

Nevada Indian Commission  
 March 7, 2017  
 Education Advisory Committee for Native American and Alaska Natives Meeting Minutes  
 Western Nevada College, Carson City, Nevada

Committee Member	Seat Filled	Present	Absent
Saundra Mitrovich	University of Nevada, Reno	✓	
Lori Pasqua	Washoe Tribe of NV & CA	✓	
Fredina Drye-Romero	NV Department of Education	✓	
Miguel Martinez	Truckee Meadows Community College	✓	
San San Tin	Reno-Sparks Indian Colony		✓
Patrick Naranjo	University of Nevada, Las Vegas		✓
Rita Imus	Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada		✓
Theresa Rowe	Washoe Tribe of NV & CA Head Start		✓
Jonathan Lowery	Nevada Urban Indians	✓	
Vacant	Douglas County School District		

NIC Staff Present: Sherry L. Rupert, Executive Director; Sean McConville, Program Officer I

Others Present: Kari Emm, Transfer Recruitment Coordinator, University of Nevada, Reno; Della Frank, Indian Education Opportunities Program, Clark County School District; Diana Croci, Indian Education Opportunities Program, Clark County School District; Monica Thomas, Higher Education Advisor, Reno-Sparks Indian Colony

- I. Invocation
  - A. Della provided the invocation.
  
- II. Welcome and Introductions
  - A. Saundra called the meeting to order at 9:00 am and asked everyone to introduce themselves.
  
- III. Initial Public Comment
  - A. There were no initial public comments made at the meeting.
  
- IV. Approval of January 3, 2017 Meeting Minutes
  - A. Jonathan Lowery informed the Committee that his last name was misspelled three times in Item V and Item VI. He informed the Committee that his last name is spelled Lowery and not Lowry.
  - B. **Lori made a motion to approve the January 3, 2017 Meeting Minutes with corrections and Saundra seconded. Motion carried.**

- V. Review and 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 reported that the first reading was done at the January 3, 2017 Indian Education Advisory Committee (IEAC) meeting and later in the day, Sherry forwarded the revisions to the Attorney General's office. They completed their By-law review on January 12, 2017 and added a few more revisions. Sherry went through these revisions with the Committee. In addition to these revisions, the name of the Committee was changed and is now the Indian Education Advisory Committee.
  - B. **Fredina made a motion to approve the revisions to the Indian Education Advisory Committee By-Laws and Lori seconded. Motion carried.**
- VI. Approval of Education Advisory Committee for American Indian and Alaska Native Appointment of Representative Forms
- A. Sherry reported that three forms were submitted for approval and they are Della Frank, Project Facilitator for the Indian Education Opportunities Program for the Clark County School District (CCSD) and would fill the CCSD seat; Patrick Naranjo is the Resource Coordinator at The Intersection at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) and he would fill the UNLV seat; and Constance Barnes of the Washoe Tribe. Constance's form had been tabled at the last meeting because there was already a Washoe Tribe representative on the Committee and now with the changes to the By-laws, there can only be two representatives. Lori commented that she had spoken with Constance about this issue and Constance said she would withdraw her application and if she has any updates to give at the meeting, Lori would report them to the group.
  - B. **Jonathan made a motion to approve representative forms for Della Frank and Patrick Naranjo and Fredina seconded. Motion carried.**
- VII. Report on Nevada Tribes Legislative Day, February 14, 2017
- A. Sherry thanked the Committee members that were able to attend the event. She reported that the day began with a tour of the Stewart Indian School campus and had about 80 participants including legislators, tribal leaders, Stewart alumni, and tribal youth groups. After the tour, everyone went back to the Legislative building to begin the event. There was tribal representation in both the Senate and the Assembly as elders gave invocations and tribal leaders sat with their representatives during the morning floor session.
  - B. Sherry thanked Sandra for her presentation on Indian Education during the reception. She feels that it was very informative and Sherry received positive feedback from those that attended. Sandra commented that she is happy to be part of this event each legislative session and is excited to see the event's growth in tribal government and youth attendance.
  - C. Sherry reported that Kat Miller, Director for the Department of Veterans Services read a proclamation signed by Governor Sandoval that designates 2017 as the Year of the Native American Veteran. The Nevada Indian Commission (NIC) is working closely with Director Miller on a Veterans Summit that will take place in June. Director Miller

has stated that she is interested in hiring more Veterans Service Advocates and Veterans Service Officers to assist tribal veterans throughout the state.

- D. Sherry stated that the NIC had the ‘Notable Nevadans’ poster exhibit on the second floor of the Senate Atrium. Sherry said she received positive feedback from legislators, staff members, and even from the legislative police officers that they enjoyed reading about the different Native people that were being showcased. Sherry commented that she is pleased that Fredina will be using them for the Indian Education Summit coming up in a few weeks at the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR).
- VIII. Discussion on Strategy to Revise University Tuition Requirements for Tribal Members of Nevada Tribes
- A. Sherry reminded the group that this topic was discussed briefly at the previous meeting. She said that members of Nevada tribes that don’t live in Nevada, but want to pursue their education at UNLV or UNR must pay out-of-state tuition. Sherry believes that this issue is something the IEAC should work on and suggests that a subcommittee be started to begin working on a request to meet with the Board of Regents. Kari Emm stated that she has worked on this issue before, but that her research wasn’t well received. Kari suggested that a letter should be written to the Presidents of both universities and possibly to the local community colleges as well. Having their support would make meeting with the Board of Regents easier. Saundra agreed and also suggested to contact the UNR assessment team so that a study can be done concerning graduating students that had the financial support versus those that didn’t. Bringing this information to the Board would be highly beneficial in supporting the IEAC’s proposal to the Board. Miguel commented that he agrees in contacting the University Presidents along with Tribal Leaders for their input as well. Sherry stated that the next Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada (ITCN) meeting is coming up and they may be willing to offer a resolution if the IEAC subcommittee gives a presentation. The ITCN is comprised of all the tribal leaders in Nevada; therefore support from Nevada’s tribes would be given at one time.
  - B. Saundra asked the group for names of those interested in being on the subcommittee. Kari said she would be interested in volunteering on the subcommittee because she is passionate about this issue and suggested asking Constance Barnes and Candace Birchum if they would like to participate, as they are the Education Directors of the Washoe Tribe and Walker River Paiute Tribe, respectively. Fredina said she would assist as well as Saundra, Della and Sherry will participate too. Sherry said she would e-mail her contacts on the Governors Interstate Indian Council (GIIC) list serve and ask whether they have experienced this type of issue in their state. Fredina asked Sherry if she could be copied on that email so she can forward it out to her State contacts.
- IX. Indian Education Updates:
- A. Fredina Drye-Romero, Nevada Department of Education (NDE) reported that her department had sent out a survey to try to determine the needs of Indian Education in Nevada. She was discouraged that few responses were received and that there was nothing in the Nevada Plan that let people know the Indian Education Advisory Committee (IEAC) even existed in the state. She feels this study is important because the

NDE is moving forward with the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and input is not only needed, but required. Fredina also stated that tribal consultation is a provision of this Act that must be adhered to. School districts and Local Education Agencies (LEAs) are required to have a tribal consultation before they submit a plan to the NDE. The school districts must have over 50 percent of Native American students or \$40,000 in Title VI funding. There are four of these districts in the State of Nevada – Washoe County School District, Elko County School District, Clark County School District and Churchill County School District. Fredina went on to say that she is assisting the NDE in making sure the school districts are prepared and ready to implement the ESSA. Fredina reported that the Indian Education Summit is approaching quickly and will be held at UNR on March 20-21, 2017. This year's Summit will feature a Native artist, "Supaman" that will engage students as well as the entire audience. He has a unique way of sharing his personal story of overcoming a difficult childhood and becoming the person he is today. Also speaking at Summit will be Jolie Proudfit, Sarah "Sunshine" Manning and D.J. Vanus.

- B. Tribal Education Programs, Lori Pasqua, Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California reported on behalf of Constance Barnes. She said that Constance is planning a summer youth enrichment program which will include tutoring, resume writing and travel to Lake Tahoe with the recreation department. Regarding Higher Education, Lori shared the Washoe Tribe would be putting on a Cultural Monitoring Program which will include cultural sensitivity training. She will send out a flyer to the group when she is able. Lori also mentioned that the Douglas County Sheriff's Office is interested in collaborating with Washoe Tribe Law Enforcement to discuss cultural sensitivity issues. She also stated that there is a new Pre-College Advisor, Sarah Blase that works in Carson City.
- C. Tribal Early Childhood Education Programs – There were no updates from any of the Tribal Early Childhood Education programs, but Sherry did say that she will be attending the Nevada Ready B-3 meeting on March 8, 2017. Sherry said she wants to find out more about the program and if she is not the correct person to participate, she will recruit someone to attend future meetings.
- D. County School District Programs  
Della Frank, Clark County School District thanked the Committee for being patient regarding recent changes within the CCSD. She reported that Billie Rayford is no longer there and that Tammy Malich is the new Assistant Superintendent. Della said they service 812 Native students spread out through 302 schools. Of these students, 100 of them receive tutoring from 65 teachers. Of these 100 students, 26 of them are students from the Moapa Educational Support Center. Della stated that 30-40 students attended the Johnson O'Malley (JOM) youth "Spending Frenzy" event in January of this year. Della said they are planning the UNLV College Tour and hopes to have 30 students participate. Della said that 24 students participated last year. Della commented that nine students volunteered at a recent United States Rugby tournament and that her program is getting ready to put on the JOM Academic Social which honors students that had perfect attendance and outstanding citizenship. Diana Croci reported that they are working on updating the Infinite Campus database with current documentation to be in compliance

with the Title VI Program. Lori Pasqua reported that she has been working with 18 Douglas County High School seniors and of those 18; five of them have been accepted to UNR.

E. Universities and Community Colleges

1. Miguel Martinez, Truckee Meadows Community College (TMCC), shared that he has started a mentorship program for underrepresented males. The purpose of the program is to assist students in graduating high school and help them transition into college. This program begins when students are high school sophomores until they are in their first year of college. Miguel stated that he will be facilitating a session at the Indian Education Summit. He also shared that he wants Committee members to send any student that has questions about TMCC his way and he will help them as best he can.
2. Saundra Mitrovich, UNR, reported that the Inter-Tribal Higher Education Program is working on research proposals and presentation opportunities as well as a proposal to the National Indian Education Association (NIEA) expressing interest in sending two of the Higher Ed students to the NIEA Convention in Orlando, FL. Saundra stated that she has been having informal meetings to begin the Native Professional Network. The group will provide support to Native students that have just graduated UNR and are struggling in their career. The Network can be used for fellowship all the way to assisting with business opportunities.
3. Kari Emm, Retention Coordinator, UNR, announced that the Northern Nevada Diversity Conference will be on March 30, 2017 and there will be a presentation on Tribal College and she would like to send out information about it through the IEAC list serve. Kari also mentioned that she is on the Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI) and that 19 percent of students are Hispanic/Latino. The HSI works on obtaining funding and if funding is received, all underrepresented students will benefit, not just Hispanic/Latino students. She recently gave a presentation at the Legislature with the Commission on Minority Affairs and discussed Indian Education and the Tribal College. She said she received positive feedback regarding the Tribal College project.

F. Other Indian Education Programs

Jonathan Lowery, Nevada Urban Indians, reported that the annual Diabetes Powwow was held this past weekend, March 4-5, 2017 at Wooster High School in Reno. He said that the JOM program is focusing on developing a JOM Indian Education Committee and is working on the By-Laws.

X. Committee Member Comments and Announcements

- A. Fredina mentioned that Jonathan isn't on the Indian Education Summit vendor list. She asked that he contact her right away. Fredina said that the Washoe County School District is paying for any parent's registration fee to attend the Summit. Fredina thanked Saundra and said that she is going to be on the NIEA Planning Committee for this year's Convention.
- B. Sherry commented that the Nevada Tribal Tourism Conference will be coming up April 4-6, 2017 and will be held in Ely, NV. Online registration will be available and is \$125 by a certain date and after that it increases to \$150. The NIC is working with the Ely

Shoshone Tribe to showcase what they have available and attendees will be visiting Great Basin National Park as well. Sherry said that there are registration-only scholarships available, so transportation and hotel accommodations would not be covered. Sherry mentioned the Stewart Father's Day Powwow is coming up and will be held June 16-18, 2017 at the former Stewart Indian School campus. She invited Committee members to attend the Powwow and also think about volunteering.

- C. Sandra reminded the Committee that the Great Basin Native Artists have an exhibit at the Carson City Visitors Bureau until June 19, 2017. She went on to say that the Great Basin Native Artists are currently recruiting for new members and would be interested in having youth join as well.
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- XI. Agenda Items for Next Meeting
    - A. Approval of March 7, 2017 meeting minutes
    - B. Nevada Ready B-3 Meeting Update
    - C. Indian Education Summit Report
    - D. University Tuition Requirements / Subcommittee Research Update
    - E. Update on April's ITCN Meeting
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- XII. Scheduling and Location of Next Indian Education Advisory Committee Meeting
    - A. The next meeting will be held on May 2, 2017 at 9:30am via videoconferencing.
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- XIII. Final Public Comment
    - A. There were no final public comments made at the meeting.
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- XIV. Adjournment
    - A. **Fredina made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Lori seconded.** The meeting was adjourned at 11:44am.