

Nevada Indian Commission  
 September 26, 2016  
 Education Advisory Committee for Native American and Alaska Natives Meeting Minutes  
 Western Nevada College, Carson City, Nevada

Committee Member	Seat Filled	Present	Absent
Lynn John	Owyhee Combined School		✓
Lori Pasqua	Washoe Tribe of NV & CA	✓	
Fredina Drye-Romero	NV Department of Education		✓
Rob Borges	Douglas County School District		✓
San San Tin	Reno-Sparks Indian Colony		✓
Rhonda Knight	Washoe County School District	✓	
Patrick Naranjo	University of Nevada, Las Vegas		✓
Rita Imus	Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada		✓
Theresa Rowe	Washoe Tribe of NV & CA Head Start	✓	

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

Others Present: Warren Cartright, Nevada Urban Indians; Billie Rayford, Interim Chief Educational Opportunity Officer, Clark County School District; Tarina Elliott, Child Care Development Fund, Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada

- I. Invocation
  - A. Sherry Rupert gave the invocation.
  
- II. Welcome and Introductions
  - A. Lori called the meeting to order at 9:40am and asked everyone to introduce themselves.
  
- III. Initial Public Comment
  - A. There were no initial public comments made at the meeting.
  
- IV. Approval of May 9, 2016 Meeting Minutes
  - A. **Theresa made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of May 9, 2016 and Rhonda seconded. Motion carried.**
  
- V. Approval of Education Advisory Committee for American Indian and Alaska Native Appointment of Representative Forms
  - A. Sherry reported that she received a form from Mary Williams, Education Director for the Yerington Paiute Tribe; Sandra Mitrovich, Outreach and Retention Coordinator for the Inter-Tribal Higher Education Program at the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR) and Miguel Martinez, College Recruitment Coordinator of Underrepresented Populations at Truckee Meadows Community College (TMCC). **Rhonda made a motion to approve the submitted forms and Theresa seconded. Motion carried.**

- VI. Approval of Revisions to the Education Advisory Committee for American Indian and Alaska Native By-Laws to include Provisions to Address Early Childhood Education
- A. Sherry said that she was unable to get the group together this summer, but wants to set a date to work on it. The possible dates she has available are October 21, 24th, or 25<sup>th</sup>. Sherry confirmed that Stephanie Wyatt of the Department of Health and Human Services, Fredina Drye-Romero, Nevada Department of Education (NDE) and Theresa Rowe of the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California Head Start all volunteered their time to work on this project.
- Theresa commented that Friday, October 21, 2016 would work best for her schedule. Sherry said she would contact the aforementioned group members to see if that date works for them.
- VII. Update on Planning for the 2016 National Indian Education Association (NIEA) Convention to be held in Reno, NV
- A. Sherry reported that she and Committee members Lori, Lynn and Fredina are involved in the planning of this event. Sherry mentioned that she is in charge of all aspects of the Cultural Night Reception on Wednesday, October 5, 2016 and the Opening Ceremony on Thursday, October 6, 2016. Lori is working on the Elders Lounge, Lynn is working on coordinating volunteers, and Fredina is responsible for the Powwow. Sherry stated that during the Opening Ceremony, the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe (PLPT) Honor Guard will present the colors, Christina Thomas will be singing the Paiute Flag Song, the opening prayer will be given by Reynelda James of the PLPT, the opening remarks will be given by Nevada's tribal leaders to include, Chairman Melendez from the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony (RSIC), Chairman Hawley as President of the Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada (ITCN), and Chairman Mortimer from the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California. Sherry stated that there will also be a video welcome from Governor Brian Sandoval, as he is unable to attend. Sherry did say that she is having trouble finding a drum group for the opening ceremony and asked Committee members for referrals. Sherry mentioned that all is confirmed for Cultural Night. She said that there will be an introduction of the Nevada Committee and is asking for all involved in planning of the Convention to please be at the Grand Sierra on Wednesday at 6:00pm. That evening will showcase Red Hoop as the drum group, a prayer by Ralph Burns, welcome remarks by other tribal leaders in the area, such as Chairman Melendez, Chairman Mortimer, and Chairman Manning of the Duck Valley Shoshone-Paiute Tribe in Owyhee, and possibly Chairman Tom of the Moapa Band of Paiutes. Sherry also stated that there will be a "Notable Nevadans" poster exhibit which will feature 15 photos with commentaries that will be placed on easels around the room and the Great Basin Artists will have an exhibit as well. Ben Rupert has confirmed that he will set up the *galis dungal*, which is a life size replica of the winter Washoe shelter. Sherry announced that the Eagle Wing Dancers as well as a Shoshone dance group have been confirmed. Lori shared that the Elders Lounge will have demonstrations, showing the traditional arts and crafts that tribal elders do and that all are invited to attend. Sherry said they are also working with the Airport Authority to put out signs welcoming convention attendees to Nevada and then will have a "Thank You for Coming" sign. On Tuesday & Wednesday, brochures will be handed out to the

incoming attendees about the tribes in Nevada. Sherry asked for people to volunteer for the NIEA Nevada welcome committee and to e-mail her if they are interested. Sherry also mentioned the competition Powwow that will be held in the evening on Friday, October 7, 2016 and is open to the public.

## VIII. Indian Education Updates

### A. Tribal Education Programs

1. Theresa Rowe, Washoe Tribe Head Start, said she recently met with the NDE office of Early Learning Development about the Silver State Stars Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) program. The NDE currently has a childcare center model, a family childcare model and a school district Pre-Kindergarten model and are interested in developing a tribal model for the QRIS. The Washoe Head Start program is interested because the QRIS will be used in conjunction with the TEACH scholarship. Teachers at Head Start utilize the TEACH scholarship to help pay for their teaching degrees. Theresa said that the next meeting will be in December and she would like to make contact with tribal childcare centers about this program. Theresa shared that she can be reached by email at [theresa.rowe@washoetribe.us](mailto:theresa.rowe@washoetribe.us) and asked Committee members to send referrals her way. Sherry suggested that Theresa use the Nevada Indian Commission's Indian Education Advisory Committee (IEAC) listserve to send an email blast. Sherry asked Theresa to explain the QRIS program to the Committee. Theresa said there are varying levels of quality, from one star on up to five stars. Childcare centers apply to be evaluated and criteria such as health and safety factors, staff education, child ratio, and square footage for facilities are given a star rating. Training is offered to centers to increase their ratings. Please visit [www.nvsilverstatestars.org](http://www.nvsilverstatestars.org) for more information. Billie Rayford asked Theresa to explain the school district model in more detail. Theresa replied that it is designed for schools in Washoe County, but will hopefully go statewide. It is very specific about teacher credentials and the curriculum they use. Theresa said the actual model is on the NDE's website at [www.doe.nv.gov](http://www.doe.nv.gov).
2. Lori Pasqua, Washoe Tribe said that through the Washoe Tribe's Higher Education program, she and her staff took high school kids to colleges around the state, such as Sierra Nevada College, the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR), Truckee Meadows Community College (TMCC), Lake Tahoe Community College, and the career and technical school, Milan Institute of Reno. Lori shared about the Native Youth Conference that was held in the summer to help motivate the students to feel good about starting school. She is interested in having college speakers come out and talk to the students about their schools. Lori said that she and Constance Barnes will be presenting at the NIEA about what pre-college advisors do and how they help the students.

### C. Early Childhood Education Programs

1. Tarina Elliott, Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada (ITCN) reported that staff members from the Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) program have been meeting with the NDE so that ITCN child care facilities will be QRIS compliant. Under ITCN

there are 16 different tribes they are working with: the Elko Band, Confederated Tribes of Goshute, Te-Moak Tribe of Western Shoshone, Summit Lake Paiute Tribe, Fort McDermitt Paiute-Shoshone Tribe, Moapa Band of Paiutes, Battle Mountain Band, Lovelock Paiute Tribe, Yerington Paiute Tribe, South Fork Band, Stewart Colony, Carson Colony, Walker River Paiute Tribe, and the Wells Band. Tarina commented that providers are obtaining training from the Nevada Registry and that daycare programs of the Confederated Tribes of Goshute, the Elko Band, the Walker River Paiute Tribe and the Duckwater Shoshone Tribe are currently being monitored and will hopefully be rated up to standard. Sherry asked if Tarina will be joining the Committee so that Denise can send her an Appointment of Representative form, but Tarina said she was just filling in for Mike Tinsley, Administrator of the CCDF program. Her email address is [tarina@itcnccdf.com](mailto:tarina@itcnccdf.com) and she asked to be added to the IEAC listserve. Theresa asked Tarina if she could contact her about the work that the CCDF is doing for the tribes and Tarina agreed.

#### D. County School District Programs

1. Rhonda Knight, Washoe County School District - Rhonda is on the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Taskforce and has been meeting with Fredina Drye-Romero. She stated that her position is eighty percent Indian Education, twenty percent Equity and Diversity so she has been able to meet and work with counselors from some of the elementary, middle and high schools. She is happy to be able to get them familiar with the Title VI Indian Education program and find a way to track the accountability with the school district. Lori shared that she is excited that Rhonda is working with the counselors because when she worked for the school district, she learned a lot from them. Rhonda said it is so important that the counselors know who to call to give support to the Native American students in the schools. She said that Justin Zuniga goes out and talks to the students and helps with tutoring and being an overall advocate for the students in the schools. Lori offered that the Washoe Tribe uses the Johnson O'Malley (JOM) program funds for football uniforms, class uniforms, glasses, musical instruments or whatever extra they cannot get from Title VI.
2. Billie Rayford, Clark County School District - Billie shared that Della Frank and Diana Croci's positions are now specifically devoted to Indian Education. Della had been split between Equity and Diversity as well as Indian Education in the past, but is now fully committed to the Indian Education program. Billie said that two student success advocates have been hired for school year 2016/2017. Several activities have been planned such as the Back-to-School picnic in which school supplies were distributed to Native families. Billie shared that Tanaya Winder will be doing a professional development training with teachers and project facilitators. Sherry asked Billie about the Infinite Campus tab which tracks the activities students are involved in. She responded that all the necessary documents are kept within the Infinite Campus so that parents do not continually have to provide proof of ancestry. They are currently working on expanding the program to track the different questions from parents regarding Title VI and JOM grant as well. Sherry commented that she has the Infinite Campus app on her phone and she loves it because she is able to see

if her son has been tardy to a class or see how well he is doing in a particular subject. Billie also mentioned that all Clark County School District parents had to register for Infinite Campus electronically.

E. Universities and Community Colleges

1. On behalf of UNR's Kari Emm, Sherry mentioned the American Indian Higher Education Needs Assessments that are being distributed to prospective students to complete. The questionnaire asks about the student's interest in a tribal college in Nevada and where it should be located among other questions. This assessment is important to help decide whether to pursue efforts to bring a tribal college to Nevada. If Committee members have questions, contact Kari Emm at UNR for more information.

F. Other Indian Education Programs

1. Warren Cartright, Nevada Urban Indians - Warren mentioned that math tutors are needed for their JOM program. Rhonda and Tiffany at Washoe County schools will help pass out flyers for their tutoring program.

IX. Committee Member Comments and Announcements

- A. Sherry stated that Denise has updated the Indian Education Contacts listing and has names for all of the tribes except the Winnemucca Colony and the Yomba Shoshone Tribe. Denise sent out emails with the Appointment of Representative forms attached and also invited them to this meeting. Sherry reminded the Committee members that more involvement from tribes is needed. She said that Denise will be forwarding this list to the American Indian Alaska Native Tourism Association (AIANTA) because they have scholarships that can be awarded to students studying in the field of tourism and hospitality.
- B. Sherry mentioned the American Indian Achievement Awards Banquet and Silent Auction (AIAA) which will be held on Saturday, November 19, 2016 at the Governor's Mansion in Carson City. She asked the Committee members to submit nominations for the following categories: American Indian Community Leader of the Year, American Indian Youth Ambassador of the Year, American Indian Youth Services/Role Model of the Year, and Contributor/Supporter of the Year.
- C. Lori mentioned that she received a phone call from Alpine County School District requesting cultural sensitivity training for their non-Native student mentors. Lori has arranged a program on Historical Trauma to be presented at the Douglas County Senior Center on October 5, 2016. On October 20, 2016, Sherry will give a presentation on Boarding School Syndrome at the same location.

X. Agenda Items for Next Meeting

- A. Approval of September 26, 2016 meeting minutes.
- B. Approval of Appointment of Representative Forms
- C. By-laws
- D. Children's Cabinet Representative to present on "I'm Ready for K!" Program

- E. If there are any other items the committee would like to see on the agenda, they were instructed to email Sherry with additional items.
  
- XI. Scheduling and Location of Next Indian Education Advisory Committee Meeting
  - A. The next meeting is scheduled for November 7, 2016.
  
- XII. Final Public Comment
  - A. Sherry commented that even though there aren't a lot of committee members on today's videoconference, she is pleased that people are communicating and connecting with each other through this group.
  
- XIII. Adjournment
  - A. **Rhonda made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Theresa seconded.** The meeting was adjourned at 10:33am.