

Nevada Indian Commission
Education Advisory Committee for Native American and Alaska Natives
May 5, 2014

Main Site: Western Nevada College, 2201 West College Parkway, Carson City, NV
Video Conference Sites: Reno, NV; McDermitt, NV; Las Vegas, NV

Present: Sherry L. Rupert, Executive Director, Nevada Indian Commission; Deborah Larson, Administrative Assistant, Nevada Indian Commission; Fredina Drye-Romero, Education Programs Professional – Indian Education, Nevada Department of Education; Paula Smith, Nevada Urban Indian; Saundra Mitrovich, Outreach and Retention Coordinator, University of Nevada, Reno; Starla Serawop, Native Workforce Development, Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada; Jillian Fillmore, Education Coordinator, Washoe Tribe of Nevada & California; Cheryl Nelson, Equity and Diversity Program, Clark County School District; Della Frank, Equity and Diversity Program, Clark County School District; Patrick Naranjo, Assistant to Ombudsman and Assistant to Vice President Diversity Initiatives, University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV); Lori Pasqua, Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California, Pre-College Advisor; Lynn Manning, Washoe County School District, Indian Education Coordinator; San San Tin, Reno Sparks Indian Colony, Education Department Manager

I. Invocation

- A. The invocation was performed by Fredina. The meeting was then called to order at 9:50 a.m. by Lynn Manning.

II. Welcome and Introductions

- A. Lynn thanked everyone for attending.

III. Initial Public Comment

- A. There was no initial public comment.

IV. Approval of March 3, 2014, Meeting Minutes

- A. There were the following minor corrections to the March 3, 2014, minutes:

1. I.A. the font needed changing
2. V.A. correct Lara Watters to Laura Watters
3. VII. C. the “History and Contemporary Lifestyles of the Northern Paiute, Southern Paiute, Washoe and Western Shoshone Peoples” is a title and is a proper noun.

- B. With those corrections, Fredina made a motion to approve, Lori seconded the motion. The motion carried.

V. Approval of Appointment of Representative Forms to the Education Advisory Committee for American Indians and Alaska Natives

- A. Sherry reported that there were no current representative forms to approve. She reminded everyone that a few forms have lapsed and for those people to please get the forms to her. Sherry also said that if anyone was unsure to email her and she would provide the information. Those that have been approved will go before the Nevada Indian Commission for approval, at the end of the month.
- B. Discussion on Planning for the 2016 National Indian Education Association (NIEA) Convention to be held in Reno, Nevada
1. Sherry initially spoke about the need for cultural resources. She had some names and ideas emailed to her, and she will bring that list to the next meeting. She reminded everyone to continue updating their lists.
 2. Fredina said her conference calls with NIEA continue. She added that there is a lot of work to do, but there will be two years to accomplish the goals.
 3. Lynn stated that the venue would be the Grand Sierra Resort, October 4-8, 2016. The Grand Sierra Resort was large enough to hold all events and the attendees would not have to go offsite. She added that this venue was so close to the Reno Sparks Indian Colony that they could serve as the functioning host, possibly their facilities could be used.
 4. Lynn said that fundraising would be done by NIEA for this venue. She added that there would be a “cultural night” the first night. This would also be a free night for convention goers. This would be a good opportunity to invite tribes from all over the state, to allow those members to explain who they are. This “welcome” would take the place of a “President’s Meet and Greet Reception.” Lynn said there have been suggested planned excursions. She said one idea was to take the attendees to a place such as Pyramid Lake and Sherry suggested Meeks Bay. Dena advised that she sent flyers to all tribes.
 5. Sherry said that the NIEA seems more organized. She added that with the reduction of requirements for funding, that there is less of a financial weight.
 6. Dina is on the current (2014) NIEA Convention Planning Committee. Meetings started in January, 2014 and they meet every month. Dina stated she is Chair of the volunteers. She will continue to share information with the group.
 7. Sherry asked who was going to Anchorage, AK. Jillian, Sandra, Patrick, and Dena will all be attending.
 8. Fredina said Reno needs to make conference goers feel welcome. Sherry agreed by providing an example of a trip to Chicago; people made an effort to make you feel welcome by greeting all the conference attendees at the opening of the conference and having uniform clothing. Sherry said this was very effective.
 9. Paula Smith suggested that something be placed at the airport, welcoming the NIEA members to Reno. Sherry advised that the Reno Tahoe Airport is a great partner. The

television screen could be manipulated, banners could be hung and there could be decorations in the baggage claim area.

10. Lynn advised that in Milwaukee, there were mini dream catchers. In Seattle, the students of the schools made shell necklaces. She advised that these items didn't require purchasing, but they were symbolic of what was indigenous to the area. Dina added that students from all over the state could participate and there would be representation statewide. Lynn mentioned pine nut bags and reiterated that items should be unique to our area. She also said that anyone not in attendance should be kept informed and needs to be involved. Dina wanted to ensure tribal leader involvement. Sherry added that she would like to talk about education in her tribal visits. Lori advised that there will be elections and tribal leaders will change. Lynn agreed that discussions need to start now and make notations of those elected.

VII. Committee Member Comments and Announcements

- A. Sherry advised everyone that the Stewart Father's Day Powwow would be June 13-15, 2014. She was also looking for Stewart Alumni to honor. She advised that Chris would be getting nomination forms together and sending them out. She asked that if anyone knew alumni, to nominate them. She also asked everyone to please invite others to the powwow.
- B. Sherry spoke about the successful Nevada Tribal Tourism Conference, held in Incline Village. She said that the conference had record attendance, and that 9 tribal leaders attended. She said that the leaders were very interested in the economic impact of their territory. The information shared at the conference was able to impact the tribal leaders with tours by showing the economic and educational impact. She stated that tourism allows American Indians to use their own voice to tell their stories, and educate the public, their members and perpetuate their culture. She explained that she had met with Tribal Leaders across the state to speak with them about tourism and its impact on tribal communities and personally invited them to the conference. Sherry added that the Walker River Paiute Tribal Chairman called in 25 of his staff to listen to her speak about the benefits of tourism. Ultimately, the Tribal Chairman sent 3-4 members from Walker River Paiute Tribe to the Nevada Tribal Tourism Conference. She said that the personal face-to-face meetings definitely made a difference in attendance. She also commented that this may have to be done for the NIEA Convention as well.
- C. Lori attended the Genoa Cowboy Poetry event May 3-4, 2014. She said it was good for the American Indian image. They participated in poetry and traditional games, like the Washoe Tribal Game, Woodfords old style. There were demonstrations on how to make and throw arrows, different hand games and flint napping. Lori believed that the people who attended the poetry event walked away with a different opinion of American Indians. Lynn Manning added that this event helped build a bridge between the different cultures.

VIII. Indian Education Updates:

A. Nevada Department of Education – Fredina Drye-Romero, Education Programs Professional-Indian Education

1. Fredina thanked all committee members for their involvement at the Indian Education Summit. She added that First Lady, Kathleen Sandoval made a huge impact with her presence, along with the childhood awareness video, which was well received.
2. Planning has already begun for next year's Education Summit. This will be held March 16-17, 2015. Fredina thanked those people that became committee members. The committee is currently working on lesson plans for the Writing Retreat, and they are creating a "save the date" flyer for the event. The third Lesson Plan Writing Retreat will be July 16-18, 2014, at Pyramid Lake High School. Dina stated that the people who should attend are Nevada educators, teachers and principals.
3. Camping will be available at Pyramid Lake High School during the Writing Retreat. You can bring your own tent and camp on the football field. If you have an RV, there will be hookups and public showers available.
4. Dina said that she just finished the Early Warning Systems Dropout Prevention Webinar. The purpose of this webinar was to determine contributing factors for high school drop-out rates. She added that they worked with early warning systems, and communication with the school districts to work with their tribes. Dina said she would continue to follow up with the school districts in the 2014-2015 academic school year.
5. Dina began working with a family engagement work plan to initiate a parent handbook for Indian Education. She hopes this will facilitate focus groups in Nevada. She met with the Indian Education Advisory Board through West Comprehensive Center at West Ed. They will be collaborating to create a tri-state parent handbook. Dina added that she will be evaluating Nevada's proposed parent handbook, to ensure that Indian Education is covered appropriately.
6. In regards to higher education, Dina is attempting to develop a more streamlined process. She said that during the McDermitt Parent Night she gave a presentation of the Great Basin Native American language, and provided a curriculum guide. Parents were very responsive because they want their stories told in their schools.

B. Tribal Education Programs

1. San San advised that the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony (RSIC) Education Department building would be moving to modular building D. She said she was proud of the Head Start Program as they just completed a recent federal audit. The audit produced zero findings out of 1000 possible findings. She also advised that the last day of Head Start would be May 23, 2014. She advised that there will be a summer youth employment program for eligible students for RSIC members or community members. This will be

offered June 23-August 8, 2014. She added that they will also be offering a summer food program. This program will be open for any youth wanting to be fed. Breakfast will be served at 9:00am, and lunch will be served at 12:00pm. These meals will be free to anyone up to age 19.

June 19, 2014, high school seniors will be having a lunch with the Tribal Council. May 30, 2014, they will be hosting their annual youth conference. This will be in collaboration with the Washoe County School District and the Center for Student Cultural Diversity. With the language program they will be having a Powwow Club over the summer. On May 10, 2014, the Parent Committee is having a mini powwow in Hungry Valley.

2. Sherry will be speaking to the Reno Sparks Indian Colony, on May 8, 2014. She will be speaking to victims of domestic violence.
3. Sherry will also be doing presentations at Eagle Valley Middle School May 13, 2014. There will be 48 higher education and vocational students attending.

C. County School District Programs

1. Jillian spoke about the summer youth program and the potential for employment. All participants up to the age of 17 will receive food during the day. This program is scheduled for June 16, 2014-August 1, 2014.
2. Students are making great progress at Douglas High School. Carson High School's ceremony is this Friday. Each student received \$100.00. Jillian has 8 award ceremonies to attend and oversees thirteen schools.
3. Lori coordinated a trip with the middle school to go to the University of Nevada Reno, for an introduction of college. She and other adults will be working with high school seniors, creating individual plans for college preparation. She said she will even be on call for Douglas High School to ensure that all applications are completed and mailed.
4. Lori added that they are working on adult vocation applications as well. She said that the Douglas campus will be a pilot for more certificate programs for Western Nevada College (WNC).
5. Sherry mentioned Romaine Smokey, who is the Counselor for Native students at Eagle Valley Middle School. She stated that he has been an important part of her family's life. He provides emotional support to the children at Eagle Valley Middle School and helps the students to build relationships, self-esteem, and trust. He provides a safe place for children to "go and hang out" and he attends sporting events to support the youth.
6. Cheryl stated that the out-of-state college tours have been eliminated and replaced with preparation to go on a college tour, with once a month workshops covering various topics. Some topics are 3 to 5 hours in length. The topics will include: United Way,

encouraging volunteer work, writing essays, filling out applications and other community service work, financial planning for parents and students to prepare for college, SAT scores; interpretation and explanation.

7. Princess Programs came out to speak to students and parents. They also had ACT and SAT workshops. They explained the difference between the two tests. They also taught how to study and prepare for these tests and how to complete college applications. They had representatives from Arizona State University, Nevada College, UNLV and College of Southern Nevada (CSN) come and speak. They also brought in speakers for athletes and how to prepare for eligibility for college acceptance. They also toured Henderson, since a lot of students expressed interest in the police force. To ensure that parents and students were aware of all the speakers and events, they created flyers and post cards, and a parent link held in the C.P.D. building. They targeted 8th -12th grade students. Each grade had different activities. At the end of all the workshops, the goal was to have a youth conference on May 3, 2014. Everyone worked together for a common goal. They had students register through Survey Monkey to get an accurate count of who was coming. She said that things turned out well. She said there were several workshops at the youth conference. There was a mentor program, a student panel, information on careers, jobs and graphic design, recruiters, and financial aid information. They also played the movie, "Crooked Arrow." They had a discussion about the movie afterwards. They had dancers and they also had a lacrosse exhibition. The planning committee for the event was composed of five students, in addition to the adults. The students named the event, "*Your Future, Know It, Love It.*" In addition, their role was to create a video that shows diversity and other students' points of view. They named it, "*Courageous Words of the Youth.*" They will be presenting a monologue, "*Courageous Words of Wisdom*" to the school board on May 22, 2014.
8. Della Frank said her session consisted of native games. She said they had lacrosse, foot races with obstacles, bowling games, string games, hand games that Native children would have played, and more. She said both parents and students participated and they both learned a lot. They participated in a social services parade in Moapa, they did a poker walk, and they currently tutor students. They were also in the process of preparing flyers for the summer science program that runs June 9-12, 2014. They will be registering 34 students. The senior ceremony will be held May 15, 2014 at the Henderson Convention Center at 5:30pm.
9. At the Washoe County School District, Lynn was moved from Truancy and Intervention to Equity and Diversity. She is now at Reid High School serving a large urban Indian population. In March, they had the first Washoe County School District Board of Trustees meeting held on the Pyramid Lake Paiute Reservation in over 20 years. The participants equaled 50% school district employees and 50% tribal leaders and community members. She said the event went well. A presentation included how the Washoe people came to be there and how the Washoe County School District became

involved. She said the presentation was educational for everyone. News coverage was provided by Channel 4 and covered by the Reno Gazette Journal in the Sunday paper.

D. Universities & Community Colleges

1. Patrick announced that he obtained a new position at UNLV. He is now the Liaison Outreach Program Coordinator for Native American Populations. He hopes to develop more accountability within the position and help with the state's initiative. UNLV is currently a designated MSI- or Minority Service Institution. He said he is starting more minority service unit programming in the south, starting with the UNLV Transportation Camp July 14-28, 2014 for underrepresented minority high school students interested in careers in transportation engineering and STEM fields. May 16, 2014, is the deadline for applications to attend the Nevada Transportation Camp.
2. The other program is the American Indians accessing health program at UNLV. This program will be at the UNLV Shadow Lane School of Medicine campus, in collaboration with three other institutions to create more access for American Indians accessing health professions. This will be hosted at UNLV on August 7-9, 2014. The deadline for this application is May 18, 2014, and this particular program is for current enrolled college students.
3. Professor Willie Bower recently passed the University curriculum with his American Indian and Indigenous Studies minor. He has been developing this curriculum through UNLV.
4. Sandra and Patrick have been working on a statewide initiative. Sandra says they are trying to reach every student. She is very happy with tribal education departments for bringing their students to them. She said the Fallon Paiute Shoshone Tribe gave a workshop to talk to students. She said it made a big difference as these students are coming from rural areas. She added that she was happy to say that they have hosted 3 youth summits. She said they held a Native Graduation Celebration with 94 eligible students, 13 attended, one being a PhD. candidate. In addition, five graduate students and 6 undergraduate students attended the celebration. She added that there will be a welcome back barbeque August 23, 2014, at Rancho San Rafael Park.

E. Other Indian Education Programs

1. Starla said she was working on outreach. She said that Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada was trying to increase enrollment in their programs by using flyers, and posting information on the listserv. She said they also have a summer youth employment being held August 3-6, 2014.
2. Paula Smith said she has recently attended a drug endangered children training, one national and one tribal. She holds Reno Sparks Indian Colony tribal statewide tutor nights. They ended the Great Basin Youth Council due to lack of participation. They

will continue promoting for Reno Sparks Education Program, ITCN. Paula also stated that she, along with Sandra Mitrovich, Monty Williams, and Janet Bluebird, did a presentation at Tanner Middle School, for 130 students.

IX. Agenda Items for Next Meeting

A. The next meeting will be held in September. Please forward agenda items to Sherry.

X. Scheduling and Location of Next Indian Education Advisory Committee

A. There was a request to hold a strategic planning meeting and report the information to the September meeting.

XI. Final Public Comment

A. There was no public comment.

XII. Adjournment

A. Fredina made a motion to end the meeting at 11:30am and Starla seconded the motion. Motion carried.