

2018
**American Indian
Achievement Awards**



BANQUET AND SILENT AUCTION

Stewart Indian School Gym

Carson City, NV

Saturday, November 17, 2018

By

Sherry L. Rupert, Executive Director

Nevada Indian Commission

2018 American Indian Achievement Awards Banquet and Silent Auction



Attendees Relaxed in the Large Open Space

The 2018 American Indian Achievement Award Banquet and Silent Auction hosted by the Nevada Indian Commission (NIC) was held in the Stewart Indian School Gym (Moccasin Square Garden) this year as the Nevada Room at the Governor's Mansion was being renovated. The large gym floor accommodated the crowd size, a stage, silent auction tables, a photo booth, a photo exhibit of Stewart Indian School, and a WWI display. The feedback from attendees was overwhelmingly positive as there was plenty of room to mingle and enjoy the displays.

There were tables and chairs set for 160 attendees, and all but 6 seats were sold at this year's event. There were just over 50 items in the silent auction this year, making it the largest auction in the event's history. New this year was the photo booth manned by our partner photographer Larry Burton, a series of 10 photos of buildings at the Stewart Indian School displayed at the west side of the gym and a World War I exhibit created by the NIC's museum staff, Bobbi Rahder and Chris Gibbons.

The Pyramid Lake Veterans and Warriors Organization brought in the colors accompanied by drum group, Young Chief and the evening's entertainment was provided by Taylor Susan, 2018 Miss Indian World.

The attendees were welcomed by NIC Chairman Richard Arnold and Executive Director Sherry L. Rupert emceed the event and shared the history, present and future of the Stewart Indian School. Kelly Krolicki, both a Commissioner of the NIC and the Board Treasurer for the Stewart Indian School Preservation Alliance (SISPA) appealed to the evening's attendees to join SISPA and to attend the upcoming premier of the Stewart Indian School documentary at the Nevada Museum of Art on December 17, 2018 from 5:00-8:00pm. Tickets are on sale at the Nevada Museum of Art website for \$10 each.

Highlights



*Taylor Susan
The 2018 Miss Indian World provided the
entertainment*



Young Chief Drummers provided the singing for the evening



*SISPA Treasurer Kelly Krolicki promoting the Stewart
Indian School Preservation Alliance*



*Pictured left to right: Executive Director Sherry L. Rupert,
Commissioner Lori Pasqua, Chairman Richard Arnold, 2018 Miss Indian
World Taylor Susan, Commissioner Kelly Krolicki, and Commissioner
Brian Wadsworth. Vice-Chairman Kostan Lathouris is not pictured
here.*

Honorees

The honored guests of the evening were the winners of the 2018 American Indian Achievement Awards:

Laurie Thom, American Indian Community Leader of the Year

Christina Thomas, American Indian Youth Services/Role Model of the Year

Barrick Corporate Social Responsibility Section, Native American Affairs Team

The NIC did not receive any viable candidates for the American Indian Youth Role Model category and did not award in the category this year.



Community Leader of the Year, Chairwoman Laurie Thom & Youth Services Role Model of the Year, Christina Thomas



Contributor/Supporter of the Year, Barrick: Rondee Grahm, Rebecca Darling, Antoinette Cavanaugh, Brian Mason, Victoria LaChica

Summary

The 2018 American Indian Achievement Award Banquet and Silent Auction was a big success for everyone involved. There were several changes made to this year's event based on the new venue, resulting in positive comments by attendees, but incurred additional rental expense.

Sponsors for the event included Barrick at the Big Horn Sheep level (\$3,500), Eye and Cosmetic Surgery at the Desert Tortoise level (\$2,500) and the Yerington Paiute Tribe at the Mountain Blue Bird level (\$1,500). There were also a total of 6 tables sold at \$750 each (does not include the three tables in the sponsorship packages).

We were able to secure sponsors to offset the expenses associated with Miss Indian World and her chaperone costs. Thanks to the Nevada American Indian Alaska Native Education Summit Planning Committee, Mrs. Marilyn Halligan and the Gold Dust West for their contributions to Miss Indian World travel expenses.

The proceeds for the silent auction saw a 29.8% increase, up from \$2,670 in 2017 to \$3,465 in 2018. This is attributed to the increase in the number of items, the larger venue allowing comfortable access around the items and the added intermission allowing additional bidding time during the award programming. Total event proceeds also significantly increased from \$10,649 in 2017 to \$13,245 in 2018, a 19.6% increase. This was a pleasant surprise as there were additional expenses for the rentals (tables, chairs, stage and pipe and drape) and catering due to the limitations of the venue (no kitchen in the gym). The programs being printed in house added to the bottom line as we were able to saving on printing costs. And, program ad sales earned \$3,150 of income for the event.

The NIC staff is thankful for another successful American Indian Achievement Award Banquet and Silent Auction and looks forward to growing next year's event.