

Indian Education in the State of Nevada

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College Information

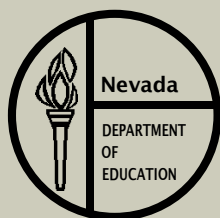
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News Letter Issues 2008

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- Fall Issue: November 2008

Download Newsletters at:

<http://www.doe.nv.gov/edteam/ndeoffice/s/sped-diversity-improve/resources.html>



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🍏 Greetings from the Nevada State Board of Education

Submitted by Cindy Reid, Board of Education Member

As I have served on the State Board of Education for the last two years, I have come to realize that one of the student populations most in need of our attention is the American Indian population. We have had gifted, articulated American Indian students come before our board and describe how they graduated at the top of their class in high school only to find themselves lacking necessary skills when

Vision: "Each student will achieve Nevada's expectations for learning."

Mission: "The Nevada Department of Education provides leadership, resources, assistance and oversight, in partnership with school districts and others, to support student achievement and future success."

🍏 News from the Indian Education Consultant

Submitted by Fredina Drye-Romero, Indian Education Consultant

We have received positive feedback from the newsletter and request continued support and contribution to this form of communication. Through this newsletter we have been able to reach a number of educators throughout the state, as well as throughout "Indian Country" to share important educational news and events. Additionally, it has been an honor to meet the individuals who are dedicated to improving the educational process and who provide their own expertise in helping our American Indian (AI) students excel. Without a doubt these are the students, parents, teachers, administrators, tribal education departments and tribal leaders who are working toward a common goal of increasing graduation rates and coming together to close the achievement gap for AI students.

In one article a principal mentions a high school, where seventeen students graduated, and of those seventeen, eleven AI students have continued their education and are now attending various colleges throughout the country! Also, read about the individuals who are working to raise the achievement level for AI students.

During the month of November, students at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) have been busy with events such as the Miss Native American UNLV pageant! At the University of

entering college. If this were the case in our suburban high schools, we would focus all our energy on turning it around.

It is my hope that as a state community of educators, we can find ways to serve the American Indian community to the best of our ability and, in turn, give American Indian students the same educational opportunities as all students in Nevada.

Nevada, Reno (UNR), the American Indian student group has brought back the Native American Student Organization and they are planning their annual powwow for May 2008. The College of Southern Nevada (CSN) is also becoming more involved in working with Southern Nevada's increasing AI population.

We can't forget the students who are starting to think about future college opportunities. In an effort to assist AI students and their tribes, the Northern Nevada American Indian Higher Education Collaborative has worked on improving the financial needs analysis form to work cohesively with tribes.

I would like to take this opportunity to applaud the educators that I have been privileged to work with and let them know that I am honored to work with such individuals!

This newsletter is electronic, therefore it is highly recommended that a copy be provided to those entities that do not have Internet capabilities and in this effort we can attempt to disseminate educational outreach to Nevada Tribes, schools, and the AI communities. The State of Nevada is so widespread and a newsletter is a way of effective communication. Our objective and focus will remain to provide educational assistance to the entities that we serve and work towards improved relationships.

News from Tribal Education Departments

Submitted by Pam Abercrombie, Yerington Indian Education Department

I started working for the Yerington Paiute Tribe in April of 2004. My prior experience was working in youth prevention programming. I believe I have the gift to lay seeds of hope and self-belief in the souls of youth. In less than a year of working with the youth at Yerington Paiute Tribe I noticed how these students respond to someone believing in them. While working with the students, I have learned where these students come from and where they are going. It just takes a little belief in someone to make his or her garden grow.

Some of the highlights of working with the Yerington Paiute Tribal Education Department include: co-presenting a Multi-Cultural Training Presentation, in collaboration with the Nevada Department of Education, with the assistance of the previous Indian Education Consultant, Lisa Grayshield; as well as assisting in a No Child Left Behind brochure and power point presentation, created by Rob van Neyhof. The brochure was designed specifically for the Tribe. It is also noteworthy to mention the graduation rate of Native students in Lyon County. In 2005, the graduation rate went from 63% in 2005 to 72% in 2006. I have also worked very closely with the Walker River Paiute Tribe to get the Native American Club and Tribal

Government class reestablished at the Yerington High School. In April 2007, the Yerington High School Native American Club was asked to present at the 2007 Phoenix Area Health Summit in Scottsdale, Arizona. The project involved Yerington Paiute Tribe and Walker River Paiute Tribe students and was led by the Walker River Paiute Tribe Education Department staff Mary Williams and Courtney Quintero. The theme of the conference was "Taking Back Our Families from Methamphetamine." The students chose "The Changing Faces of Families – the Affects of Meth," as the project title. The students have been recognized not only by their own tribes, the Walker River Paiute Tribe and Yerington Paiute Tribe, but have been interviewed by *Indian Country Today* as well as presenting at the 58th Annual Governor's Interstate Indian Council Conference, and the Inter Tribal Council of Nevada Convention this year.



Presenters: Ashley Allen, Trelena Tom, LaReina Jim, Rosie Tom, and Heather McCann.

Pre-Service Training

On May 4, 2007, Anthony Abbie, Brenda O'Neil, and Sheryl Hicks spoke at the UNR Pre-Service Teacher Seminar about the Washoe County School District's Title VII Indian Education Program, which includes the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony, the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe and the Nevada Urban Indians, Inc. The second part of the presentation consisted of discussion about the Nevada Indian Commission and its Indian Education Advisory Committee. Fredina Drye-Romero, who represented the Nevada Department of Education, gave a short historical insight on Indian Education and an update on the current data on AI students in the State.

Sheryl and Fredina presented again at the fall UNR Pre-Service Teachers Seminar on September 28, 2007. The information they provided was related to reaching out to diverse populations and parent involvement, and was noted as

being highly relevant to the teachers of the future. Dr. Mary Sedgwick, Director of Field Experiences, UNR College of Education, expressed that parent/family involvement is an integral part of a teacher's curriculum. In addition, Lynn Manning, newly hired Program Coordinator, for the Washoe County School District Indian Education Program, attended the seminar.

Thanks to Dr. Mary Sedgwick and Nancy Hall for inviting the AI community to be presenters at their seminars.



Sherry Rupert, Fredina Drye-Romero, Anthony Abbie, Sheryl Hicks, and Brenda O'Neil.

Douglas County School District

*Pau-Wa-Lu Middle School,
Interview with Martin Montgomery*

Exciting beginnings are occurring at Pau-Wa-Lu Middle School in Gardnerville, NV. Martin Montgomery was hired through the Douglas County School District to work as a teacher assistant/liaison for the middle school. He oversees the progress of American Indian students, as well as acts as a liaison between the parents and the school. This position was created at the request of the previous Principal Robbin Pedrett.

One of Martin's job responsibilities is to ensure AI students are successful in middle school and they build the foundation needed to prepare for high school. Along with Barbara Garcia, Washoe Tribal liaison, Martin assists in presenting a positive environment for AI students.

Martin says the teachers and current principal, Keith Lewis, are helpful and supportive in this effort. With the approval of the teachers, Martin goes into the classrooms to assist students in areas of improvement.

Martin feels fortunate to share the student's culture with teachers and administrators at PWLMS. The teachers have shared with Martin that if a student has a piece of their culture, they have the ability to become successful.

This year the AI students have started a youth council. One goal for the youth council is to attend the end of the semester event! There will be an Indian taco fundraiser.

Martin hopes to build confidence in each of the students he works with to be successful in their education endeavors.

Thank you to Principal Keith Lewis for his continuous support to the AI community and AI students at PWLMS!



Indian Education

Humboldt County School District

Submitted by John Moddrell, Principal at McDermitt Combined School

News from McDermitt Combined School (MCS). McDermitt High School was selected by the Nevada Department of Education as one of twenty-four schools across the State of Nevada, as being Exemplary for the 2006-07 school year as measure by Nevada's version of NCLB accountability. McDermitt Combined School is approximately 60% Native American, 30% Hispanic and 10% other populations, with 78% of the students living in poverty.

The graduating class of 2007 participated in the first Nevada GEAR UP program in which eleven of the seventeen graduates received a \$10,000.00 scholarship for their participation in the GEAR UP Program. This class set a new school record in scholarship dollars handed out on June 6, 2007, with over \$256,000.00 dollars handed out to fourteen of the seventeen graduates. The prior record was \$210,000.00 by the class of 2002.

Two of the students have selected to attend Haskell University in Lawrence, Kansas and are reportedly doing very well. In fact one student joined the football team upon his arrival at Haskell.

Two students made their way to Las Vegas to attend the University of Nevada, Las Vegas with intentions to enter into law school after completing their bachelor's degree. One student received a full scholarship to Sierra Nevada College and came back to McDermitt's Homecoming game on October 25th to report she was having a great time at school. Several students are attending Great Basin College in either Elko or Winnemucca. The staff at McDermitt Combined School all wish them the best of luck and that the hard work will pay off in

the end.

Part of McDermitt's success can be found within the math department. The teachers have instituted an aggressive curriculum that requires all eighth grade students to participate in an Algebra I curriculum. It took over three years of hard work to finally have students prepared for Algebra I in eighth grade. On the high school level students are required to take two math classes, one at their ability level, in a course sequence of Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, Trigonometry, along with a course in Plato Math Rotation. The Plato Math Rotation class is designed for students to rotate between a week of regular classroom instruction, a week of instruction supported by the Plato software program that reinforces the lessons taught in the regular classroom, followed by a week of intervention through the Accelerated Math program at the students ability level. Each year since instituting the program, proficiency math scores have increased along with an increased pass rate for first time test takers.

In 1997, McDermitt Combined School adopted the Success for All Reading Program and now the first wave of those students are going through the high school. Ninety-five percent of the present seniors passed the reading proficiency test by the end of their junior year and eighty-seven percent of the present juniors passed the reading test in their first attempt as sophomores. This site has made writing across the curriculum a high focus for the past several years and as a result, one hundred percent of the present seniors passed the writing proficiency test on their first attempt.

Nevada Indian Commission Indian Education Advisory

Nevada Indian Commission Indian (NIC) Education Advisory Committee's next meeting date is December 17 at UNR's Joe Crowley Student Union

Indian Education Advisory Committee information found on the NIC website:

- By-Laws
- Most Recent Meeting
- Notice & Agenda
- Meeting Minutes
- List of Meeting Dates
- Tribal Needs Analysis
- Sierra Nevada (scholarship information)

Next 2008 NIC Advisory Mtgs:

January 14, 2008
February 11, 2008
March 10, 2008

<http://indiancommission.state.nv.us/>



Indian Education

Washoe County School District

Submitted by Lynn Manning, Program Coordinator Indian Education

Greetings from the Washoe County School District (WCSD) Indian Education Program. My name is Lynn Manning and I am the new Indian Education Coordinator. I am Shoshone, Paiute, Chippewa and Cree and am enrolled with the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of the Duck Valley Indian Reservation.

Prior to coming to WCSD, I was the Indian Education Project Facilitator for the Clark County School District. I am very pleased to be a part of the WCSD team helping American Indian and Alaska Native students succeed in school. This year the WCSD Indian Education Program has

many exciting educational and cultural activities for students to participate in, including after school and intersession programs at four elementary schools, and Paiute language class at two high schools. We are working in partnership with the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony, Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe and Nevada Urban Indians to provide advisement services to American Indian and Alaska Native students at schools throughout the district. Other activities include conferences, cultural events, and student recognition for outstanding achievement and attendance.

Thank you Churchill County School District for distributing the newsletter to your staff, AI students & parents!



University of Nevada Las Vegas

Submitted by the Kyle Ethlebah

The Native Rebel Welcome was a great success! We had about 30 students attend, plus about 10 staff and allies, including Chuck Masoka and Debbie Mzhickteno, Native staff at CSN.

Students in the American Indian Science and Engineering Society, as well as the Native American Student Association are planning all the events planned for Native American Heritage Month at UNLV. The first event was to re-introduce Miss Native American UNLV pageant on October 30. The students are excited to bring the pageant back to campus and are proud to announce the new 2007-2008 Miss Native American UNLV, Shi-Tawanna Wahaila Kedelty. This will also bring us in line with other large higher education institutions in the country, as Miss Native American UNLV will serve as the University Ambassador at all our activities. We are also beginning discussions with the College of Engineering to introduce an outreach program for Native high school students locally to consider a career in the sciences at UNLV. This is still in the initial discussion phases but looks to be a worthwhile commitment. Our Indigenous Day of Remembrance activities went well (*Columbus Day*). We offered a Healing Ceremony where a panel of speakers, Dr. Michelle Chino, Dr. Jane Hafen, Dr. Christine Clark, Mrs. Alfreda Mitre, Ms. Carrie Dann and Mr. Antonio Gering spoke on the impact of colonization within our communities. That evening we had a film viewing and discussion with Carrie Dann from the Western Shoshone Defense Project discussing sovereignty issues in the State of Nevada, and the blanket authority the federal government has exerted in dealing with their land issues. It was a deep, emotional conversation. The Native American Student Association, the American Indian Alliance, the UNLV Anthropology Society, Oxfam International, and the Western Shoshone Defense Project sponsored this event.

The three state funded institutions are joining together to plan the events for Native American Heritage Month in November. For more information contact Kyle at 702.730.6119

University of Nevada Reno

Submitted by The Center for Student Cultural Diversity

The University of Nevada, Reno Native American Student Organization (NASO) is excited to start the 2007 fall semester. The first meeting of the year was held at the Center for Student Cultural Diversity September 12, 2007. The members of NASO have not only found new classmates, but a family away from home.

The Organization is enthusiastic about their future goals in bringing the Native American culture to the campus by planning socials, involving themselves in community service, and co-sponsoring the Fourth Annual University of Nevada, Reno Powwow with the Native American Alumni Chapter (NAAC) and The Center for Student Cultural Diversity.

If you would like more information on NASO, please contact the Kari Emm, NASO advisor at kemm@unr.edu.

2007 Elected Officers for NASO:

President – Christina Thomas

Vice-President – Shawndine Begay,

Treasurers – Sonny Reedy & Kathleen Wright-Bryan

Secretary – Heather Sam

PR/Marketing – Brittany Santos & Chelsea O'Daye

Membership – Shealyn Dick

Webmaster – Dylan Riley



(From top left to right): Sonny Reedy, Dylan Riley, Shealyn Dick, Kielea Dick, Chelsea O'Daye, Holly Sam, Kathleen Wright-Bryan, Natasha Ninham, Christina Thomas, (From bottom left to right): Britt Gianotti, Heather Sam, Brittney Santos, Mariah Blackhat, Kari Emm, Shawndine Begay

College of Southern Nevada

Submitted by Chuck Masoka

Hi, there! My name is Chuck Masoka and I am an enrolled member of the Sisseton-Wahpeton Dakota Oyate of the Lake Traverse Reservation in South Dakota. I attended Haskell Indian Nations University, completing two degrees, an Associate of Arts in Media Arts and a Bachelor of Arts in American Indian Studies. After graduating, I moved to Las Vegas, Nevada and took a position as a Recruitment/Retention Specialist at the College of Southern Nevada (CSN).

I would like to let the Indian Community in Nevada know that I am committed to helping them attain their goals of higher education, and creating a better community for us all.

I have been fortunate enough to start meeting people in the Indian community, primarily through events such as the Native American Student Association's Welcome Back Picnic at UNLV and events through the colleges. We are currently promoting the events for Native American Heritage Month that the three colleges in the Southern Nevada System of Higher Education will produce.

CSN will be sponsoring five events throughout November to support Indian issues and to start the dialogue with the community that we Indian people are still here, and that we still have

something to contribute to society.

CSN currently offers over 200 different degrees and technical programs at 14 different locations throughout the greater Las Vegas metropolitan area. Students can pursue a one-year certificate of achievement, a two-year associate degree, or complete the first two years of a four-year bachelor degree at CSN. CSN also has one Bachelor of Science degree in Dental Hygiene, and offers many non-credit courses in Workforce & Economic Development and for personal enrichment.

I would be happy to help anyone interested in continuing their education. Please feel free to contact me with any questions, or if you see me out in the community, please say hi! I'm here to help. ~ Chuck Masoka



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🍏 Students Start Thinking About College

College Information Center

Tribal Higher Education Program – Financial Needs Analysis Information

The Northern Nevada American Indian Higher Education Collaborative has approved a new needs analysis form starting with the 2007–2008 academic year. This new form, to be used to apply for tribal financial assistance, is a common form that will be used by most of our Northern Nevada Tribes. Visit the UNR Financial Aid website or the Nevada Indian Commission website to view the common needs analysis form:

<http://www.finaid.unr.edu/finaidTypes/typesTribalInformation.htm>

or

<http://www.indiancommission.state.nv.us>

Check out the new Tribal Higher Education Newsletter:
SOOPEDAKWAPOONA NA SUMU
"A Gathering of Knowledge"

http://www.ss.unr.edu/nnaihec/pdf/nl_1_1.pdf



High school students pose at the Inter Tribal Council Youth Conference, October 2007

🍏 Inter Tribal Council of Nevada

Youth Conference, Submitted by Fredina Romero, NDE Consultant

On October 7, AI students attended the 5th Annual ITCN Youth Conference in Reno, Nevada. It was an honor to be a part of a panel titled "Education, Opportunities, How to get started on your future today! Financial Aid & Scholarships." The presenters included: Kari Emm, from the Center for Cultural Diversity, University of Nevada-Reno; Mona Concha-Buckheart, from Truckee Meadows Community College, Financial Aid Director; Michelle Pasena, from the American Indian Graduate Center Scholars (Gates Millennium), and myself, Fredina Dye-Romero, Indian Education Consultant, Nevada Department of Education.



Sierra Nevada College Native American Scholarship Recipients attend Reception on campus, August 2008.

🍏 Sierra Nevada College

Six Nevada high school students received the Native American Scholars Award – a full tuition scholarship beginning in the Fall 2007 semester. Sierra Nevada College offered these scholarships. On August 17th the students were honored at a special luncheon.

Committee members from the Nevada Indian Commission Indian Education Advisory Committee visited the students on November 8, 2007. It was exciting to hear how each student is adapting to Sierra Nevada College's culture. They are all feeling support from the school. A few of the students started a new Native American Club. They also look forward to the college starting a new American Indian Studies class in the spring.

Without a doubt, these students are paving the way for AI youth in Nevada to start thinking about college!

🍏 Northern Nevada Financial Aid Contact Information

**University of Nevada, Reno
Student Financial Aid & Scholarships**
Ph: (775) 784-4666
Fx: (775) 784-1025

**University of Nevada, Reno Intertribal
Higher Ed. Program
Kari Emm**
Ph: (775) 784-4936
Fx: (775) 784-1402

**Western Nevada College: Financial
Assistance Office**
Ph: (775) 445-3264
Fx: (775) 445-3058

**Truckee Meadows Community
College: Financial Aid, Scholarship &
Student Employment Center**
Ph: (775) 673-7072
Fx: (775) 674-7566

**Great Basin College: Student
Financial Services**
Ph: (775) 753-2399
Fx: (775) 753-2390

**For updated Tribal Contact
Information:**
<http://www.indiancommission.state.nv.us/documents/2007/NewTribalChairList3.pdf>

Financial Aid Checklist for UNR:

- Submit a current FAFSA application
- Check the EPAWS account to be sure you have a complete Financial Aid file
- As an entering freshman or transfer student make sure you've been admitted to the university
- Available January 1st – complete the FAFSA early each year
- February 1st – University Scholarship Application due
- June 15 – Deadline for students admitted prior to June 1st to register for classes or submit missing documents to maintain Financial Aid offer
- 10 business days – timeline for the UNR office to process any incoming documents.

Financial Aid Checklist for Truckee Meadows Community College:

- Apply for federal Financial Aid
- AI students apply for BIA/Tribal Education Grant
⇒ Go to your Tribal Education Office to get application
- Students fill out Tribal Education Grant Application – keep one for self and turn a copy into the TMCC financial aid office. Use the new common Financial Aid Analysis form for Northern Nevada colleges at: <http://www.indiancommission.state.nv.us>
- Estimated Family Contribution is processed and Tribal Grant is calculated
- Tribal Grant Award is sent to TMCC Financial Aid Office
- TMCC receives and processes Tribal Grant Award
- Financial Aid Award is processed after financial file is completed and applied to student's account, if eligible check web-reg for offer letter.



Sherry Rupert, NIC Executive Director; Chris Gibbons, NIC; Patrick Lee Burt, Washoe Tribe; Robert Lee Smith Jr., Yerington Paiute Tribe; Jenni Williams, Washoe Tribe; Ginny Hatch, Yerington Paiute Tribe; and Fredina Romero, NDE Indian Ed. Consultant, November 2007