

# 2006 Annual Report



**Arizona Commission of Indian Affairs  
1400 W. Washington Suite 300  
Phoenix, AZ 85007**

Letter To Governor Janet Napolitano

Dear Governor Napolitano,

On behalf of the Arizona Commission of Indian Affairs (ACIS), I submit to you the 2006 ACIA Annual Report. This report highlights some of the ACIA's major accomplishments achieved in 2006 as well as an outlook for 2007 and beyond.

The year 2006 brought many changes to the ACIA most notably in the areas of new staff and a "refocus" of the ACIA's strategy to provide quality services to state government and the Indian people we serve. I began my tenure here at the Commission on May 1, 2006 and learned very quickly of not only the importance that this office has to the Arizona Indian community but the opportunity we have to truly strengthen and positively impact that relationship for years to come.

We began 2006 with yet another successful Indian Nations and Tribes Legislative Day which has continually grown since its inception over 10 years ago. In June we hosted the 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Indian Town Hall in Scottsdale which brought a variety of individuals together to discuss the importance of protecting cultural resources. Finally, in October, we hosted the first ever Tribal-Legislative workshop in Phoenix that brought together legislators and tribal leaders to discuss the upcoming legislative session.

While the events that the ACIA hosts throughout the year are important, the true essence of the work that the ACIA accomplishes is done in-between events. Over the past year the ACIA staff has worked with a number of tribes, urban Indian communities and constituent groups on a variety of issues ranging from veterans issues to juvenile detention issues as well as complementing the work of other state agencies.

Thank you for your continued support and I look forward with great anticipation to working with your office, the Legislature and other state agencies in 2007.

Sincerely,



Kenneth G. Poocha  
Executive Director

***Elliot Booth***

Elliot Booth is an enrolled member of the Colorado River Indian Tribes and has served on the Arizona Commission of Indian Affairs since 2003.

In 1987 Elliot served as the Vice Chairman of the Colorado River Indian Tribes. Prior to being elected Mr. Booth served as the Secretary of the Tribal Council. In 1992 he co-founded the Southwest Agricultural Association.

Among his many honors Mr. Booth received an outstanding citizenship award in 1990 and was named an honorary alum also at the University of Arizona in 1992.

Mr. Booth is currently self employed and consults on agricultural, business and tribal affairs.

***Sherry Counts***

Sherry J. Counts is a member of the Hualapai Tribe and resides on the Hualapai Indian Reservation located in Peach Springs, AZ. She was elected as the Vice Chairwoman of the Hualapai Tribe in August of 2005 and had previously served as Tribal Council Member from 2000-2004.

Ms. Counts currently attends Mohave Community College and will soon receive an A.A. degree in Social Work. Ms. Counts has a certificate as a Substance Abuse Counselor II and has worked in that capacity from May 2003 to August 2005.

Ms. Counts has served on the Arizona Commission of Indian Affairs since February 2006 and views her service as a great opportunity to be a part of what the State is supporting for Indian Tribes. It is a privilege for her to serve in this capacity and look forward to greater achievements for Arizona Indian Tribes in 2007.

***Johnny Endfield—White Mountain Apache Tribe***

Mr. Endfield was served as Vice-Chairman for the White Mountain Apache Tribe from 1998-2006. In that capacity he assisted the Chairman and Tribal Council in establishing and enforcing policies and regulations. He presides over meetings of the Tribal Council when the Chairman is absent. He served as a member of the White Mountain Apache Tribal Council for eight years. Mr. Endfield has also worked in a number of public service positions, including a family service coordinator with the White Mountain Apache Tribal Head Start Program, where he worked closely with both children and parents, and as a mental health technician, providing counseling and placement services to a variety of clients. In this capacity Mr. Endfield also initiated and provided cultural training courses for staff members and clients to enable them to walk and wellness and spirituality.

Mr. Endfield's community service has included membership and officer positions in the following:

- ❖ Haskell Indian Nations University Board of Regents Chairman
- ❖ White River Unified School District Parent Advisory Committee Chairman

- ❖ White Mountain Head Start Program Parent Advisory Committee President
- ❖ Intertribal Timber Council Board Member
- ❖ Environmental Protection Agency, RTO Committee

***Lucinda Hughes-Juan—Tohono O’Odham  
Secretary***

Lucinda is an enrolled member of the Tohono O’Odham Nation. Lucinda was appointed to the Arizona Commission of Indian Affairs in 2003 and re-appointed to a second term in January 2005. Lucinda also currently serves on the Board of Directors for the Economic Development Authority of the Tohono O’Odham Nation.

Lucinda is a full-time faculty member with the Tohono O’Odham Community College. She teaches courses in business management and personal development. Lucinda has been teaching with the college since 2000. Prior to her full-time position at TOCC, Lucinda managed her own company for approximately 7 years; MLS Training and Consulting, which provided professional development consulting and training services to Native American organizations. In 1999 she added a video production component to her company which produced many training and educational videos for Native American Organizations and U.S. Government programs. Her previous work experience includes: CPS/Child Welfare Worker for Child Protective Services, Homeownership Counselor, Trainer and Program Manger under the Tribal housing programs.

Lucinda’s education includes: A.A. Degree in Social work, a Bachelors degree in Business Management and an MBA in Global Business Management. She is currently a Ph.D. candidate. Her doctorate field of study is Business and Organization Management with a concentration on Leadership.

***Marilyn Masayesva—Hopi***

Marilyn Masayesva currently serves as a Hopi Council Member representing the Village of Bacavi. She has also worked as the Director for the Hopi Women’s Health Program, a staff attorney for DNA People’s Legal Services, and as the Director of Quality Management Services and Performance Improvement at the Keams Canyon Hospital, among many other public service positions. She works with civic, cultural and community development organizations such as the Hopi’s Women Coalition, the Hopi Health Care Steering Committee, Paaqavi Inc., and the Hopi Tu I’ Guild.

Ms. Masayesva holds a Juris Doctorate from the William Mitchell College of Law and a Bachelor’s Degree in Health Sciences from Northern Arizona University. Ms. Masayesva is also a renowned quilt maker; her works have been shown at the Heard Museum, the Museum of Indian Arts and Cultures in Santa Fe and at quilt shows throughout the Southwest.

***Cora Maxx-Phillips—Navajo  
ACIA Vice Chairwoman***

Cora Maxx-Phillips holds an Associate of Arts Degree from Dine college in Political Science, a Bachelor’s Degree from Northern Arizona University in Public Administration and Social Planning and a Master’s Degree from Arizona State University in Clinical Social Work.

Ms. Phillips currently serves as the Executive Staff Assistant to Navajo Nation President Joe Shirley, Jr., working on issues ranging from government, education, uranium, environmental health, social services, housing and international issues. She also serves as President of the Tuba City Chapter Land Use Planning Committee. For the past 25 years, she has worked in the field of Social Human Services, Executive Administration, Criminal and Juvenile Justice, Housing, Education and Health.

Ms. Phillips was the first Native American to serve on the National Democratic Platform Committee, allowing her to attend the National Democratic Party Convention in 2000. She was appointed to the Arizona Juvenile Justice Commission and the Minority Youth Issues Committee by Governor Jane Hull. She was selected by President Joe Shirley, Jr., to serve on the Arizona Indian Affairs Commission and the Navajo which she was ultimately appointed to by Governor Janet Napolitano in 2003. President Shirley also appointed her to serve on the Navajo Nation Government Development Commission. She has also served on the Executive and State Committee of the Arizona State Democratic Party as well as other Committees, Task Forces and Boards at the local Navajo and grassroots level.

Ms. Phillips was inducted into the “International Who’s Who of Professionals” and received the “Navajo of the Year” award in 1995. She is also a recipient of the BoJack National Humanitarian Award. She has received the Arizona State Democratic Party’s “Outstanding Community Outreach” in 2002. She has received other honors and awards at the Navajo and local level.

Some of her professional work has been presented and published by the national American Psychological Association, Federal Department of Justice, National Coalition of Juvenile Justice and the International Symposium for Substance Abuse Treatment, National Symposium on American Indian Families. She holds membership in the National Congress of American Indians, American Civil Liberties Union, National Association of Female Executives and other organizations.

***Paul Nosie, Jr.—San Carlos Apache  
ACIA Chairman***

Mr. Nosie brings many years of experience to the Arizona Commission of Indian Affairs to which he has been a member of the board for the past ten years. Presently Mr. Nosie is the Administrator for the San Carlos Adult/Juvenile Rehabilitation & Detention Center. Mr. Nosie first became the Project Manager of the construction of the new detention facility and later became the Administrator.

Mr. Nosie has served as the Director for the San Carlos Game & Fish Department and also as the Tribal Prosecutor for the San Carlos Apache Tribe.

Prior to working with the San Carlos Apache Tribe, Mr. Nosie retired from the Arizona Department of Public Safety in 1992, after 19+ years, where he worked as a Patrolman, a Narcotic Agent and a Liquor Agent. Mr. Nosie currently has a total of 28+ years in the Law Enforcement field.

Mr. Nosie serves his community in a multitude of ways. Some include:

- Board Chairman for the San Carlos Injury Prevention Coalition
- Board President of the Mt. Turnbull Sanitation Service

- Member of the “Apaches for Cultural Preservation Coalition”
- Member of the Arizona Tribal Justice & Rehabilitation Coalition

Mr. Nosie has also served on boards dealing with education, health, transportation, tourism, and law enforcement. He also serves as a consultant on the Apache traditions and culture.

***Alberto Olivas—Huichol/Mexica***

Alberto Olivas earned his Bachelor’s Degree in Socio-Cultural Anthropology from the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences at Arizona State University. He has since served as Vice President of the Arizona Hispanic Chamber of Commerce; State Voter Outreach Director for Arizona Secretary of State Betsey Bayless, and Director of the Governor’s Office of Equal Opportunity.

During his appointment to the Secretary of State’s office, Alberto served as liaison for the Secretary to Arizona tribes, and worked to create greater communication and collaboration between state government and tribal governments and organizations serving urban Indians.

Alberto currently directs voter outreach and civic participation programs for the ten colleges of the Maricopa Community College District, including Voter Registration, Public Deliberation, and Community Partnership programs.

Most recently, Alberto was appointed to serve on the board of the Arizona Commission on Indian Affairs. He also serves on the Advisory Board of the ASU Barrett Honors College, and is a member of Valley Leadership, Tempe Leadership, and the Arizona Dispute Resolution Association.

Alberto is descended from the Huichol (wee-Choll) and Mexica (meh-shee-kah), or Aztec, native peoples of Mexico, and is a dancer with the Yoloincuahtli (yo-low-een-kway-oot-lee) Azteca dance circle in Mesa, AZ.

He is also a dancer with Primavera Folklorico Dance Company and with the Kaimikahu Hale o Hula school of Hawaiian native dance and culture studies.

***Eric Sexton***

After a seven year teaching career at Pennsylvania State University, Eric Sexton relocated in 1978 the Phoenix area where he served as a Public Relations Officer for the Phoenix Indian Center. In 1979, he transferred to the Affiliation of Arizona Indian Centers where he was responsible for a statewide VISTA program working out of the six urban Indian centers in Arizona. He also coordinated the Affiliation’s CETA and JTPA training programs.

In 1986, Eric was hired by Valley National Bank as a human resources and management consultant. In 1992, Eric established Bank One’s American Indian Community Relations Office. While serving as Bank One’s Vice President and Manager of the Western Region American Indian Markets Group responsible for commercial, agricultural, and retail lending to American Indian tribes, organizations, and individuals, Eric assisted in the creation of the Native American Housing Program within Bank One Mortgage Corporation.

In 1997, Eric was hired by Community First National Bank to take responsibility for commercial lending and cash management for the Southwest Region. In this capacity, Eric coordinated the placement of a \$250,000 equity equivalent investment in the Hopi Credit Association, a Community Development Financial Institution. In 2003, Eric was appointed as regional manager over nine rural branches in Northern Arizona. In 2004, Eric was named area manager for Bank of the West's Northern Arizona region. He is the bank's representative to the Arizona Bankers Association.

Eric is a past member of the Board of Directors for the Phoenix Indian Center, the Arizona Native American Economic Coalition, and the American Indian Chamber of Commerce. He is a board member of Centro de Amistad, Inc., an agency promoting holistic health in the Indo Latino Community. He has served on the Native American Advisory Committee for the State of Arizona's Greater Arizona Development Authority. In 1998, he was appointed by Governor Jane Dee Hull as a member of the Board of Commissioners of the Arizona Commission of Indian Affairs. In 2004, he was reappointed to the Commission by Governor Janet Napolitano.

Eric is married to Dawn Ann Melvin, from Ft. Defiance, Navajo Nation. Dawn is the Native American Tourism Development Manager for the State of Arizona Office of Tourism.

## **2006 Events**

### ***11<sup>th</sup> Indian Nations and Tribes Legislation Day***

The 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Indian Nations and Tribes Legislation Day (INTLD), was held at the Arizona State Capitol on Tuesday, January 17, 2006. As the state experiences record growth, particularly in Maricopa and Pima counties, the theme of "Planning, Preservation & Growth: Building Relationships between Tribes, Towns & Cities" was intended to promote a healthy discussion on the role that Indian communities have in this era of unprecedented growth and prosperity. Throughout the day both Indian and non-Indian communities were encouraged to strengthen their relationships and identify mutually beneficial projects. In addition to tribal leaders, city and county leaders from throughout the state were specifically invited for the first time to attend and be an active participant in the discussions.

The ACIA, in cooperation with the Arizona Legislature and other state agencies developed an agenda that included an inter-governmental relationship building session hosted by the Native Nations Institute at the University of Arizona, a joint protocol session of the Arizona Legislature that featured comments from three tribal leaders and a tribal issues roundtable that provided a forum for identifying current issues across Arizona's Indian country.

Overall, the 2006 INTLD was a success and was the largest ever held with over 600 people in attendance. Both legislators and tribal leaders recognized the significance of this day and the opportunity for tribal communities to be an active participant in the legislative process.

The ACIA has a statutory obligation to host the event (A.R.S. § 41-544) and "invite the Arizona Legislature, Governor and other elected officials to pay tribute to the history and culture of the American Indian peoples and their contributions to the prosperity and cultural diversity of the United

States”. The event is funded entirely through corporate sponsorships and private donations as the ACIA receives no legislative appropriation for this event.

### ***26<sup>th</sup> Indian Town Hall***

The 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Arizona Indian Town Hall was held in Scottsdale, AZ on June 6-8. The topic of *Preserving Arizona’s Tribal Cultural Resources, Sites and Languages* proved yet again to be a very timely topic for discussion. This year’s theme was reflective of several tribes’ struggles to protect cultural resources and sacred sites throughout Arizona. Additionally and perhaps strongly related to the aforementioned issue, many tribes are also struggling with how best to preserve their native languages, thus ensuring that their cultural heritage remains for future generations.

The Arizona Indian Town Hall is modeled after the Arizona Town Hall and is designed to focus on the participants rather than speakers as with traditional conferences. With over 120 people in attendance including tribal and community leaders, state and federal representatives, students and elders, the event is truly a unique event unlike any other held in Indian country.

Several weeks after Indian Town Hall concludes a final report was issued that is designed to be a “snapshot” of participants’ perceptions and understanding of the issues under discussion and to provide recommendations for policy changes to resolve concerns that were raised during the discussions. The report also includes a variety of recommendations in the following key areas:

- Preserving Arizona’s native Languages
- Protecting Native Ceremonial, Burial, and Sacred Sites
- Repatriation of native Artifacts and Burials

A copy of this final report is available online and through the ACIA office.

### ***Tribal Legislative Workshop***

In preparation for the Indian Nations and Tribes Legislative Day in January 2007, the ACIA hosted the very first Arizona Tribal-Legislative Workshop on October 18, 2007 in Phoenix. The event was billed as an opportunity to engage in a vigorous discussion between legislators and tribal and urban Indian community leaders regarding the upcoming election and 2007 legislative session.

The day long event was divided into three sessions with the morning session devoted to legislators and the afternoon dedicated to tribal and urban Indian community leaders. Representatives from the National Conference of State Legislators served as the keynote speakers during lunch and provided a national look at tribal-state relations. The ACIA facilitated the event and provided the participants with a forum that was conducive to questions and an open discussion.

Overall, this first event was a success with approximately 30 people in attendance including 8 legislators. The workshop was funded primarily through corporate sponsorships as the ACIA receives no legislative appropriation for this event.

### ***Community Development***



In addition to the variety of events ACIA hosts throughout the year, the staff of ACIA has and will continue to work closely with many of Arizona's tribal and urban Indian communities, constituent groups, and other organizations on a variety of issues and projects. In 2006 these projects have included work on juvenile justice issues, health policy development, veterans' issues and tribal housing issues. Additionally the ACIA will continue to participate in a variety of community meetings, events and other relevant activities throughout the state that are in line with the mission and strategic plan of the ACIA and actively work to empower tribal and urban Indian communities.

It is especially important for the ACIA to continue to be responsive to the tribal and urban Indian community and have the ability to link them to the appropriate state resource. Throughout the year the ACIA regularly provides information, referrals, and links to the public and serves as a "gateway" to state government for Indian communities.

### **ACIA Outlook**

Over the past several years the impact and contribution that tribes and urban Indian communities have made to the state is extraordinary and continues to grow exponentially. Moreover, the relationship between tribal and state governments has changed and has become seemingly more complex. Areas such as health, economic development and the environment are no longer exclusively federal issues.

Consider the following statistics:

- In FY 2006 Arizona gaming tribes contributed 81 million dollars to the Arizona Benefits Fund
- The Arizona Benefit Fund funded 6 programs including 20 million to the Trauma and Emergency Services Fund and 5.7 million to the Tourism Fund Account
- There are approximately 60,000 Native American Students in Arizona Public/Charter schools. Approximately half attend school on a reservation.
- 1,351 miles of the state highway system traverse 16 reservations
- A total of 115,135 Native Americans are enrolled in AHCCCS programs
- 75 contiguous miles of the Tohono O'Odham Nation in southern Arizona are along the US-Mexico Boarder
- There are approximately 18,000 American Indian veterans residing in Arizona
- Between 1994 and 2004, the average age of death from all causes of Native Americans in Arizona was 55.9 years of age. The state average was 71.2.

The ACIA has recognized the growth of this relationship over the past few years and perceives it as an opportunity to not only stay on the forefront of tribal-state relations but to help define it as well. This relationship must have every opportunity to grow and develop if it is to be effective and the ultimate goal of improving Arizona's Indian communities is to be realized. Therefore, the ACIA has begun to lay out a vision for this agency that will be gradually implemented in 2007. In addition to and in support of our statutory requirements this strategic "refocus" will concentrate on four key areas:

*Advocacy:* The ACIA will continue to advocate on behalf of tribal and urban Indian communities at all levels of state government. Specifically this means that we will work to not only continue to have Indian issues heard, but to truly have them understood. Many of the issues that tribal and urban Indian

communities are challenged with are the same issues that many Arizona communities are challenged with however effectively addressing these issues can be complicated by cultural considerations, legal factors and even historical trauma. Our office will work to bring a greater and deeper understanding of these issues so that we can jointly move forward.

*Coalition/Community Building:* In this era of technological advancement, unprecedented growth and seemingly unlimited opportunity, it is essential that tribes and urban Indian communities build partnerships and work cooperatively with corporations, small businesses, non-profits and even individuals outside their communities to maximize their resources. Indian communities that don't develop these types of relations may not be able to realize their full potential in the coming years. The ACIA is committed to creating these opportunities and will encourage the development of these relationships as often as possible.

*Education:* The ACIA will continue to provide educational resources and material to elected officials and state employees. For the first time ever the ACIA will be offering in 2007 an Introduction to Arizona's Indian Communities course that will be available to legislators and state employees to help bring a greater understanding of the history, culture and legal status of the communities they work with. Additionally, we will continue to provide educational materials and resources to tribal and urban Indian communities on state government, the legislative process and other relevant topics. The ACIA will also publish in 2007 the much anticipated bi-annual Arizona Tribal-State Resource Directory.

*Technical Service and Support:* In collaboration with other state agencies, the ACIA will develop a comprehensive community outreach plan to provide technical assistance and support to both state government and tribal and urban Indian communities throughout the state on a variety of topics.