

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

*September 4, 2018 - 9:30am*  
Via Conference Call

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
Fawn Hunter	Washoe County School District	x	
Jonathan Lowery	Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada	x	
Della Frank	Clark County School District		x
Miguel Martinez	Truckee Meadows Community College	x	
Felicia Siyuja	Fallon Paiute Shoshone Tribe		

NIC Staff Present: Sherry L. Rupert, Executive Director; Sari Nichols, Program Officer I

Others Present: Marty Meeden, Washoe TANF Education Director; Priscilla Acosta, Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada

**I. Invocation**

Chairwoman Mitrovich provided the invocation.

**II. Welcome and Introductions**

Chairwoman Mitrovich called the meeting to order at 9:40 and asked all those present to introduce themselves.

**III. Initial Public Comment**

Ms. Acosta shared the National Indian Child Care Association (NICCA) 2019 Academy on Early Care and Education dates and location. February 27-March 1, 2019 at the Viegas Casino Resort Alpine, California.

**IV. Approval of January 16, 2018 Meeting Minutes**

**Ms. Pasqua made a motion to approve the January 16, 2018 Meeting Minutes and Mr. Naranjo seconded. The motion carried.**

## **V. Unfinished Business**

### **A. Update on In-State Tuition Waiver request, Future Subcommittee Scheduling, and Deadline for Draft Proposal.**

Ms. Rupert commented on the request to set meeting dates and a deadline for the draft proposal of an in-state tuition waiver request. Chairwoman Mitrovich asked to have a Doodle poll set up in order to get an idea of when members can meet to work on the draft and deadlines. Ms. Rupert will send out the Doodle poll.

## **VI. New Business**

### **A. 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 Indian Education Advisory Committee (IEAC). The approval request was for Priscilla Acosta, Compliance Supervisor and Tribal Coordinator, Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada, Child Care Development Fund.

**Ms. Pasqua made a motion to approve the Appointment of Representative form for Ms. Acosta, seconded by Ms. Williams. The motion carried.**

### **B. Review and Approval of Additional Recommended Revision to the Indian Education Advisory Committee (IEAC) By-laws**

Executive Director Rupert explained that an earlier draft of the by-laws were presented to the Nevada Indian Commissioners for approval. The Commission recommended additional changes, the mission and purpose statements re-written to be clear and concise, acronyms to be spelled out. Ms. Rupert read all of the changes to the By-laws and explained each section change. Mr. Lowery suggested that along with acronyms, all higher institution names should be also spelled out.

**Ms. Williams made a motion to recommend approval of the revised IEAC with edits by-laws to the NIC Board, seconded by Mr. Martinez. The motion carried.**

### **C. Discussion on Ideas to Assist Educational Programs with the Issue of Multi-racial Box Versus an American Indian Box for Student Registration.**

Ms. Rupert reminded the group that this topic came up in the January 16, 2018 meeting and was tabled for further discussion. The item of discussion is the issue of how higher education counts "Indian Only" for reporting purposes. Higher education does not count and report on students who check multiple boxes. Under reporting can hurt the tribes when it comes to funding for Native Students. Ms. Rupert read from the last meeting minutes and shared the frustration felt by the committee of the under reporting by Clark and Washoe counties. Ms. Rupert would like to find out who came up with this reporting system and questioned the use of a multi-racial box if it is not used for reporting purposes. Ms. Rupert suggested setting up a meeting with the schools to work on a solution.

Ms. Pasqua shared her experience of trying to work with the school districts when the boxes were first introduced. The question of reporting came up in several meetings with Douglas County but

nothing came from it. Ms. Rupert suggested asking Ms. Drye-Romero about data collection. Mr. Lowery suggested asking colleges how they count students who check the multi-ethnic box. Mr. Lowery said that many students who do not identify as Native but are, should be made aware of the funding opportunities afforded to them as Native students. Chairwoman Mitrovich said she would send an e-mail to Ms. Drye-Romero asking about the subject of reporting and advice on how to move the issue forward.

#### **D. Discussion on Development of NIC Educational Scholarship Parameters for Recommendation to the NIC Board for Approval.**

Ms. Rupert reported that the Nevada Indian Commission is looking to create a scholarship for Native students and was hoping to have a draft higher education scholarship for the committee to review. However, in late August the Commissioners joined Ms. Rupert on some tribal visits and heard directly from the tribes regarding education funding. Smaller tribes described not being able to meet the cost of middle school and high school lab, and after school activity fees. Not being able to afford gym uniforms was another issue. These types of funding issues punishes the students and denies them access to sports, music, and science based activities. Ms. Rupert suggests that it may be better to help high school students with fees instead of higher education scholarships and noted that there are several higher education scholarships already available. Ms. Pasqua said that one of the biggest disqualifiers for scholarships is descendency issues.

Chairwoman Mitrovich supports the idea of a scholarship for students who cannot afford school fees. Mr. Lowery asked if the funds had to be in scholarship form or if they could be given from a general request. He pointed out that scholarships usually require qualifying criteria. Ms. Rupert agreed but said that parameters would still be needed. She would like to form a group who would seek donations from larger tribes and corporations. Ms. Rupert will also look into what fiscal role the Indian Commission will play and report back to the committee.

Mr. Lowery offered the services of Native Youth Force and said they employ high school and college students. Mr. Lowery said he supports the idea of funding students of all ages and would like to be involved in this project.

### **VII. Indian Education Updates**

#### **A. Nevada Department of Education (NDE)**

No update to report

#### **B. Tribal Education Programs**

Mary Williams, Education director for the Yerington Paiute Tribe (YPT) reported that the new Native Youth Community Program (NYCP) is going over well with the students. She apologized for not having data to share with the group but will have some shortly. There is an opening for a community based instructor in Yerington.

YPT was awarded a 21 Century Community Learning Centers grant of \$124,000. YPT is working with three other Yerington schools to develop after school programming. Right now all of the schools are struggling to find after school teachers.

The University of Las Vegas (UNLV) tour is set for fall. Ms. Williams reports that they will have a charter bus for both students and families who are interested in learning more about college.

Ms. Williams reported that back to school night was successful and with the help of some grant funding all of the required school supplies for the elementary children were covered. Ms. Williams shared information on websites that sell inexpensive school backpacks ([bagsinbulk.com](http://bagsinbulk.com)), and binders ([binding101.com](http://binding101.com)). Chairwoman Mitrovich congratulated Ms. Williams on her grant work.

Ms. Pasqua, Washoe tribe Pre-college Advisor, reported on this summer's college tours. This year's tour included Fallon Navy base, and returned to the University of Davis for the first time in a few years. All of the schools were accommodating and were eager to show what they had to offer to Native Students.

Ms. Pasqua reported on the success of the TANF Native Youth conference held August 10<sup>th</sup>, 2018. She would like to expand the conference next year to include tribal youths from the surrounding areas.

Ms. Pasqua reported that 11 students applied for the higher education scholarship and 6 for the Washoe Incentive scholarship.

Marty Meeden, Washoe TANF Education Director, introduced himself to the group. Chairwoman Mitrovich welcomed him to the committee.

#### C. Tribal Early Childhood Education Programs

Priscilla shared that Cluster training is taking place November 8, 2018 at the Peppermill in Reno. The training will focus on Childhood Development Fund grant. This is the first time training on this grant has been offered in our area. To register for the conference go to [nicca.us](http://nicca.us).

#### D. County School District Programs

Chairwoman Mitrovich introduced Fawn Douglas who is the new Washoe County School District Indian Education specialist. Ms. Douglas spoke about the on-going need for Native language speakers for the school districts language programs.

#### E. Universities & Community Colleges

Patrick Naranjo, Resource Coordinator, University of Las Vegas, reported on an upcoming Powwow that the University is hosting in October. A Native American Program coordinator, Kayla Tanie was recently hired. Ms. Tanie will help coordinate and develop the Native Student science and law programs.

Miguel Martinez, Truckee Meadows Community College (TMCC), reported on the beginning of school year blessing. Ralph Burns gave a blessing to the land, and a group of Native singers performed for the students.

Mr. Martinez worked with the Reno Sparks Indian Colony to hire a summer intern, Brendon Able. Brendon is interested in reinvigorating Native Student activism with the goal of being able to show Native students what TMCC can offer them.

Chairwoman Mitrovich, Native Student Coordinator University of Nevada, Reno (UNR), reported that this week it is “Indigenous Students’ Welcome Week” for new students. This year the event has been expanded from two to three days with workshop activities that include learning about research, and internship opportunities as well as learning how to use a degree towards a career pathway. Students are encouraged to connect with UNR’s Native American Students undergraduate program, such as the American Indian Science chapter. This year the school introduced a Native American Student graduate program. The week ends with a Friday and Saturday Powwow.

There was a blessing of the new Great Basin Hall. The Indigenous Residents and Scholar program will be housed in the Hall along with some other Native American STEM programing. A Native Learning community will be opened up in 2019, led by Dr. Deborah Harry.

#### F. Other Indian Education Programs

Jonathon Lowery, Native Work Force, Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada, reported that Quality Training Testing (QTCS) services is looking for two young candidates between the ages of 18 and 24. This is a 5-6 week apprentice training program in which successful candidates have a chance to work with Nevada Department of Transportation. The Native Work Force will pay for the training. Candidates must have a high school diploma and have basic math skills.

Mr. Lowery reminded the committee that Native Work Force has a youth program for middle and high school students and encourages students with school fee funding issues to contact his office.

### **VIII. Committee Member Comments and Announcements**

Ms. Rupert reported on the upcoming American Indian Achievement Award banquet and Silent Auction, November 17, 2018, to be held at the Stewart Indian School gym. Ms. Rupert has started her annual tribal visits and will give a full report after the November wrap-up of the visits.

### **IX. Agenda Items for Future Meetings**

Suggestions for future agenda items include: tuition subcommittee update; update on the multi-racial box; discussion on beaded caps for Washoe graduates. Any other requests for agenda items should be forwarded to Sherry L. Rupert, Executive Director, Nevada Indian Commission. Chairwoman Mitrovich said she would like to researched suggestions on topics for the next meeting.

### **X. Scheduling and Location of Next Meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 6, 2018.

## **XI. Final Public Comment**

There were no final public comments.

## **XII. Adjournment**

**Mr. Lowery made a motion to adjourn the IEAC meeting and Ms. Pasqua seconded. The meeting adjourned at 11:24am.**