

Hi Stacey,

Congratulations on your new position! We met briefly during the first *Reawakening the Great Basin* event. Michon Eben introduced us. We're cousins – on her Shoshone side. I'm a member of the Timbisha Shoshone Tribe.

I'm writing because UNLV's Native alumni have been searching for a way to increase tribal participation at the university. One or two years ago, I contacted the Indian Commission and asked for their help. I talked to Richard Arnold, phoned into one of the meetings, and also sent a letter. I have also talked with, our fellow alumnus, Kostan Lathouris about this issue.

UNLV's Native students and employees desperately need advocates to address long-standing issues at the university. These issues range from recruitment, retention, promotion, and the Rebel mascot.

Unfortunately, the university doesn't understand tribes' political status and either ignores our concerns or lumps us with other groups based exclusively on race and ethnicity.

As part of UNLV's effort to achieve Top Tier status, the university has made an effort to increase its community engagement. It has/had plans to achieve a [Carnegie Foundation classification for community engagement](#). Tribal representatives are noticeably absent from this process.

I am hoping that UNLV's desire to be recognized by the Carnegie Foundation and the recent passage of AB264 will meld together to create an opportunity for meaningful tribal consultation. This idea occurred to me when I learned that Arizona State University (ASU) has a policy dealing with government-to-government relations – see attachment.

Universities, with tribal populations, handle consultation in several ways. Montana State University has an Elders Council and ASU has an Office of American Indian Initiatives. What we do not want is one system-wide group to address issues at all eight of the state's institutions. The Nevada System of Higher Education did have a diversity council that your predecessor sat on. That process did not work. We have enough tribes within the state, and in surrounding states, to justify separate groups—at least at our universities.

Two of this group's first projects could be an update to *Institutional Strategies to Serve Native American Students* (see attachment) and a tribal labor market study to identify skill gaps that NSHE institutions could help tribes address.

I look forward to talking more about this with you. I have cc'd officers of our Native alumni club, along with the Presidents of our student & employee groups on this email.

PS – the Director of the American Indian Research & Education Center is leaving UNLV and we want to ensure that it remains a viable center – perhaps even one that could serve as a liaison to tribal governments and the Indian Commission.

FYI - UNLV Native groups

<https://www.unlv.edu/aia>

<https://www.unlv.edu/airec>

<https://involvementcenter.unlv.edu/organization/nasa>

Native American Alumni Club (*website under development*)

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