

Nevada Indian Commission  
 January 3, 2017  
 Education Advisory Committee for Native American and Alaska Natives Meeting Minutes  
 Western Nevada College, Carson City, Nevada

Committee Member	Seat Filled	Present	Absent
Lynn Manning-John	Owyhee Combined School	✓	
Lori Pasqua	Washoe Tribe of NV & CA		✓
FredinaDrye-Romero	NV Department of Education	✓	
Vacant	Douglas County School District		
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		✓
Saundra Mitrovich	University of Nevada, Reno	✓	
Miguel Martinez	Truckee Meadows Community College	✓	

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

Others Present: Kari Emm, Transfer Recruitment Coordinator, University of Nevada, Reno; Saundra Mitrovich, University of Nevada, Reno; Chelsey Solemsaas, Washoe County School District; Tammy Malich, Clark County School District

- I. Invocation
  - A. Lynn gave the invocation.
  
- II. Welcome and Introductions
  - A. Lynn 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 November 7, 2016 Meeting Minutes
  - A. **San San made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of November 7, 2016 and Fredina seconded. Motion carried.**
  
- V. Approval of Education Advisory Committee for American Indian and Alaska Native Appointment of Representative Forms
  - A. Sherry reported that she received an Appointment of Representative form from Constance Barnes, Education Director of Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California as well as Jonathan Lowery, Johnson O'Malley Advisor for Nevada Urban Indians. Lynn questioned whether there can be two representatives allowed because Vice-Chair, Lori Pasqua also represents the Washoe Tribe. Sherry said that the current By-laws state that

only one representative is allowed. The By-laws will be worked on and revised, but until then, Constance's approval by the Committee must be tabled.

- B. Saundra made a motion to approve the appointment of Jonathan Lowry and Fredina seconded. Motion carried.**

VI. Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman, Education Advisory Committee for American Indian and Alaska Natives

- A. Lynn reported that she is stepping down as the Chairman of this Committee. She regrets that she is unable to fully participate, but is hopeful she will be able to at another time. Sherry thanked Lynn for all of the work that she has done during her years as Chair. Saundra, Fredina, and members of the Committee thanked Lynn as well.
- B. Fredina nominated Saundra to be the new Chair and San San seconded. Saundra accepted the nomination with the support of her University of Nevada, Reno (UNR) colleague, Kari Emm. The By-laws currently state that only one representative per institution is allowed, but the By-laws will be changed to allow for two representatives.
- C. Saundra asked if there were any nominations for Vice-Chair in addition to Lori Pasqua. Lynn nominated Lori for Vice-Chair. Saundra closed the nominations and Lori will continue as the Vice-Chair of the Committee.

VII. Review and First Reading 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 she reviewed the existing By-laws and went over the former Tribal Early Childhood Advisory Committee (TECAC) By-laws and found that they are very similar. Sherry commented that she would like to change the name of the Committee from the Advisory Committee on Indian Education to the Indian Education Advisory Committee (IEAC).
- B. Sherry discussed the by-law revisions she would like to see, with the Committee's approval. She went through a draft version of changes to the By-laws. For example, Sherry stated that in Article I – The Mission statement changed slightly. In Article II – Purpose: new language was added on the importance of early childhood education. Fredina asked the group if anybody has been attending the State of Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council meetings and Sherry said that she would recommend Theresa do that, as she is the Head Start Director for the Washoe Tribe. Fredina suggested that Sherry remove the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act verbiage and replace with the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) information. For Article III – Membership, Sherry said she would like to change the quantity of representatives from one to two for the Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada, (ITCN) because Mike Tinsley is the director for its Child Care Development Fund (CCDF), and his reports on the activities of the CCDF are very informative. Kari offered that allowing two representatives per school district would be ideal because Clark County and Washoe County are so huge. Fredina also suggested that limiting representation to districts that have a high population of American Indian students and that there should be two representatives per Title program. Kari also commented that the Committee should consider adding Great Basin College

and Nevada State College with two members from each of these institutions as well. Lynn questioned whether quorum requirements would change and Sherry said that a simple majority would constitute the quorum.

The Committee currently has 8 members and the simple majority would be five. Sherry said that it is important to have members that are passionate about Indian Education – people that will actively participate by attending meetings. Regarding Article IV - Officers: Sherry added “early childhood development” in two sections. For Article VI - Meetings and Travel: Sherry stated that there is no funding for travel, so this item has been deleted. Sherry asked the group for their comments regarding the proposed changes as these changes will be on the March 7, 2017 meeting agenda for approval. Sherry said the changes can go out to the Attorney General’s Office today and can then be approved at the next meeting in March.

- C. San San reported that she attends the CCDF meetings at ITCN every month and feels the support of early childhood education is appreciated.

#### VIII. Discussion and Decision on Participation at Nevada Tribes Legislative Day, February 14, 2017

- A. Sherry reported that she has been working on the agenda. The Nevada Indian Commission doesn’t have Room 3100 until the afternoon. She told the group that Kat Miller, Administrator for Veterans Services has said that the Department of Veterans Services will be designating 2017 as the Year of the Native American Veteran. The Nevada Indian Commission (NIC) has submitted Senate Bill 83(SB83), which will expand the purpose and powers of the NIC. The Commission wants to be able to have programs to assist tribes. Sherry reported that the NIC will have an exhibit on the second floor in the Senate Atrium, showcasing 14 Notable Nevadans. These posters were also used at the National Indian Education Association Convention in October of last year.
- B. Patrick reported that he is working closely with Senator Segerblom on the issue of changing Columbus Day to Indigenous People’s Day. Sherry asked Patrick if he is working with the tribes of Southern Nevada and he said that he has been working alongside University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) and College of Southern Nevada (CSN) student associations to get this bill moving forward. Patrick commented that he would like to present to the group on this issue as he is looking for more support. Sherry asked Patrick if he would like to have more information on the table during the Nevada Tribes Legislative Day event.
- C. Sandra asked if information on pieces of legislation can be handed out at the event. San San said she is bringing middle school students with her to the Legislative Day. Sherry likes the idea of having students be part of the process. Sherry asked the members of the Committee for their ideas, as she would like their input. She informed the Committee that she will be sending out a Save the Date today.
- B. Sherry reported the Tribal Legislative Forum will be held on January 17, 2017 from 8:00am – 12:00pm in the Chambers of the Paul Laxalt Building in Carson City. Honored guests will include Assemblywoman Teresa Benitez-Thompson, Senator Pete Goicoechea,

Reno-Sparks Indian Colony (RSIC) Chairman, Arlan Melendez, Neena Laxalt and former Speaker of the House, John Ocegüera.

IX. Indian Education Updates:

- A. Fredina Drye-Romero, Nevada Department of Education (NDE) shared that the American Indian/Alaska Native Education Summit will be taking place March 20-21, 2017 at UNR. She is excited about this year being the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Summit and will have keynote speakers DJ Vanas, Jolie Proudfit, and “Supaman” for the youth. Fredina stated that this year’s theme, “From Accountability to Native Innovation: Celebrating a Decade of Work, and Venturing Toward a Bright Future” describes the growth of American Indian/Alaska Native Education Programs within the State of Nevada. Fredina commented that she would like to bring students in at no charge. Sherry asked which grades and Sandra said eighth through twelfth. Fredina shared that the youth will have the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor and the adults will have the 4<sup>th</sup> floor. She stated that this year the students will have a youth conference to attend with its own programming, activities, and guest speakers. Fredina also shared with the Committee that the NDE has put her in charge of developing a strategic plan for Indian Education. Sherry asked if Fredina will be organizing a subcommittee to assist her with this task and she said that she has an “advisory board” that she will utilize.
- B. San San Tin, RSIC, shared that the RSIC has passed their 2017 budgets and is in the process of building a new database for education. She stated the RSIC will be hiring a youth mentor as well as in-school tutors. She also shared that a Library position is still available at the Hungry Valley location.
- C. Early Childhood Programs – there were no reports given.
- D. County School District Programs
  - 1. Lynn Manning John, Elko County School District, reported that academics are being emphasized at the Owyhee Combined School. She stated that recruitment and retention of teachers can be difficult, but that she has had a tremendous staff so far this year. She shared that they are working with the Duck Valley Paiute-Shoshone Tribe Social Services to establish a working committee to build a Suicide Prevention program. She stated that in most urban areas, suicide prevention programs are already in place, but not so much in a rural setting. With one suicide attempt by a student last year, Lynn said the school wants to make sure students know that they matter. Lynn went on to say that she is hoping to participate in the Nevada Tribes Legislative Day event next month.
  - 2. Tammy Malich, Clark County School District, is attending the IEAC meeting for the first time and does not have an update. Sandra welcomed her to the group.
  - 3. Chelsey Solemsaas, Washoe County School District, reported that the application deadline for the Indian Education Specialist position has been extended until this Friday, January 6, 2017.
- E. Universities and Community Colleges
  - 1. Patrick Naranjo, UNLV, shared that he is excited about the opening of The Intersection, which is a multicultural resource center. Patrick asked Committee members for their suggestions on what could be included in the Center. Sandra commented that she is

excited about The Intersection, which will be opening soon. Sherry asked Patrick if The Intersection will be similar to the Center at UNR and he said yes.

2. Miguel Martinez, Truckee Meadows Community College (TMCC), shared that in the fall of 2017, the administration will be opening up their own multicultural center and is pushing for a strong Native population. Sandra thanked Miguel for his continued partnership with her programs at UNR.
  3. Kari Emm, UNR, reported that she has hired a graduate assistant to assist her with several programs that she administers. She also mentioned the “Tap into Nevada” program which assists students in course selection and financial needs. She said she is working with the College of Southern Nevada on the implementation of this program there as well.
  4. Sandra Mitrovich, UNR, commented that she is working on a Strategic Plan with the Inter-tribal Higher Education program that she administers. Sandra feels that it is important for students to finish college and graduate. She stated that enrollment for Native students will be higher in the fall of 2017. Sandra mentioned that there is funding in place for a student coordinator that Avery Wyatt of the RSIC, will stay on. Sandra commented on the youth portion of the American Indian/Alaska Native Education Summit and shared that different departments on campus have been contacting her as they are interested in assisting in the event.
- F. Other Indian Education Programs
- Jonathan Lowery, Nevada Urban Indians, reported that he is working on getting tutors for American Indian/Alaska Native students. He shared information on the upcoming Health Fair and Powwow that will be held on March 4-5, 2017 at Wooster High School in Reno. Jonathan stated that he will be attending a JOM conference in April. Jonathan mentioned that he is a SAFE TALK facilitator and will be doing two Suicide Prevention trainings soon.

X. Committee Member Comments and Announcements

- A. Fredina said that the NDE will be inviting school administrators to a meeting in January to discuss the native culture. Hopefully the insight gained by non-native administrators will help them understand their American Indian/Alaska Native students better.
- B. Sherry reported on the American Indian Achievement Awards Banquet and Silent Auction, held on November 19, 2016 at the Governor’s Mansion. She reported that it was a full house and made over \$14,000 for the Stewart Indian School. Fredina commented that her niece, Sierra Reel was awarded the American Indian Youth Ambassador of the Year and that she is very proud of her. Sherry told the Committee that the American Indian Community Leader of the Year award was shared by Ralph Burns, Robert James and Johnnie Williams, Jr. They are veterans of the United States Armed Forces and recently made a case that will now allow for voting in two tribal communities in Nevada. Patricia Williams Hicks was awarded the American Indian Youth Services/Role Model of the Year; she has spent her life teaching traditional Paiute songs and dances to tribal youth. Scott Nebesky, Planner for the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony, was honored with the Contributor/Supporter of the Year for his work in securing

additional lands for Nevada tribes.

- XI. Agenda Items for Next Meeting
  - A. Approval of January 3, 2017 meeting minutes.
  - B. Approval of Appointment of Representative Forms
  - C. Approval of the By-laws
  - D. Update on Planning for the 2017 Indian Education Summit
  - E. Strategic Plan
  - F. Tuition for Nevada Tribal members and Out of State attendees
  
- XII. Scheduling and Location of Next Indian Education Advisory Committee Meeting
  - A. The next meeting will be held on March 7, 2017. When the videoconferencing locations have been determined, Denise will inform the Committee of any site changes.
  
- XIII. Final Public Comment
  - A. Sherry asked Denise to change the meeting end time to 12:00pm instead of 11:30am.
  
- XIV. Adjournment
  - A. **Fredina made a motion to adjourn the meeting and San San seconded.** The meeting was adjourned at 11:26am.