on this subcommittee so that the revised By-laws can be presented to the Board at their February 2018 meeting.

VII. Report on Subcommittee Activity to Support Revision of University Tuition Requirements of Nevada Tribes

The subcommittee for the revision of university tuition requirements met on August 8, 2017 and Ms. Rupert provided a summary on the status of the project. In addition, she reported that during the months of June and August 2017, she had visited all of the Nevada tribes and inquired as to whether they would support the IEAC's initiative to reach out to the Nevada System of Higher Education about revising their policy. The Nevada Indian Commission received such positive responses that they will forward surveys to each tribal education director for their input. The subcommittee will meet again to gather all its data prior to moving forward with contacting the Board of Regents.

VIII. Indian Education Updates

A. Nevada Department of Education (NDE), Fredina Drye-Romero, Education Programs Professional, Indian Education

Ms. Fredina Drye-Romero reported that she has been working with the four school districts involved with ESSA and tribal consultation. Clark County School District held their ESSA tribal consultation in the spring with the Moapa Band of Paiutes and the Las Vegas Paiute Tribe. Also in the spring, the Washoe County School District held their tribal consultation with the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony Education Department, Nevada Urban Indian Center, as well as representatives from Natchez Elementary School. In June, she attended a meeting with State education directors and superintendents to discuss the tribal consultation process. In September, Ms. Drye-Romero met with the Elko County School District, Elko Band Council and South Fork Band as well as the Duck Valley Shoshone Paiute Tribe. Ms. Drye-Romero stated that although there was a meeting with the Fallon Paiute Shoshone Tribe and the Churchill County School District in October, she was unable to attend. A new meeting has been scheduled for November 30, 2017. In addition, Ms.

Drye-Romero is working on developing guidance documents to assist the tribes with ESSA and tribal consultation.

Ms. Drye-Romero reported on the Indian Education Plan that the NDE is working on. The Plan's goals are to support districts and schools in developing sustainable systems to promote high expectations for American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) students and to provide an effective regular two-way system with tribal communities and schools to determine funding, policy and instruction.

Ms. Drye-Romero also commented that the NDE is the recipient of the Native Youth Community Program (NYCP) Grant which provides funding opportunities for supporting projects that help AI/AN youth prepare for college and careers. The Fort McDermitt Paiute-Shoshone Tribe and the Yerington Paiute Tribe have been chosen as sub-grantees and will be provided a College and Career Coach who will be in the schools as well as a Community-Based Instructor who will work with the community.

Ms. Siyuja commented that she feels that the relationship between Churchill County School District and the Fallon Paiute Shoshone Tribe (FPST) is now strained due to Ms. Drye-Romero not being in attendance at the tribal consultation meeting with the District and the FPST. She feels that Ms. Drye-Romero's presence at the meeting is essential and wants to work on rebuilding the relationship.

B. Tribal Education Programs

Mary Williams, Education Director of the Yerington Paiute Tribe commented that the grant they received from the Department of Education is very exciting. She mentioned that there have been many activities going on for Native American Heritage Month. She also reported that she will be meeting with the Principal of Yerington High School to discuss the issues that have been going on there, in respect to the racial slurs that tribal students have been experiencing.

Felicia Siyuja, Education Director for the FPST stated that she has two staff currently and one more on the way. She monitors students' grades and offers after school programs with tutoring to assist with their academic struggles in math and reading. On November 18, 2017 there will be a Thanksgiving meal as well as a Christmas dinner and presents for the FPST youth. She commented that her doors are open on Monday evenings from 5:00 – 7:00pm to assist the youth with any questions they have.

C. Tribal Early Childhood Education Programs

Tina Warren, Region IX, Office of the Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) stated that there have been many changes within the CCDF. Ms. Rupert suggested that Ms. Warren give a presentation at the next meeting discussing her role.

D. County School District Programs

Ms. Rupert reported for Clark County School District and stated that John Williams, Teacher at Chaparral High School and Advisor to their Native American Student Organization, presented both she and Della Frank with Lifetime Achievement Awards during the school's Native American Heritage Month celebration.

E. Universities & Community Colleges

Kari Emm, Transfer Coordinator, University of Nevada, Reno (UNR), stated that UNR had 3,207 people in attendance at their recent College Fair, but that she didn't see much representation from tribal communities. She stated that attendance went up by about 500 attendees. Ms. Emm shared information on the *Nevada Promise* scholarship for students in community colleges transferring to the University. If they receive a scholarship from *Nevada Promise*, they get FAFSA, as well as tribal money. Any other expenses will be paid by the community college. Ms. Emm also stated that she is working on a publication for higher education administrators on the retention and recruitment of American Indian students and will be sharing with the group for input. Ms. Mitrovich added that if Committee members know of any students that will be transferring to higher education institutions, to please contact Ms. Emm for assistance in the process.

Chairwoman Mitrovich shared that students are interested in attending the tribal colleges at Fort Lewis, Haskell Indian Nations University, and Northwest Indian College. UNR was invited to attend Haskell's Graduate Fair recently and Ms. Mitrovich was happy to be able to visit with former Nevada students while there.

Chairwoman Mitrovich gave her report on UNR's Intertribal Higher Education Program and stated that she recently reviewed the Assessment of Graduate and Retention data report. She found that most students say that providing additional financial and academic support is what makes Native students' retention rates increase. In addition, the Intertribal Higher Education Program is in its second year of having internships. She feels that internships are important to assist the students as there are very few work-study programs on campus. She went on to say that the higher education program recently launched a project called the *Indigenous Research Institute for Student Empowerment* ("I RISE"), which is an orientation geared toward preparing Native students in giving oral presentations as well as participating in conferences. The students will have the opportunity to practice these skills at the annual American Indian Alaska Native Education Summit that will be held at UNR on March 22-23, 2018, during the youth portion of the Summit. The Intertribal Higher Education Program was also involved in implementing two *American Indian Science and Engineering Society* (AISES) chapters on both the UNR and the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) campuses.

Lastly, Ms. Mitrovich mentioned UNR's celebration of Native American Heritage Month and shared the various events scheduled for the month of November. Traditional arts workshops such as beading keychains and moccasins will be taught to students and the community, and the UNR athletics department will play two N7 basketball games. In addition, there will also be other special events to include storytelling, traditional dance and music at the Night of All Nations, and the Fall Powwow will wrap up the end of the month-long celebration.

F. Other Indian Education Programs

Jonathan Lowery reported that he is now the Native Workforce Development Manager at the Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada, and is no longer with Nevada Urban Indians. Ms. Rupert stated that Ms. Becker will forward Mr. Lowery a new Appointment of Representative Form since he has transitioned to another agency. Chairwoman Mitrovich mentioned that Jonathan's vision of bringing UNITY to the tribal youth will come to pass even though he is no longer employed by Nevada Urban Indians.

IX. Committee Member Comments and Announcements

Ms. Rupert commented that she participated in an NDE Science Bias Review Meeting October 10 -11, 2017 in Reno, NV. She feels that it is something the IEAC members should be a part of and that it was an “eye-opening” experience.

Ms. Rupert shared that the annual American Indian Achievement Award Banquet and Silent Auction will be held on Saturday, November 18, 2017 at the Governor’s Mansion. She announced the awardees as Fawn Douglas for American Indian Community Leader of the Year, Loni Romo for American Indian Youth Services Role Model of the Year, Quecholli Fortunate Eagle for American Indian Youth Ambassador of the Year, and Senator Julia Ratti for the Contributor/Supporter of the Year.

X. Agenda Items for Next Meeting

Suggestions for future agenda items include the approval of the November 7, 2017 Meeting Minutes; a report from the IEAC By-laws Subcommittee; a report from the In-State Tuition Subcommittee; and education program updates. Any other requests for agenda items should be forwarded to Sherry L. Rupert, Executive Director, Nevada Indian Commission.

XI. Scheduling and Location of Next Meeting

The next Indian Education Advisory Committee meeting will be Tuesday, January 2, 2018 from 9:30-12:00pm, and Committee members agree the UberConference format works well.

XII. Final Public Comment

There were no final public comments.

XIII. Adjournment

Ms. Romero motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Ms. Williams. The meeting adjourned at 11:43am.