

NATIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL ON INDIAN EDUCATION



ANNUAL REPORT

FY 2004 – 2005



NATIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL ON INDIAN EDUCATION

ANNUAL REPORT

FY 2004-2005

I. Legislative Authority and Functions

The National Advisory Council on Indian Education (NACIE or the Council) is authorized by section 7141 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA), 20 U.S.C. 7871; and governed by the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), 5 U.S.C. app., as indicated in the renewed April 14, 2005 charter.

The Council consists of 15 members appointed by the President. The members serve as Special Government Employees and have the following purposes and functions:

- To advise the Secretary of Education (Secretary) concerning the funding and administration (including the development of regulations and administrative policies and practices) of any program, including any program established under Title VII, Part A of the ESEA, with respect to which the Secretary has jurisdiction and that includes American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) children or adults as participants or that may benefit AI/AN children or adults;
- To make recommendations to the Secretary for filling the position of Assistant Deputy Secretary and Director of the Office of Indian Education (Director) whenever a vacancy occurs; and
- To submit to the Congress, not later than June 30 of each year, a report on the activities of the Council, including any recommendations that the Council considers appropriate for the improvement of Federal education programs that include AI/AN children or adults as participants or that may benefit AI/AN children or adults, and recommendations concerning the funding of any such program.
- In accordance with Executive Order 13336 (EO) on American Indian and Alaska Native Education, Section 2(b), the Interagency Working Group may consult with the members of the Council for the purpose of obtaining information and advice concerning AI/AN education.

The Secretary swore in 13 Council members on April 30, 2004, prior to the President signing the EO (one member has subsequently resigned due to new job conflict). At the first meeting, the Director held an orientation session for the new members. The Council currently lacks three members, and the Council wrote the Secretary in February 2005 requesting the vacancies be filled. The Office of Indian Education (OIE) is working with the White House to fill the vacancies.

The Director has been appointed by the Secretary to serve as the Designated Federal Officer (DFO) of the Council. The Council elected officers during the first meeting, with Cynthia Lindquist-Mala (North Dakota) serving as Chairperson, and Lori Quigley (New York) serving as Vice Chairperson.

II. Activities and Accomplishments

The Council conducted five meetings during the 2004-2005 year:

1. July 1-2, 2004, Washington, DC
2. October 26, 2004, Phoenix, AZ
3. January 18, 2005, Teleconference
4. February 17, 2005, Washington, DC
5. May 23, 2005, Chicago, IL

A quorum (at least eight members) was established at each meeting. Summaries of the minutes of each meeting are available via the OIE web page at www.ed.gov. Assisting with the minutes is New West Technologies, an American Indian-owned small business and contractor for OIE.

AI/AN education programs and legislative information directly related to Council function and activities have been the primary focus of the meetings. Information relating to accountability and funding, and programmatic efforts and how they fit into the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) legislation, with focus on AI/AN students, were presented and discussed. Reports from representatives of the Office of Elementary and Secondary Education and the Office of General Counsel provided the background information, which explained and clarified the connection between NCLB, the ESEA, and the Indian Education Act of 1972.

Under charter provisions, the Council established three subcommittees to better coordinate and manage topics and materials:

- 1) *NCLB Work Group*, chaired by Donna Brown (North Dakota), focuses on NCLB and its impact on AI/AN children who attend public schools or schools supported by the U.S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA);
- 2) *Research Work Group*, chaired by Linda Sue Warner (Tennessee), focuses on issues related to capacity building for research in those areas and regions in which AI/AN students are educated (i.e., tribal colleges); and
- 3) *Business Work Group*, chaired by Virginia Thomas (Oklahoma) focuses on the process for addressing concerns that are brought to Council members in consultation with the public, conducting of NACIE business, Charter renewal and clarifications, and the filling of Council vacancies.

Several members of the Council have taken an active role in the work sessions of the Federal Interagency Working Group on American Indian and Alaska Native Education, in

accordance with the EO. Council participation and consultation added to the Federal Interagency Plan, which outlines initiatives, recommendations, strategies and ideas to assist AI/AN students in meeting the challenging academic standards of NCLB in a manner that is consistent with tribal traditions, languages, and cultures.

The EO also called for a National Conference on Indian Education, which was held at the Santa Ana Pueblo, New Mexico, in April 2005. Council members served as facilitators for the plenary sessions and as advisors for work group sessions. These sessions focused on five topic areas that were generated from regional roundtable discussions preceding the conference:

1. Closing the Achievement Gap
2. Teacher Training and Development
3. Traditions, Language and Culture
4. Scientifically-Based Research Methods
5. Local, Tribal, State and Federal Collaboration

The purpose of the Conference was to provide a forum to discuss the outcomes of five regional roundtable meetings (New Mexico, Minnesota, Oregon, Oklahoma, and Washington, DC) and to develop proposals to identify means to enhance communication, collaboration, and cooperative strategies to improve AI/AN education at the federal, state, local, and tribal levels. Council members participated at the Minnesota, Oklahoma, and Washington, DC roundtables.

The roundtables and national conference were organized and facilitated by Kauffman and Associates, Inc., an American Indian-owned small business and contractor for OIE. Participants at the forums included educators, representatives of BIA-funded schools and public schools, state and federal officials, parents, and students. A summary of the findings from the roundtables and national conference is being developed by the contractor and will be available from OIE and at www.indianeducation.org.

III. Priorities and Recommendations

As a result of discussions and information presented to the Council during the 2004-2005 year, the Council has established the following priorities and recommendations:

1. Continue to assist the Interagency Workgroup to implement directives of the EO – i.e., dissemination of summary findings from the national Indian education conference and roundtable forums including strategies in the implementation of traditions, language, and culture into education curriculum.

Recommendation: Reconvene the Interagency Workgroup after the national conference report is released and prior to the National Indian Education Association fall conference (October 2005) per the time line of the EO work plan. Also facilitate the next steps and follow up work from the conference. Facilitate NACIE participation at the Interagency Workgroup session(s).

2. Work with national Indian education organizations toward advocating a unified message regarding Indian education, the status of AI/AN students, and the improvement of accountability and outcomes that are scientifically-based research.

Recommendation: Develop a contact list of national Indian education organizations and entities. Have a NACIE member attend national Indian education conferences/meetings as the NACIE representative. Solicit input from the national organizations regarding priorities and a unified message on AI/AN education disparities, needs, and best practice models. Assist in dissemination of the unified message.

3. Continue to schedule an annual briefing regarding the status of legislation or policies specific to AI/AN education. If appropriate, provide the Secretary and Congress with proposed changes that illustrate the review and analysis of trends affecting AI/AN education systems and AI/AN student academic achievement.

Recommendation: Legislation briefing will be scheduled and conducted by Department of Education legislative staff and by a representative from the Native American Rights Fund. NACIE will invite representatives from the national Indian education organizations to participate.

4. Support and assist the OIE in its partnership with the BIA, for their Indian education programs, such as Johnson O'Malley, the per pupil funding rate, student achievement under NCLB, or the BIA education grant-funded program process.

Recommendation: OIE will request a briefing by the BIA education specialist(s) during a NACIE meeting to facilitate understanding and cooperation to better support their Indian education programs.

5. Assist OIE in reviewing the grant proposal process to provide recommendations to the Director for improving program effectiveness and to streamline the process.

Recommendation: Schedule annual briefing by OIE regarding the process and outcome of grant application process that includes number of applications, number funded, and summation of priorities from the applications. Develop a mechanism for 'new' granting ideas to come forward for consideration and for funding. Improve information sharing regarding technical assistance on writing and applying for education grants.

6. Become informed and monitor the proposed budget for AI/AN education programs that directly impact AI/AN students. Provide the Director, the Secretary and Congress budget recommendations to ensure that the innovations, reforms, and high standards of NCLB enable AI/AN students to reach established educational benchmarks of achievement.

Recommendation: Schedule annual briefing for NACIE on appropriations for U.S. Department of Education programs that impact AI/AN students or schools.

7. Assure the work of NACIE is conducted in an efficient and timely manner.

Recommendation: Work with OIE to establish and maintain a Council website for public input and feedback. Convene, at a minimum, on a quarterly basis at locations determined by the Council. Advocate for remaining vacancies to be filled as soon as possible, due to the requirement of eight members for a quorum for an official meeting. Review the Council budget with the Director to assure sufficient funding for the work of the Council.

Disclaimer: The National Advisory Council on Indian Education (Council) is a Federal advisory committee chartered by Congress, operating under the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA; 5 U.S.C., App.2). The Council provides advice to the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Education concerning the funding and administration of any program, including any program established under Title VII, Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, with respect to which the Secretary has jurisdiction and that includes American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) children or adults as participants or that may benefit AI/AN children or adults. The Council also submits an annual report to Congress not later than June 30 on its activities and may include any recommendations that the Council considers appropriate for the improvement of Federal education programs that include AI/AN children or adults. The findings and recommendations of the Council do not represent the views of the U.S. Department of Education.

NATIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL ON INDIAN EDUCATION

Chairperson

Cynthia A. Lindquist-Mala

Fort Totten, ND

Spirit Lake (Dakota) Nation of North Dakota

Vice Chairperson

Lori Quigley

Salamanca, NY

Seneca Nation of Indians of New York

Gregory Anderson

Eufaula, OK

Creek Tribe of Oklahoma

Robert Chiago

Tempe, AZ

Navajo Tribe

Donna L. Brown

Grand Forks, ND

*Turtle Mountain Chippewa Tribe of North
Dakota*

Carol Lee Gho

Fairbanks, AK

Inupiaq Eskimo of Alaska

Kathy Hopinkah Hannan

Wheaton, IL

Ho-Chunk Nation Tribe of Wisconsin

Michael C. Parish

Brimley, MI

Bay Mills Indian Community of Michigan

Virginia Thomas

Okmulgee, OK

Muscogee Creek Nation of Oklahoma

Michelle D. Henderson

Missoula, MT

*Fort Belknap Assiniboine Nakota Nation
Montana*

Lennie L. Pickard

Sterling, VA

*Chiricahua-Warm Springs Apache Tribe
of Oklahoma*

Linda Sue Warner

Nashville, TN

Comanche Tribe of Oklahoma