TEDNA

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Ida's Law

Ida’s Law (House Bill 3345) creates a special liaison within the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation to help with jurisdictional issues between the state and federal agents, making it easier for law enforcement to investigate missing or murdered indigenous people. The bill, named in honor of Ida Bear who went missing in 2015, has successfully made its way through the Oklahoma House of Representatives and is set to become effective November 1, 2020.

Regalia Bill

The senate passed HB 3046, on March 11, 2020. The measure would prohibit "substantial burden" on people’s free exercise of religion meaning that Native students would be permitted to wear tribal regalia during high school graduations. This bill will become effective November 1, 2020.

Data Sharing Bill

Senate bill 1317 creates the State Tribal Education Data Partnership. The measure requires school districts to submit additional data elements for students who identify as American Indian or Native American, in order to identify their tribe. This is so that tribes know where their students are located and have a better understanding of how to support their students. The bill has passed through the senate and was introduced into the house on March 3rd. To stay up to date and/or learn more about this bill visit oklegislature.gov and search SB1317.
CURRENT PROJECTS
WHAT'S TEDNA BEEN UP TO?

TEDNA'S ENDORSEMENT OF SVPM

Sovereignty Performance Management (SvPM) system is a management tool developed by ADI for tribal education departments. SvPM can be utilized in emerging and preexisting tribal education agencies. It acts as a general outline helping education agencies to set goals, create strategies, and reach milestones within their department. This outline has been informed by the experiences of already formed TED’s, LEA’s, and TEA’s so that these agencies can learn about and from one another.

TEDNA has been using this method with smaller tribes in Virginia who have formed a consortium to meet the educational needs of their students. This project is empowering tribes to exercise their educational sovereignty.

EXTENDED DATA COLLECTION

TEDNA has been working with tribes and ACT/ADI partners to formulate a plan on how to collect data on Native students. This data will be used to create an informed practice to better prepare students for the future. This project serves to empower tribal education agencies to take control of the narrative surrounding native student college and career readiness.

Through TEDNA, tribes will be provided professional development and support to college and career readiness specialists that will be operating within a tribe’s education department. By allowing tribes to collect, manage, and analyze data, these specialists can formulate informed practice that will be able to meet the needs of the students and families in their communities.

COVID-19 OKLAHOMA EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

TEDNA has created a resource document to support our communities and Education Specialists during the Coronavirus pandemic and throughout any prolonged school closures. It is maintained by Tribal Education Departments National Assembly, but as you will see, many of the resources were shared/created by external organizations and partners.

This document includes information on

- Moving your classes to an online platform
- Internet and online platform access
- Teaching and talking about the Coronavirus
- Academic Learning Resources
In light of the disruption of education due to COVID-10, IllumiNative is partnering with the National Indian Education Association and Amplifier to create and disseminate engaging digital education tools, lesson plans, and resources about Native American art, culture, history and contemporary life for more than 1 million students and families learning at-home.

Resources are available for free and are downloadable [Here](#).

Google has created Teach From Home which is a temporary hub of information and tools to help teachers during the coronavirus (COVID-19) crisis. This hub of resources includes information on how to get started with your online classroom, provides tech support, as well as information on approaches that other teachers are taking.

Click [Here](#) to learn more.

For Education: [Distance learning](#)

Sovereign Community School is looking to fund raise. They’ve created a video to support their efforts. You can visit the school’s website to learn more.

[Donate here](#)
Coronavirus Infections Continue To Rise On Navajo Nation

If the Navajo Nation were a state, it would have the highest rate of coronavirus cases per capita after New York. At least 100 people have died from the virus and 3,122 people have tested positive.

On March 4, the Navajo Nation president cautioned its citizens to limit their travel. But a few days later, doctors say, a man who had been at a basketball tournament in Tucson brought the virus to a tiny church in Chilchinbito. In response to COVID-19, dozens of people drove hours from all over the region to gather and pray. Afterward, they returned to all parts of the reservation unwittingly bringing the virus home with them.

One of the problems leading to this sort of spread is communication. Cellphone service is spotty on the reservation. Sixty percent of Navajo lack Internet access, according to the Navajo Tribal Utility Authority. That means the majority of the tribe cannot get regular announcements from public health officials or tune in to regular Facebook Live town halls with the Nation’s president.

One of the few mass media outlets on the reservation is radio station KTNN, where operators broadcast in Navajo and where Navajo leaders give regular coronavirus updates. But that communication has not been enough to stop the rise of infections.
Over 30 percent of the tribe lack clean running water. Another 30 percent don’t have electricity. Before the coronavirus outbreak, half the tribe was unemployed. The situation has worsened in recent weeks.

The Navajo Nation is a food desert, with only 13 grocery stores in an area approximately the size of West Virginia. Many communities rely on just one store, so people mingle from distant locations while buying food. For example, if the community of Shonto had no infections and someone there traveled to the market in Kayenta where people from Chilchinbito also shop, they could easily go home with more than their groceries — they could become infected with the coronavirus.

Given that the Navajo Nation is 27,000 square miles — seven people per square mile — social distancing may seem easy. But while the population is spread out, multiple generations often live under one roof or within the same small group of homes. Isolating a loved one, especially if they are sick, simply isn’t part of Navajo culture. That culture has also rallied to raise over $3.5 million to deliver food boxes to the elders and the immunocompromised during the public health crisis.

When it comes to health care, the Indian Health Service has been drastically underfunded for decades. Take Chilchinbito, home of the initial outbreak on the Navajo Nation. It has an emergency department, but no hospital. The sickest patients have been flown to hospitals in Albuquerque, Flagstaff and Phoenix. There are high rates of diabetes, asthma, cancer and other issues that make people on the reservation more vulnerable to the disease. Some of those health issues are the result of more than 500 abandoned uranium mines on the Navajo Nation.

But one thing tribal members keep coming back to is their resiliency. “Look at what happened to us as a people,” President Jonathan Nez said in a recent interview. “We were taken out to Fort Sumner during the Long Walk. We almost got annihilated as a people. We persevered. We’re utilizing our own resources. We’re utilizing our own teachings and we’re going to overcome this.”
OTHER INFORMATION

WE'VE UPDATED OUR WEBSITE!
COME VISIT AND LET US KNOW WHAT YOU THINK!

If you have any suggested changes or trouble navigating the website, please email avery.underwood@tedna.org

Thank you!

TEDNA MEMBERSHIP
BECOME A TEDNA MEMBER TODAY!

BENEFITS OF A TEDNA MEMBERSHIP

- The ability to deliberate and comment on State and National policies relating to tribal education.
- Discussions with other TEDs/TEAs across the United States regarding their implementation development.
- Invitation to our TEDNA annual meeting
- Spotlight in the TEDNA Newsletter regarding any advertisement, testimonies, or any successes within your tribe.
- Free Access to our resources

TO APPLY, VISIT: https://tedna.org/2020/07/10/Membership/

LINKS TO RECOMMENDED ARTICLES

SPEAKING UP AGAINST RACISM AROUND THE NEW CORONAVIRUS
SUPPORTING STUDENTS WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES DURING SCHOOL CLOSURES
DISTRICT RESPONSES TO CORONAVIRUS: EXAMPLES TO FOLLOW

Next issue:
We will be including information about how tribal education departments have been dealing with the COVID-19 crisis