

OKLAHOMA ADVISORY COUNCIL ON INDIAN EDUCATION  
(70 o.s. § 3-173 (OSCN 2010), Oklahoma Advisory Council on Indian Education Act)  
ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2013

December 19, 2013

The Oklahoma Advisory Council on Indian Education (OACIE) has recently completed their meetings for the calendar year ending 2013. This report will cover the yearly report and the recommendations to the State Board of Education and the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

We have approximately 130,000 Native American Students in our Oklahoma Schools.

**Current members**

Current members for the OACIE are as follows: Members representing tribes as appointed by the Governor's office – Mr. Greg Anderson, Muscogee (Creek) Nation; Ms. Lori Hamilton, Chickasaw Nation; Ms. Lisa John, Chickasaw Nation; Jana Roth, Delaware Tribe; Members representing Tribal Education Departments as appointed by the Governor's office – Ms. Mary McCormick, Sac & Fox Nation; Mr. Jim Parrish, (Chair 2013), Choctaw Nation; Mrs. Judy Davis, Miami Tribe; Jack Shadwick, Ottawa Tribe: Members representing the Oklahoma Council for Indian Education as appointed by the Governor's office – Ms. Lucyann Harjo (Vice Chair 2013), Coordinator of Indian Education, Norman Public Schools; Members representing statewide teacher organizations, Ms. Esther Bell, Shawnee, OK; Mr. Paul Pinkerton, Stillwell, OK; Member representing statewide organization for school superintendents, Mr. Tom Crimmins, Elgin Public Schools; Member representing Oklahoma Tribal Colleges, President Robert Bible, College of the Muscogee Nation; Representing the Native American Cultural & Education Authority, Nancy Fields; Representing the Oklahoma Department of Career and Technology, Dr. Joe Robinson; Representing the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, Matt Higdon, Field Coordinator for Student Preparation. At this time, the Council has not received word from Governor Mary Fallin's Office of the nominee for the open appointment for a member representing tribes.

**Purpose**

The purpose of the Oklahoma Advisory Council on Indian Education Act is to recognize the unique relationship that Oklahoma enjoys with the Indian tribes located within the state and how Native Americans and Indian tribes play a pivotal role in the educational system of the state in light of this special relationship. The further purpose of the act is to establish the Oklahoma Advisory Council on Indian Education. The purpose of creating the Council is to promote culturally relevant learning environments, educational opportunities and instructional material for Native American students enrolled in the public schools of the state. Because of the number of Native American students enrolled in public schools in our state, this objective will positively affect the educational success of all public school students and encourage further government-to-government cooperation between the State of Oklahoma and the sovereign Indian Tribes in Oklahoma.

## Highlights of 2013

### 1. Presentations from the State Department of Education

- a. Presentations by Stephanie Goins, State Department of Education Legal Counsel, and by Desa Dawson, World Language Director, on the process of the current Native Language Certification rules
- b. Presentation by Teri Brecheen, Executive Director, Literacy Team
- c. Dwight Pickering, Director of American Indian Education, presented updates from the State Department of Education on Indian Education at each meeting.

#### 1. Oklahoma Teacher Resource Committee:

##### a. Committee Members

*Leslie Barse, Retired Teacher, Norman Public Schools*

*Curtis Calvin, Deputy Director Educational Outreach, Oklahoma Educational Television Authority*

*Justin Devero, Web Producer, Oklahoma State Department of Education*

*Jean Froman, Director of Indian Education, Tulsa Public Schools*

*Georgina Gooden, Teacher, Mid-Del Public Schools*

*Lucyann Harjo, Coordinator of Indian Education, Norman Public Schools*

*Yvonne Hensley, Teacher, Edmond Public Schools*

*Joy Hinkle, Elementary Tutor, Norman Public Schools Indian Education*

*Stephen Hinkle, Reading Specialist, Norman Public Schools Indian Education*

*Frank McGeisey, Elementary Tutor, Norman Public Schools Indian Education*

*Brent Moffer, Elementary Tutor, Norman Public Schools Indian Education*

*Karen Onco, Indian Education Coordinator, Western Heights Public Schools*

*William Welge, Director American Indian Culture & Preservation, Oklahoma History Center*

*Jim Parrish, Director of Choctaw Language, Choctaw Nation*

*Carrie Perez, Teacher, Norman Public Schools*

*Dwight Pickering, Director of American Indian Education, Oklahoma State Department of Education*

*Matt Reed, Curator, Oklahoma Museum of History, Collections, Oklahoma History Center*

*Linda Skinner, Teacher, Edmond Public Schools*

*Dr. Gloria Sly, Director, Cultural Resource Center, Cherokee Nation*

*Grace Smith, Indian Education Teacher, Edmond Public Schools*

*Kimberly Smith, Director of Indian Education, Ardmore City Schools*

*Cedric Sunray, Special Sites Tutor, Norman Public Schools Indian Education*

*Jacob Tsoitigh, Indian Education Technical Assistance Coordinator, University of Oklahoma*

*Lillian Williams, Resource Advisor, Tulsa Public Schools Indian Education*

*Sydna Yellowfish, Indian Education Coordinator, Edmond Public Schools*

*Dr. Star Yellowfish, Administrator, Native American Student Services*

2. Indian Education Summit: “Indian Education for All”

a. Conference Leadership

*(1.) Dr. Norma Neely, Director, American Indian Institute, University of Oklahoma*

*(2.) Jacob Tsoitigh, Indian Education Technical Assistance Coordinator, South Central Comprehensive Center, University of Oklahoma*

3. Test score information

4. STEP Grant

5. Data Sharing Tool

6. Vision 20/20 and Indian Education Workshops

a. Workshop Titles

*(1.) Title VII Indian Education - Dwight M. Pickering, OSDE*

*(2.) Johnson O’Malley Indian Education - Penny Watson Chickasaw Nation*

*(3.) Step Grant Partnership - OSDE/Chickasaw Nation / Cheyenne & Arapaho Tribes, Bill Vann, Chickasaw Nation.*

*(4.) Teaching American Indian Student - Jacob Tsoitigh South Central Comprehensive Center, University of Oklahoma*

*(5.) Teaching the Native American Language in your School - Desa Dawson OSDE*

*(6.) Native American Resources for Your Classroom- Dwight Pickering, OSDE*

7. Native Language Certification

8. Indian Education Website: “Indian Education for All” (online January, 2014)

**2. Presentations by OACIE Board Members**

a. Greg Anderson presented to the Council updates on the most recent business of the NACIE (National Advisory Council on Indian Education).

b. Lucyann Harjo presented to the Council updates on the business of the OCIE (Oklahoma Council for Indian Education).

c. Tom Crimmins presented to the Council updates on current legislative issues.

- d. Dr. Joe Robinson presented to the Council updates on the enrollment of Native American students in Career Tech Centers.

### **3. Presentations by Guest Speakers**

- a. Barbary Keith, Senior Director, K-12, presented to the Council information about the College Board.
- b. William Welge, Director American Indian Culture and Preservation Office, and Billie Forgarty, Board Member of the Oklahoma Historical Society, from the Oklahoma Historical Society presented to the Council the historical information they have available to help inform the public of the history and culture of the Tribes of Oklahoma.
- c. Dan Schiedel, Executive Director of OETA (Oklahoma Educational Television Authority), presented to the Council the educational value of OETA, how they could partner with the Tribes, SDE, and OACIE, and to help educate the public on tribal history, culture, and language.

### **4. Activities of the OACIE**

- a. A meet and greet session was held by the Council at the State Capitol for the purpose of meeting the members of the Native American Caucus and other members of the legislature.
- b. Jacque Hensley, Native American Liaison for Governor Mary Fallin's Office, attended one of our meetings, and we developed a partnership with the Governor's Office on Native American issues.
- c. Several members of the Council attended a meeting with Edwin Schupman, Education Product Developer from the National Museum of the American Indian. A partnership was developed at this meeting with the SDE and organizations represented at the meeting.

### **5. OACIE Partners in Indian Education**

American Indian Institute of the University of Oklahoma

South Central Comprehensive Center, University of Oklahoma

OETA, Oklahoma Education Television Authority

Native American Caucus of Oklahoma Legislators

College Board

Oklahoma History Center

Oklahoma Historical Society

Jacque Secondine Hensley, Native American Liaison, Office of Governor Mary Fallin

Edwin Schupman, Education Product Developer, National Museum of the American Indian

Oklahoma State Department of Education

Oklahoma Council for Indian Education

National Advisory Council on Indian Education

## **6. Recommendations to the State Board of Education.**

- a. It is still the recommendation of this Council to add additional staff to the Office of Indian Education at the SDE.
- b. The Council also recommends the continual support of the SDE in the development of additional staff development for teachers and schools on the cultural diversity of the Native American students.

## **7. Request to the State Board of Education**

- a. The Council request your support of a bill developed for this coming session that will give this Council life for years to come.

### **It is the Council's charge and duties to continue to:**

1. Identify strategies for developing an efficient and reliable process of communications between Oklahoma education entities, educators, tribal organizations and other interested parties;

2. Identify and disseminate research-based, measurable criteria, both behavioral and academic, by which the success and efficacy of the education offered to Native American students in Oklahoma may be measured;
3. Analyze data to ensure that education agencies in Oklahoma continue to address the education needs of Native American students;
4. Encourage and promote Native American educational leadership at all levels of the education system; and
5. Make recommendations to the State Board of Education for programs that will help achieve the purposes of the Oklahoma Advisory Council on Indian Education Act.

If you have any additional questions, feel free to contact me, Jim Parrish, Director of the School of Choctaw Language, at 1-800-522-6170, ext. 2250, or at [jparrish@choctawnation.com](mailto:jparrish@choctawnation.com).

Jim Parrish, Chairman of the Oklahoma Advisory Council on Indian Education.