

Nevada Indian Commission
 May 9, 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		✓

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

Others Present: Saundra Mitrovich, Outreach & Retention Coordinator, Center for Student Diversity, University of Nevada, Reno; Theresa Rowe, Head Start Education Manager, Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California; Stephanie Wyatt, Nevada Early Intervention Services, Tribal Early Childhood; Miguel Martinez, College Recruitment Coordinator, Truckee Meadows Community College; Michele Sposito, Education Programs Professional, Nevada Department of Education; Donna Wix, Education Programs Professional, Nevada Department of Education; Fran Maldonado, Tribal Liaison, Nevada Division of Child and Family Services; Mariana Eneva, Nevada Urban Indians

- I. Invocation
 - A. Fredina Drye-Romero gave the invocation.

- II. Welcome and Introductions
 - A. Lori called the meeting to order at 9:37 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 February 22, 2016 Meeting Minutes
 - A. There were two corrections that needed to be made to the meeting minutes from February. In Item VIII., letter A, last names need to be added for Gina and Marla from the Wells Band. Also, under Item IX, letter C, Rob corrected the name of the Douglas County School District Superintendent. Instead of Steve Canavero, insert Teri White. Rob then made a motion to approve the meeting minutes with the aforementioned corrections. Fredina seconded and the motion was approved.

- V. Approval of Appointment of Representative Forms for the Education Advisory Committee for Native American and Alaska Natives
 - A. Sherry reported that no Appointment of Representative forms had been received for the Committee. She told the guests in attendance to submit their forms if they are interested in joining this group.

- VI. Presentation on the Choice Program and Teacher Scholarship, Donna Wix and Michele Sposito, Education Programs Professionals, Nevada Department of Education (NDE)
 - A. Donna Wix stated that the Nevada Educational Choice Scholarship Grant Program, Assembly Bill 165, was approved and signed during the last legislative session. The purpose of the program is to enable parents and legal guardians to choose the best school for their children. The scholarships are based on family income compared to the 2016 Federal Poverty Guidelines. If the student's family is within 300 percent or less, the student is eligible, but not guaranteed. There are currently three registered Scholarship Grant Organizations (SGO): The Education Fund of Northern Nevada; Dinosaurs and Roses; and AAA Scholarships. Arete Scholars was just added for the 2016-2017 school year. The SGOs may not limit school choice; they provide applications and directions to families and may charge \$25.00 per family to do so; they review the application to see if the family is eligible; they determine the amount of every scholarship; they notify the family and the private school of the scholarship if they are awarding one; they make quarterly payments; and they send the NDE quarterly reports. The NDE's obligations are to collect applications from entities that want to be an SGO; register private schools; keep the web page and links current; ensure family and child information is kept confidential; audit the records to ensure students are not registered in a public and a private school; and provide summary information to the Governor and Legislative Council Bureau every even numbered year. Students that are awarded scholarships must be enrolled in a public or private school only. Private schools must register with the NDE; they must deposit the quarterly payment and credit the student's account; they send quarterly reports to the NDE to identify student recipients; they notify the SGO if a child moves out of the school; and the private school provides progress information to the NDE at the end of the school year including the results of an approved standardized assessment. Scholarships may be granted from more than one SGO, but the total funding may not exceed the maximum allowed for each school year based on the Consumer Price Index as published by the United States Department of Labor. This amount in the 2015-2016 school years was \$7,755.00. Donna said Regulation R035-15 makes sure the priority will always be given to the previous year's recipients or siblings of previous recipients as long as the family is still eligible instead of to a student that is new to the program. Donna said that both the scholarship program and the regulation allow scholarship funds to pay for tuition, fees and if transportation is not provided by the school, the funds may cover transportation costs as well. Donna stated that the 2016/2017 school years will be receiving funding of \$5,500,000.00. She also mentioned that people who pay a Modified Business Tax (MBT) may donate through the SGO instead of paying the tax as long as they are approved to do so from the Department of Taxation. If there are any questions

as to whether a scholarship is being misused or violated, there can be an investigation. Complaints may be sent to the Superintendent of Public Instruction at the NDE.

Lori asked Donna to explain the differences between private schools, charter schools, and immersion schools. Private schools have to be licensed by the State of Nevada and have tuition fees. Charter schools are also public schools, because they get State money to operate. Immersion schools are like private schools, but they are not attached to school districts. This program is only provided to children in kindergarten through 12th grade.

B. TEACH Nevada Scholarship – Michelle Sposito said this was created through 2015’s Senate Bill 511 and that there are two pieces for this bill. One is the scholarship piece and the other is the incentive piece for teachers. The TEACH Nevada Scholarship provides scholarships to new students teachers going through State licensure programs, university, colleges or other alternative licensure programs. The Nevada State Board reviews applications that are received from programs that want to become a TEACH Nevada provider. The Board awards grants of money to each provider and indicates how many scholarships they can offer to potential teaching students. These students receive a maximum of \$24,000. Of the \$24,000, students receive 75 percent per semester and the rest will go into a trust account. Once the prospective teacher completes their program, the final 25 percent will be received as long as they teach at a Nevada public school for five years. For three of those years, the teacher must teach at a school on the Eligible School List. Schools on this list have a higher teacher vacancy rate. In 2015/2016, 14 programs applied to become providers and the State has awarded seven of them: Humboldt County School District, National University, Sierra Nevada College, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, Washoe County School District, and Western Governors University. 134 scholarships were initially made available through these providers, but the NDE found that there were some differences in funding with the programs and some had waiting lists. As a result, more providers were approved to award 14 more scholarships totaling 148 in 2015/2016. Therefore, 148 teachers will be starting school with their students this August. The State board is looking for providers in areas where there is a greater number of scholarship recipients such as veterans or spouses of veterans, those that have been financially disadvantaged or belong to a minority group. The Board is also looking into awarding teachers that would be able to teach in areas where there is a shortage, such as elementary schools, secondary math, secondary language arts, secondary science and special education. The deadline for providers to return their applications to the NDE is May 27, 2016. On June 16, 2016, the State Board will make the initial allocation of scholarships. By August 5, 2016, the providers need to give the NDE a list of information on their recipients. On September 1, 2016, the allocations of monies will be decided and on September 7, 2016, those funds will be dispersed. Lori P. asked what the steps were to apply for this scholarship. Michelle stated that a provider would apply through the NDE State Board to become an approved provider. If they wanted to be an educator, they would need to reach out to the approved providers to apply for a scholarship. Approved providers will be listed on the NDE’s website.

- VII. Possible Revision of the Education Advisory Committee for American Indians and Alaska Native By-Laws to include Provisions to Address Early Childhood Education
- A. Sherry said that she has two sets of bylaws for each of the two committees. The IEAC bylaws are five pages long and the TECAC bylaws are six pages long. Sherry said that the committees need to meet and discuss with a few of the IEAC members as well as former TECAC members on how best to combine the two bylaws into one. Fredina made a motion for a workgroup to be started in order to revise the bylaws. Rhonda seconded the motion. Motion carried.
 - B. Sherry asked for volunteers for the bylaws revision workgroup. Theresa Rowe, Stephanie Wyatt, Fredina Drye-Romero all volunteered to be on this workgroup with Sherry.
- VIII. Update on Nevada Indian Education Strategic Plan Revision
- A. Sherry said there isn't an update because there has not been a meeting during the spring. There are three different events that will take place at Stewart, and the Commission has been very busy. Sherry said she will work on the revision during the summer.
- IX. Discussion on Planning for the 2016 National Indian Education Association (NIEA) Convention to be held in Reno, NV
- A. Sherry said the NIEA Convention will be held October 5-8, 2016 at the Grand Sierra Resort this year. Sherry, Fredina, and Lynn John from Owyhee sit on the National Conference Planning Committee (NPC). She stated that there are several subcommittees: Fredina is the chair for the Powwow Committee, Lynn is the chair for volunteers, and Sherry is the chair for cultural activities. These three subcommittees make up the Nevada Committee and meets regularly. The agenda for cultural night has been drafted as well as a draft budget. Sherry stated that 2,500-3,000 people are expected in attending the convention. The NPC is in the process of confirming speakers, talent and dignitaries for the opening and closing of the convention. Sherry said that Lynn is keeping a running list of volunteers and will decide how many she will need in each area as the event gets closer.
 - B. Fredina said the powwow will be in the Silver State Pavilion on Friday, October 7, 2016. There will be gourd dancing from 5:30-6:30pm, and grand entry will be from 7:00-11:00pm. Tom Phillips will be the Master of Ceremonies; Hank Johnson will be the Arena Director; Battle Horse will be the Host Drum; and Silver State Gourd Society will be the Host Gourd. Jamie Stump will be the Head Man, Alyssa Sanchez will be the Head Woman, Chandler Sampson will be the Head Teen Boy, Amelia Henry will be the Head Teen Girl, Luca Gomez will be the Head Junior Boy and Trinity Tahonie will be the Head Junior Girl. Fredina commented that the flyer will go out to the IEAC list serve when finalized and will be inserted into the NIEA program as well.
 - C. Lori stated she is volunteering for the elder center. She wants the elders to collaborate and share on the traditional things that they are doing. Lori said that the goal is to showcase different cultures. She also said they plan to have an open mic for the people to sing or tell stories.

- D. Rob asked how the potential presenters are being informed as for whether they are being accepted. Fredina said that she can find out and get back to Rob personally. Lori asked Fredina whether presenters still have to pay for the conference even though they are presenting and Fredina said yes.
- E. Sandra said that there will be a college networking event during the convention as well. Her staff is working on putting together 1,800 lanyards as well as pine nut necklaces to be used for gifts in the NIEA colors. She is hoping students will come to the college networking event on campus by way of the Associated Students of the University of Nevada (ASUN) bus and possibly by using some of the university's shuttles. Sherry commented that she didn't think a youth portion was going to be held during the Convention and Fredina responded that high school students can participate by attending the college networking event, which will be a separate activity only. Sandra said she will invite all of the colleges nearby such as Truckee Meadows Community College (TMCC), Western Nevada College (WNC), and UNR to give students the opportunity to learn about other colleges as well as UNR. She said there will be activities, campus tours and workshops for the students during the college networking event.
- F. Fredina is asking for tribal representation in the form of sponsoring coffee or snacks during the conference. Lori asked for volunteers and said that although people will not be able to participate in the conference, they will get lunch and a T-shirt.
- G. Fredina said members of the NIEA are also working on having a Bowling Night and they are also working with the Washoe County School District and possibly Pyramid Lake to do some optional events in the evenings.

X. Indian Education Updates

- A. Nevada Department of Education, Fredina Drye-Romero
 - 1. Fredina reported that approximately 300 people attended the Indian Education Summit that was held in March. She offered thanks to Lysie Dunn of the Washoe County School District (WCSD), Sandra, and Rhonda Knight for helping out during the youth piece of the Summit. She commented how fun it was to incorporate some of the students this year and she is looking forward to doing the same thing next year. Fredina shared that there were great presenters like Matika Wilbur, who stayed after the conference and visited some Nevada tribal communities.
 - 2. Fredina said she is working on a native youth community project. It is a grant in collaboration with Lyon County, Yerington Paiute Tribe and the Walker River Paiute Tribe. She also stated that she is working with Ft. McDermitt Paiute-Shoshone Tribe, Duck Valley Shoshone Paiute Tribe and Owyhee Combined School. If this grant can come to Nevada, youth conferences will be held in the summer to get these particular youth college and career ready. Fredina said this important grant is due at the end of August.
 - 3. Fredina said she and Sandra will attend an Indian Education Advisory Board meeting in Phoenix, AZ sometime in June.

B. Tribal Education Programs, Lori Pasqua

1. Lori stated that she is working on both the incentive scholarship and the higher education scholarship through the Washoe Tribe as they will be due soon. Lori is preparing to put on a Native Youth Conference on June 10, 2016 and it is completely booked with 100 students attending. Lori also said that she and Constance Barnes will be doing campus tours of colleges in the area such as UNR, TMCC, Sierra Nevada College, South Lake Tahoe Community College, and WNC. She mentioned that she is also setting up a summer youth employment program, and as previously mentioned, working on the elder portion of the NIEA Convention.

C. County School District Programs, Rhonda Knight and Rob Borges

1. Rhonda reported that she is in the final stages of working with the seniors getting ready to graduate within the WCSD. She works closely with counselors in the schools and student graduation advocates to provide tutoring or any other assistance that the students may need to graduate. Rhonda commented that close to 100 participants came for the Paiute Language Bowl and North Valleys High School was the winner. She said she feels the Language Bowl needs to be held at a larger place next year. She also said that she is working on collaborations with the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony (RSIC) and Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe students on finding ways to help and give them support.
2. Rob reported that he met with Dave Colario, contractor with the Carson City School District (CCSD) to discuss the initiative on having social workers in schools. Rob said he developed new, multi-year consent forms so the parents only have to sign them once at a particular school. Rob said the Douglas County School District (DCSD) Superintendent Teri White attended and spoke about the academic success of the students at an awards ceremony that took place recently. CCSD Superintendent Richard Stokes will attend the Carson City awards banquet that will be taking place this coming Saturday, May 14, 2016. Rob communicated that the concert during the youth conference will be at a different location because logistics wouldn't allow it to be where the conference is located. Sherry commented that her son said that nobody has reached out to him about the Native room at Carson High School. Rob said he would look into Sherry's concern and find out why there is a gap in communication about the program.

D. Universities and Community Colleges, Saundra Mitrovich and Miguel Martinez

1. Saundra reported that approximately 54 American Indian/ Alaska Native students this month and during the graduation celebration, the RSIC's Language and Culture program and Brenda Hooper were honored. She commented that the UNR Pageant and Powwow were successful, though having them in a convention center setting was different. She feels that the Native American Student Organization (NASO) has stepped up in their leadership roles this year. She is excited about forming a Northern Nevada Native College Network partnering with different colleges in the area. She is happy to share that the first leadership retreat will be at

Lake Tahoe at the end of August. Saundra said UNR's Intertribal Higher Education finalized their foundation account which will include sending an intern to the NIEA Convention every year. She stated that she will be taking two student interns to Owyhee to attend the Indigenous Student Association Conference. They will have the opportunity to participate in various sessions such as sovereignty and education. Saundra said that the program for middle school students, Start Thinking About College (STAC) is mostly geared to the Washoe County School District, but students from Pyramid Lake also invited to participate.

2. Miguel Martinez shared that he is the new representative for TMCC and his contact information is mmartinez@tmcc.edu and his direct line 775-673-8286. Denise will send him an Appointment of Representative form.

E. Other Indian Education Programs, Stephanie Wyatt and Mariana Eneva

1. Stephanie said that the Washoe County Children's Mental Health Consortium is looking for tribal representation. The purpose of this program is to strengthen the local partnership in behavioral healthcare for children and families. Sherry asked that Stephanie e-mail her information to the IEAC list serve.
2. Mariana said that Nevada Urban Indians is working on an application for the Johnson O'Malley grant that is received every year. She is in contact with partners from WCSD and the Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada (ITCN) for assistance.

XI. Committee Member Comments and Announcements

- A. Lori mentioned the Washoe Tribal Plaza that will be opening at the end of May.
- B. Sherry mentioned the Bi-State Traditional Ecological Knowledge Summit that will be held at the Stewart Indian School Gym, June 28-30, 2016. It is a forum to consider how best to incorporate Traditional Ecological Knowledge into the adaptive management of sagebrush and pinion juniper ecosystems.

XII. Agenda Items for Next Meeting

- A. Approval of May 9, 2016 meeting minutes.
- B. Approval of Appointment of Representative Forms
- C. Indian Education Advisory Committee By-law Revision
- D. Add TECAC to agenda items
- E. Please email Sherry with additional items

XIII. Scheduling and Location of Next Indian Education Advisory Committee Meeting

- A. The next meeting is scheduled for September 19, 2016.

XIV. Final Public Comment

- A. There were no final public comments made at the meeting.

XV. Adjournment

- A. The meeting was adjourned at 10:57am.