



2013-2014 Annual Report

The Tribal Education Departments National Assembly (“TEDNA”) had a good year. The following is a report on activities and undertakings for TEDNA for the 2013 to 2014 period. We started off by welcoming new members, or re-welcoming old members – the Ak-Chin Indian Community, Nez Perce Tribe, Poarch Band of Creek Indians, Yurok Tribe, Aroostook Band of Micmacs, St. Regis Mohawk Tribe, Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo, the American Indian College Fund, and the Tohono O’Odham Nation.

TEDNA continued to be active organizing events for the membership and spreading the word about our work. In April of 2014, Executive Director Quinton Roman Nose testified in front of the House Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies, advocating for greater funding for Tribal Education Departments. In June of 2014, Mr. Matthew Campbell and Mr. Quinton Roman Nose presented on Tribal Education Departments at a New Mexico School Law Conference. The Annual School Law Conference has a high attendance rate from New Mexico School Boards and administrators and TEDNA’s presentation was well received. In June 2014, we also hosted an education roundtable with the First Alaskan’s Institute to discuss self-determination in education generally and in Alaska specifically. We had an intimate discussion that was very inspirational. TEDNA also provided updates at the Mid-Year conference to the NCAI education sub-committee.

TEDNA continued to work with Dr. Martin Reinhardt and Kathy Rigsby to develop a free on-line course entitled "Introduction to TEDs." The free online course is ready for public enrollment and can be accessed through TEDNA’s website, TEDNA.org. Any input on the course is welcome. TEDNA has updated its website to provide easier access to current information in Indian education. One of the key elements of the website is providing current news, reports, and information as it becomes available. If you ever have information regarding Indian education you want highlighted, please let us know and we will try and accommodate your request.

On September 16, 2014, Joel Williams from the Native American Rights Fund (“NARF”) and Quinton Roman Nose, TEDNA’s Executive Director, hosted a congressional briefing in Washington, D.C. The purpose of the TEDNA Congressional Briefing is generally to enlighten the staff of Senators’ and Representatives’ offices as to what Tribal Education Departments and Agencies are currently doing in their respective areas i.e., existing education programs, student data systems, types of student services, and how they are working with their Local Education Agencies and their State Education Agency. This year the briefing focused on the State Tribal Education Partnership (“STEP”) Program that the Department of Education is implementing. The briefing highlighted best practices and

lessons learned from the STEP Program to assist the program moving forward.

TEDNA also worked with NCAI and the NIEA to ensure that Indian education remained a priority for any education legislation. The Senate introduced S. 1948, the Native Language Immersion Student Achievement Act. S. 1948 seeks to promote the development, maintenance, improvement, and use of Native American languages as a primary language of educational instruction, prekindergarten through post-secondary, by authorizing the Secretary of Education to grant funds to schools and private or non-profit tribal organizations. In June, TEDNA submitted testimony to the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs in favor of S. 1948, with the recommendation that Indian Tribes and tribal education agencies be included as eligible grantees. Through TEDNA and other organizations' advocacy, Indian tribes and tribal education agencies were added as eligible grantees. On August 26, 2014, this Bill was placed on Senate Legislative Calendar, and on October 1, 2014, Senator Testor submitted Senate Report 113-265 outlining S. 1948 and recommending its passage.

TEDNA's Sustainability Committee has met weekly to discuss funding opportunities. With assistance of Tom Brown, Associate member, and Matt Campbell, a proposal was submitted to the Bush Foundation to enhance native enrollment in college. The committee has also met to discuss a Digital Commons: Video Village concept and applied for a Gates Grant to support this project. With the assistance of Tom Brown and Todd E. Johnson, Ph.D., Director, CENTER for RESEARCH & DATA ANALYSIS, Washington, several inquiries have been submitted to several funding sources.

While TEDNA is a grass roots organization with limited resources, we have been busy and continue to try and strengthen Indian education. We look forward to even more TEDNA activities in the coming year, and as always, the board invites all members to participate and share your comments and suggestions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Gloria Sly".

Gloria Sly