

# 2007 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 (ACIA), I submit to you the 2007 ACIA Annual Report. This report highlights some of the ACIA's major accomplishments achieved in 2007 as well as an outlook for 2008 and beyond.

The year 2007 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. Each year has its many challenges and 2007 did not disappoint however I believe our agency left the year 2007 as a stronger and more mature agency. We are ready for anything that 2008 can bring us!

Looking back on 2007 we began with yet another successful Indian Nations and Tribes Legislative Day. This day has continually grown tremendously since its inception over 10 years ago. This year was the largest ever with an estimated 950 people in attendance including a majority of Arizona's tribes participating. In July we hosted the 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Indian Town Hall in Tucson at the University of Arizona. Our topic this year was State of Indian Youth 2007: Strength in Youth which brought a variety of individuals together to discuss the very important topic. This town hall also marked the first time that the ACIA collaborated with a university. The assistance, resources and space the University of Arizona afforded us was invaluable. Finally, in October we again hosted the second Tribal-Legislative workshop in Flagstaff 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

### 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 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.

#### ***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 currently serves 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.

GinaMarie resides in Phoenix with her husband SSg. Richard Mabry, who recently returned from a 12 month tour of Iraq, and their children Vincent (24), Ryo (15), Raja (13) and Alex (10).

***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 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***

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.

### ***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. He recently 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.

Mr. Satala is a Veteran, serving four years in the United States Air Force as a munitions maintenance specialist in Vietnam (a067-68) and as a Security Police Officer at Mather AFB in Sacramento, CA. He is currently a member of the American Legion, Hopi Post 80 from Polacca, Arizona.

Mr. Satala and his wife have a deep interest in Child Welfare and they have been foster parents for a number of years and still continue to serve as fosters parents. He also has a high interest with Arizona State University and volunteered his time on the Native American Alumni Association at ASU for three years and as the President one year.

## **2007 Events**

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

The 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Indian Nations and Tribes Legislation Day (INTLD), was held at the Arizona State Capitol on Tuesday, January 16, 2007. Building on last year's success this year was the first year for the new Executive Director to showcase the many changes that had occurred not only within the ACIA but throughout the state as well. The format of the legislative day remained relatively the same as in previous years, however the legislative day planning committee opted to not have a single overall theme but rather focus on a variety of "common ground" issues such as economic development, education and preservation of Arizona's land and water. The strategy proved to be extremely effective and afforded tribal and urban Indian leaders and community members the freedom to discuss what was important to their community.

The ACIA, in cooperation with the Arizona Legislature and other state agencies developed an agenda that included numerous state agency informational sessions, a joint protocol session of the Arizona Legislature that featured comments from several tribal leaders and the "17<sup>th</sup> Avenue Info Walk" that included a variety of federal, state and community information booths along 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

Overall, the 2007 INTLD was a tremendous success and was the largest ever held with over 800 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.

### ***27<sup>th</sup> Arizona Indian Town Hall***

The 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Arizona Indian Town Hall was held at the University of Arizona campus in Tucson, AZ on July 16-18<sup>th</sup>. Over 150 participants gathered from throughout Arizona to discuss an especially important topic: The State of Indian Youth in 2007. Participants of the two and a half day event engaged in discussions that included their collective recommendations for action, identification of key stakeholders, and acceptable evaluation and follow-up reporting.

The intent of this year's theme was to focus on identifying and building upon the numerous talents, resources and skills of today's Indian youth in areas of education and leadership, health and wellness, and family life. Our goal was to focus the discussion on the positive aspects of Indian youth rather than the negative characteristics utilizing these strengths as catalysts for change. As expected and as in year's past there was a healthy discussion between participants that included elected and appointed public and tribal officials, policy advisors, community and business leaders, health and education leaders, and of course youth.

Over the course of the event, participants were guided through a facilitated discussion that focused on three key areas: Health and Wellness, Education and Leadership, and Family Life. The facilitators and recorders made a sincere effort to accurately reflect the expressed recommendations and comments of the participants. A draft report was also written and submitted to the participants on the final day of the town hall which was adopted and approved.

With regard to the Health and Wellness topic, participants identified numerous successful urban and tribal community and institutional programs ranging from wellness to prevention. However, specific needs for improvement were identified, including expansion of wellness programs, the need for more community involvement, the need for more youth involvement, increased funding for these programs, creation of culturally relevant educational materials and curriculum, increased need for role models, and the need for stronger lines of communication between all parties.

In terms of the Education and Leadership topic, participants identified several existing programs that were exceptionally strong. They included a few urban programs, and many tribal, educational and community based programs that focused on a variety of different areas such as dropout prevention and leadership. Participants determined needs for improvement in these programs including several specific recommendations such as the revision of existing truancy codes, improvement of the cultural relevance of programs and curriculum, the need for dropout reintegration and support programs, the expansion and extension of more programming to the reservation, and the need for incentives to increase interest and participation among communities, parents and children.

Family Life was a thread of interest that seemed to connect all the discussions. Participants generally agreed that family, ceremonies, community, schools, media and church were all places that children learned adult behavior. Further, community programs and events that reflected community and culture, required family involvement, included incentives and meals, and that were accountable to some entity were the most successful.

Over the past few months, the Arizona Commission of Indian Affairs has evaluated all recommendations and is in the process of identifying key areas where the Commission, in collaboration with other state agencies and tribal and urban Indian communities, can be most effective and facilitate the implantation said goals. Many of the recommendations identified were goals that could only be changed from within each respective community, for a variety of reasons.

Upon formal invitation, the Arizona Commission of Indian Affairs looks forward to collaborating with communities to realize the identified goals. A complete one year progress report will also be provided at the 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Arizona Indian Town Hall currently scheduled for July 2008. 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 2008, the ACIA, in cooperation with Representative Albert Tom, hosted the second annual Arizona Tribal-Legislative Workshop on October 18, 2007 in Flagstaff. The event was billed as an opportunity to discuss the current issues of the tribal/urban Indian community with legislators including the upcoming 2008 legislative session and FY 2008-09 budgets. Tribal and urban Indian leaders were invited from throughout Arizona as well as representatives from the National Conference of State Legislators, State-Tribal Policy Institute.

The day was changed from last years more formal agenda into an informal discussion between tribal leaders and legislators. This “kitchen table” discussion format proved to be the right approach as it allowed for the free flow of discussion on current issues ranging from water rights, to juvenile justice to economic development. The ACIA facilitated the event and took note of the various issues that were discussed with the intention on following up, where appropriate, with each tribe.

Overall, the second legislative workshop was another success with approximately 10 tribal leaders in attendance. 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 2007 these projects have included continued 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 continues to have is extraordinary. Moreover, the relationship between tribal and state governments is ever evolving and at times offers unique challenges that perhaps have never been encountered before. Over the past several years both state government and Indian communities are becoming more aware of the importance of the state-tribal relationship. There is an understanding, particularly among the younger tribal leaders, that a long term and strategic plan to strengthen this relationship is essential for the continue success of tribal-state collaboration.

The ACIA continues to be acutely aware of this movement and has over the past two years begun to position ourselves as the key agency responsible for the care and development of this relationship. In 2006 the ACIA envisioned a strategy for strengthening this 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:

*Advocacy:* The ACIA will continue to advocate on behalf of tribal and urban Indian communities at all levels of 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 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 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 remains 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 began offering in 2007 an Introduction to Arizona's Indian Communities course that is 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. Over the past year several hundred state employees have taken the course with more courses planned in 2008. 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.

*Technical Support and Training:* In collaboration with other state agencies, the ACIA will continue to 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. The more formal organization of the State tribal liaison's group in 2007 is the most effective vehicle for this plan and will be a priority in 2008.