

Indian Education Advisory Committee (IEAC)
Meeting Minutes
11/03/2025
Via Zoom

Committee Member	Seat Filled	Present	Absent
Chair – Fawn Hunter	Washoe County School District (WCSD)		X
Vice Chair – Lance West	Schurz Elementary School	X	
Margaret Gunshows	Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada Child Division (ITCN)	X	
Kari Emm	Tribal Students College of Agriculture, Biotechnology & Natural Resources University of Nevada	X	
Fredina Drye-Romero	Nevada Department of Education (NDE)	X	
Richie Savage	Indian Education Clark County School District		X
Sara Twiss	Walker River Paiute Tribe (WRPT) Education	X	
Kyle Ethelbah	UNLV	X	

Department of Native American Affairs (DNAA):

Stacey Montooth, Executive Director

Lori Arrive, Office Manager

Lawanda Jones, Opioid Prevention Specialist

Other Attendees:

Chair Melanie McFalls, Walker River Paiute Tribe

Chair Ginny Hatch, Yerington Paiute Tribe

Commissioner Andrea Martinez, Dept of Native American Affairs, Walker River Paiute

Trustee JJ Phoenix, Washoe County School District

Cody Downs, Fallon Paiute Shoshone Tribe

Lynn Manning John, Principle, Owyhee Combined School

Jason Molino, Tribal Liaison, Nevada Division of Public and Behavior Health

Kimberly Palma-Ortega, Tribal Liaison, Office of Emergency Management

Mitch DeValliere, Tribal Liaison, Nevada Division of Public and Behavior Health

Patricia Olmstead, Tribal Liaison, Department of Taxation

Josh Marhevka, Tribal Liaison, Department of Employment, Training, and Rehabilitation

I. Roll by Taken by Vice Chair West

Quorum established at 2:32 pm

II. Invocation by Vice Chair West

III. Welcome by Vice Chair West, Introductions by all attendees

IV. Initial Public Comment

Fredina informed the committee that the director of United States Department of Education, National Indian Education Association, is stepping down due to the government shutdown. They will likely not be back and running until December, which will impact grant funding programs under the Office of Indian Education.

V. Approve Meeting Minutes Thursday October 2, 2025

Fredina's statement regarding her work with the Nevada Division of Public Health will be fixed in meeting minutes.

Motion to approve with changes: Kari Emm

2nd motion: Fredina

Unanimously Approved

VI. Reaffirming IEAC Mission and Purpose

Stacey explained that the DNAA Commissioners believe that IEAC should help ensure people are available to testify either in person or online regarding issues being heard in the Nevada Legislature. IEAC can help identify people who might want to speak to their own experience using the fee waiver, how it changed their family, and communities.

Kyle noted another topic that needs attention includes changes in Federal programs like FASFA becoming the last dollar for financial aid. He explained that in higher education, scholarships will come used first then FASFA will cover the remaining tuition and fees. He asked how our Tribal communities will work with financial aid offices, so aid does not prevent students from getting Pell grants. Fredina suggested an in-person meeting in a couple of weeks to talk more about this potential agenda item.

VII. Plan November Nevada Department of Education Two-Day Convening

Because of the looming deadline of federal funding, Fredina would like to arrange for an all-day, two-day event on November 18-19. The first day will be an IEAC meeting

along with a facilitator and the second day will be reviewing lesson plans per NRS 389.150. The convening will take place in Carson City at the Stewart campus.

VIII. Future IEAC Meeting Dates, Frequency and times

The committee decided based on our by-laws, to plan meetings at the convenience of the group and extra meetings, if need be, for special events.

IX. Final Public Comment

Kyle would like to bring changes of federal financial aid to the attention of a larger group with such an agenda item for the next meeting to make sure people are aware.

Stacey would like to promote Native American Heritage Month public activities through the DNAA social media and email distribution list. Fredina asked about proclamations and Stacey noted the State has a different process and Stacey will encourage Tribal Councils to issue their own proclamations, which are often more meaningful.

Fredina reported that NDE in Northern and Southern Nevada are doing Native American Heritage Month activities. In Las Vegas they will be demonstrating powwow dance styles, presenting about Native teas and pinenuts with an exhibit of Paiute baskets. In Reno, there will be a cultural and language meeting with Reno-Sparks Indian Colony.

Lynn suggested including an agenda item for roundtable updates rather than reporting out in public comments.

X. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Kari Emm

2nd by Kyle Ethelbah

Approved by Lance at 3:42 p.m.