

2008 Annual Report

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About ACIA

Established in 1953

The Arizona Commission of Indian Affairs (ACIA) was established the adoption of A.R.S. § 41-541 in 1953 by the 21st Legislature to consider and study conditions among the Indians residing within the State of Arizona.

As one of the nation's oldest tribal-state liaison agencies, ACIA facilitates partnerships and educates the public and private sectors about the unique government-to-government relationships between Tribal, State, Local and Federal entities. ACIA remains committed to enhancing communications between the 22 Indian Tribes and Nation and the State of Arizona.

The Commission consists of 17 members, including seven Indian and two non-Indian Commissioners appointed by the Governor, and 8 ex-officios who serve by the virtue of their office. The Current commissioners are Lucinda Hughes-Juan, Chair (Tohono O'odham Nation); Taylor Stala (Yavapai-Apache Nation); Paul Nosie, Jr. (San Carlos Apache Tribe); Cedric Kuwaninvaya, Vice-Chair (Hopi Tribe); Sherry Counts (Hualapai Tribe); Cora Maxx-Phillips (Navajo Nation); Margaret Baja-Walker (White Mountain Apache Tribe); GinaMarie Scarpa, Secretary (At-Large Member); and Elizabeth McNamee (At-Large Member).

ACIA is currently budgeted for 3 full-time employees: the Executive Director, Kenneth Poocha (Hopi Tribe); the Program Specialist, Traci L. Morris (Chickasaw Nation); and the Administrative Support, Lorie Wells.

Linking People & Communities

ACIA is an important link between the State of Arizona and Tribal Governments, communities, and organizations. Through programs and projects ACIA has been praised for their effectiveness in education both Indian's and non-Indians about Arizona's rich and diverse Tribal Communities.

ACES Methodology

In 2006 the ACIA envisioned a strategy for the strengthening of the state-tribal relationship and developed the ACES model which will continue to be utilized as the foundation for the work that the ACIA engages in. The ACES model includes the following:

***A*dvocacy:** The ACIA will continue to advocate on behalf of tribal and urban Indian communities at all levels of the federal, state and local governments at the request of tribes and urban Indian communities. Over the past year the ACIA has begun to develop stronger relationships with Arizona's Indian Community and, as such, has begun to take a more active role in advocating on behalf of tribal and urban community interests. The ACIA has acknowledged the profound nature of tribal language and culture. The overall advocacy mission of the ACIA is to provide accurate and timely information on behalf of the tribes and urban Indian community to government agencies, private and corporate businesses, and the non-profit community.

Coalition/Community Building: The outlook for coalition building and community building has not changed and has one goal: to create opportunities for tribes and urban Indian communities to build partnerships and work cooperatively with corporations, small businesses, non-profits and individuals outside their communities to maximize their resources. Indian communities that don't develop these types of relationships may not be able to realize their full potential in the coming years. The ACIA remains committed to creating these opportunities and will encourage the development of these relationships as often as possible. Over the course of the last several years, the ACIA has cultivated and maintained productive partnerships with a number of national, state, regional, community and tribal organizations.

Education: The ACIA will continue to provide educational resources and material to elected official and state employees. For the first time ever the ACIA is offering 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 also publishes the much anticipated bi-annual Arizona Tribal-State Resource Directory.

Services 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.

Listing of Signature Events and Current Projects

- Arizona Indian Nations and Tribes Legislative Day (presented annually / required by statute)
- Annual Meeting and Expo (in development / to replace Arizona Indian Town Hall)
- Indian 101—State employee training on Indian Issues (quarterly or as requested)
- Tribal-State Virtual Resource Directory (on-line with subscription service)
- Governor's Interstate Indian Council—2009 Host City
- Tribal Consultation Training Development and implementation (in development)
- State Legislator Tribal Handbook (in development)
- Project development in Health, Education and Economic Development
- Technical Support and Advocacy for San Juan Southern Paiute tribe (ongoing)
- Ongoing support of disaster relief and recovery for Havasupai (ongoing)
- Community Outreach and Partnering with:
 - Arizona Association for Economic Development (ongoing)
 - Arizona Tribal Strategic Partnering Team (ongoing technical assistance and training)
 - Arizona Department of Transportation (ongoing)
 - Navajo Department of Transportation
 - Maricopa Association of Governments
 - Arizona Native Assets Coalition (ongoing advocacy and technical support)
 - National Conference of State Legislators (ongoing)
 - Southwest Regional Council of Carpenters (ongoing advocacy)
 - First Nations Development Institute (ongoing)
 - Arizona Indian Tribes
 - AT-Still University (ongoing advocacy and technical support)

- Arizona State University: American Indian Studies Dept. & American Indian Policy Center
- Arizona Tri-University for Indian Education (ongoing)
- Southwestern Institute for the Education of Native Americans (ongoing)
- Arizona Association of Economic Development (ongoing)
- Native American Basketball Invitational (ongoing advocacy)
- American Indian Health Management Policy
- Salt River Project
- APS
- Central Arizona Project

Detail: Signature Events

Indian Nations and Tribes Legislative Day

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 people and their contributions to the prosperity and cultural diversity of the United States.” This event is entirely funded through corporate sponsorships and private donations as the ACAI receives no legislative appropriations for this event.

The 2008 ITNLD was a huge success! Held on January 24, 2008, ACIA planned and hosted this large event on the House Lawn. It was a beautiful day and we had nearly 900 people attend. This number included Tribal leaders, tribal members, state legislators, various state agency representatives and tribal liaisons, and vendors.

Events included a Tribal Leader’s Breakfast with Governor Napolitano, a joint Legislative Session at the House of Representatives, Lunch catered by El Paso Bar-B-Que, and numerous State Agency Informational Sessions held throughout the day in various locations in the Capitol Mall.

One youth representative, a member of the Lehi Branch of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Scottsdale Keystone Club, said “that the day brought a whole new perspective about how the state of Arizona could help Arizona’s Native American Communities deal with the various issues that plague their communities.” Joseph Pongyesiva, who was the youth representative on the House Floor during the General Session, says that the speakers afforded him with a “new and useful experience,” and “with the testimonials provided by the individuals from across the state, I believe that soon the state of Arizona will combine forces to help make this state the best in the nation.”

Arizona Indian Town Hall

28th Annual Arizona Indian Town Hall sponsored by First Nations Development Institute was held on July 14, 15, and 16th of 2008, in Carefree, Arizona and was a great success!

The event started out with a well attended pre-session on Protecting, Promoting and Profiting from Native Creative Works by the Indian Arts and Crafts Board. Various experts spoke on a variety of topics in two very full sessions that lasted all afternoon.

The first day of the Arizona Indian Town Hall started out with lunch and a keynote address by San Carlos Apache Chairman Wensler Nosie, who gave a rousing speech about the Mt. Graham issue, among other things. Following this, participants broke out into sessions to begin their discussions on this year’s issue of Protecting Land and Water.

The second day of events included breakfast and continued discussion sessions. Lunch gathered everyone back together for a very enlightening keynote by Debby Tewa the Renewable & Tribal Energy Coordinator, from the

Energy Office at the Arizona Department of Commerce. She talked about renewable energy sources such as solar power and how the concept of renewable energy meshed well with tribal values.

The third and final day of Arizona's Indian Town Hall was a very full day. After breakfast attendees participated in the final discussion sessions and each group was joined by former Senator Ben Nighthorse Campbell who participated in the various discussions, which ended at lunch.

The keynote address at lunch was given by Royce Jenkins, the Director of the Office of Community Planning and Economic Development for the Hopi Tribe, who spoke on the importance of land and water from his professional perspective and the importance of using the town hall process and the town hall report to create positive change in Indian Country.

Following lunch, Traci Morris, the Program Specialist for ACIA, gave a report on last year's town hall and what had happened since to all participants and the Discussion Session Facilitators shared information about each of their respective sessions. Prior to dinner, there was an Evening Social, hosted by the Southwestern Institute for the Education of Native Americans (SIENA). The closing dinner was enjoyable and included awards given out to this year's award winners—ACIA Legislator of the Year: Rep. Albert Tom; ACIA Directors Leadership Award: Kristine Thomas, GOEO Tribal Liaison; ACIA Chairman's Leadership Award: Rep. Marian McClure—and a Keynote address by Representative Albert Tom.

American Indian 101

The newest service offered by ACIA is "**American Indian 101.**" According to Executive Director Kenneth Poocha, "This is the 'everything you wanted to know about Indians, but didn't know who to ask' course."

Titled "American Indian 101: An Introduction to American Indian Historical, Political, Cultural and Contemporary Issues," this 3 hour interactive discussion is an opportunity for individuals with little to no knowledge to learn more about tribes in both Arizona and the United States including historical, and contemporary perspectives, tribal demographics, and state and federal agencies that deal with tribes. Participants also have the opportunity to ask questions and learn where more information is available.

Aimed at state employees, ACIA holds at least 3 trainings per year and upon special request to agencies. The Arizona Tribal Strategic Partnering Team is one such group who requested the training. Made up of ADOT employees, Tribal members, and Bureau of Indian Affairs employees, one participant said "I would recommend this training to others and hopefully we can incorporate this training into ADOT's mandatory training for new hires."

Detail: Current Major Projects

Native Assets Coalition

Many Arizona Native communities lack the non-profit and mainstream financial institutions necessary for successful economic growth for individuals, families and small business. The ACIA has partnered with the Arizona Native Assets Coalition (ANAC) in addressing these economic conditions. The ANAC is collaborative partnership of members from Arizona tribes, Native non-profit organizations, state government agencies and other organizations working to promote the development of asset building, financial education programs and policy for Arizona Native peoples. As a coalition, ANAC works to promote the development of asset building, financial education programs and policy for Native people at the tribal, state and federal level. Under a grant from the First Nations Development Institute, ANAC is currently working to survey and create an inventory of Arizona's 22 Tribes to determine existing financial education policies and to develop an inventory of policies that fund financial education and asset-building

programs in Arizona Native communities. The outcome of this survey will be a public reference to identify local resources available by August 31, 2009.

Indian Economic Development and Planning Course at ASU

This collaboration between the Arizona Commission of Indian Affairs, the American Indian Studies Program, the School of Planning is a Spring 2009 course offered jointly at Arizona State University. Students will explore how tribal community planners, civic leaders and state agency liaisons work together (or don't) to solve economic development issues in and around Indian Country.

The course seeks to identify and understand community development from the perspective of urbanization and cross-reservation border issues, primarily in the metropolitan regions of Arizona. Further, students will look at the role of tribal community development and its affects on surrounding jurisdictions. Also, students will examine how federal and state policies factor into creating mandates for tribal development. The course will examine how protocols have been created to bridge the knowledge gap between native and non-native agencies leading towards more constructive interagency cooperation. Students will interact with state agency tribal liaisons in order to gain more direct insights into how relationships have evolved over time and across tribal populations. The outcome of this partnership will result in the development of case-studies for use by the Arizona Commission of Indian Affairs.

Governors Interstate Indian Council Host City 2009

Annually the GIIC sponsors a General Assembly hosted by a different member state each year and conducts a general business meeting each spring. The 2009 Governors Interstate Indian Council Annual Conference will be hosted by the Arizona Commission of Indian Affairs and will be held in Flagstaff, Arizona in July of 2009.

The GIIC is made up of state Indian Affairs Offices and Commissions from across the country and has been in existence since 1949. The mission of GIIC is to promote and enhance government to government relations between the tribes and states; respect and recognize the individual sovereignty of the tribes and the states; support the preservation of traditional Indian culture, language and values; and encourage socioeconomic development aimed at tribal self-sufficiency.

Arizona Commission of Indian Affairs Board Member Profiles

Sherry Counts—Hualapai Tribe

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.

Lucinda Hughes-Juan—Tohono O’Odham, ACIA Chairwoman

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 Tucson Pima Womens’ Commission.

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.

Cedric Kuwaninvaya—Hopi, ACIA Vice-Chairman

Cedric was appointed to the Arizona Commission of Indian Affairs Board in 2007 and was quickly elected by his peers as Vice-Chairman. Cedric is an enrolled member of the Hopi tribe and is from the village of Shipaulovi. He has served as a representative from his village to the Hopi Tribal Council.

GinaMarie Mabry—Member at Large, Secretary

A graduate of Arizona State University College of Non-Profit Management, she has dedicated her life to working with non-profit youth organizations remembering the positive influences these organizations had in her life growing up in a housing project in East Boston.

Her non-profit work started as a volunteer for numerous Phoenix based youth organizations and she worked her way up to become the Executive Director of the A.C. Green Youth Foundation, founded by NBA “Iron Man” A.C. Green. She was instrumental in bringing the “Abstinence” message to schools and youth organization throughout Phoenix and implementing the A.C. Green Phoenix Youth Camp, a free camp for youth across the valley, as well as managing a 12 person staff. After almost 9 years with the AC Green Youth Foundation she embarked on a new adventure. In 2002, she co-founded Pod Productions, creators of NABI/Native American Basketball Invitational and the NABI Foundation, with Mark West, Vice President of Player Programs/Phoenix Suns and Scott Podleski, former Sales Manager, AZ Rattlers.

She openly contributes her success in life to AC Green & Mark West for being great mentors, and her parents, Carmine F. Scarpa and Mary Garcia- Scarpa for their unconditional love and encouragement. Her favorite quote is: “A winner is a loser who keeps getting up.”

In her role, as Managing Partner for Pod Productions, she is directly responsible for sponsorship development, marketing, tournament organization & operations, public and community relations of the NABI Tournament. And, overseeing the NABI Foundation, a donor advised fund under the Arizona Community Foundation.

In addition to serving as a Commissioner/Secretary of the ACIA, she currently serves on the Marketing Committee for the world renowned Heard Museum.

Elizabeth McNamee—Member at Large

Elizabeth H. McNamee is Associate Director, Community Innovation and Development for St. Luke's Health Initiatives (SLHI). SLHI is a health conversion foundation dedicated to improving the health of all Arizonans with a focus on strength-based development and resilience in local communities.

Elizabeth previously served in senior executive positions in the public and the private health care sector in Texas and Arizona. She currently serves on the Arizona Commission for Indian Affairs and the Boards of Directors for HCE Quality Quest, the College of Nursing at Grand Canyon University and Mountain Park Health Center.

Elizabeth holds a B.A. degree from Trinity University, a MPH from the University of Texas, School of Public Health, and is a Fellow in the American College of Healthcare Executives.

Cora Maxx-Phillips—Navajo

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 n 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

Mr. Nosie brings many years of experience to the Arizona Commission of Indian Affairs, which he has been a board member 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,” and as a 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.

Taylor Satala—Yavapai Apache

Taylor J. Satala, a Hopi and Yavapai Indian from Polacca, Arizona officially registered with the Camp Verde Yavapai-Apache Nation, his maternal lineage. In February 2007, he retired from the Indian Health in Tucson where he held the position as the Area Director. Mr. Satala managed the primary care and community outreach programs for the Tohono O’odham Nation, the Pascua Yaqui Tribe of Arizona, the Kickapoo Tribe of Oklahoma in Douglas and one urban health program located in Tucson.

By profession, Taylor is a Social Worker and an Arizona State Alumni. He received his Baccalaureate Degree in Social Work in 1976 and Masters of Social Work from Arizona State University in 1978. He also received an AA degree from City College of San Francisco in 1966.

Mr. Satala was commissioned in the National Health Service Corps in 1978 and served as a Medical Social Worker with the State Maternal and Child-Health programs in Rapid City, South Dakota until 1980.

Mr. Satala then worked with the University of Kansas (KU) as an Extension Associate for the School of Social Welfare. In his position, he assisted in developing curriculum for then the Haskell Indian Junior College Mental Health Paraprofessional Training Project. While employed by KU, he attended the University of Kansas Social Welfare Post Graduate program in 1981-82.

In December 1984 he began his career with the Indian Health Service as a Medical Social Worker at the Colorado River Service Unit, in Peach Springs, AZ. In 1985 he served as the Acting Health Center Director and later as the Health Center Director and Health System Administrator until 1989.

Mr. Satala then accepted the position as the Service Unit Director for the Phoenix Area – Keams Canyon Service Unit until his selection as the Tucson Area Director, which he currently holds.