



INDIAN TIME

Summer 2008



*Greg Richardson
Commission of Indian Affairs
Executive Director*

FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The U.S. Census Bureau recently held its first meeting in North Carolina to talk directly with our tribal leaders. Tribal representatives from each of our state's recognized tribes and organizations participated in the July 10 meeting of the U.S. Census Bureau, which was held at the North Raleigh Hilton. The purpose of the meeting, which the Commission of Indian Affairs helped to staff, was to ensure that North Carolina's American Indian population is accurately counted during the 2010 Census. It represented a truly important occasion as it is critical for our community to be accurately counted. If we get a low count, funding levels could go down for the next 10 years.

The working meeting included participation from the Atlanta, Charlotte and Dallas Census Bureau regional offices, as well as headquarters representatives. Key topics of discussion included building partnerships, classifying and tabulating responses to the 2010 Census, geography programs, and communications outreach to American Indian and Alaska Native communities (AIAN).

"The Census Bureau is committed to working together with state-recognized tribes and AIAN organizations," said Steve Murdock, Census Bureau director. "By working with the American Indian and Alaska Native population in North Carolina, we are confident that our partnership efforts will result in a successful and accurate count in 2010."

The Census Bureau will also hold workings meetings for state-recognized tribes at the Oneida Reservation in Green Bay, Wisc., and a tribal facility in Albuquerque, N.M.

COMMISSION NEWS

TRIBAL LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP HELD JUNE 25-26

The Commission of Indian Affairs held a Tribal Leadership Workshop June 25-26 at the Friday Center in Chapel Hill. The event featured presentations from Commission staff and key American Indian leaders in North Carolina, including Dr. Clara Sue Kidwell, director of the American Indian Center at UNC-Chapel Hill.

Topics included working with 501(c)3 organizations, how the Commission interacts with American Indian communities, and ways the Commission can set and meet goals and

COMMISSION REJECTS OFFER FROM G105

The Commission of Indian Affairs unanimously agreed on June 6 to not enter into a settlement agreement with G105, which had offered free advertising and internship opportunities for American Indian students in response to broadcasting that negatively described Indians on April 1.

During the Commission's quarterly meeting, members and guests expressed strong feelings about the derogatory comments, which were made during "Bob and the Showgram." The broadcast generated an intense response among North Carolina's tribes and organizations, collaboration among other minority groups, as well as supportive feedback from agencies outside of the state.

G105 General Manager Dick Harlow attended the meeting and restated apologies previously offered by G105 and host Bob Dumas, noting that this incident resulted in the first-ever formal, on-air apology from Dumas. He maintained that remarks made by Dumas were made "in character" and were never intended to cause offense. He also said that Dumas and his colleagues would not be fired and the show's format would not be changed.

Harlow excused himself prior to the Commission's vote. Members agreed that, while G105 pledged to not make negative comments about American Indians in the future, allowing similar remarks to be made about other groups prevented the Commission from entering into any agreement with the station.

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In addition to rejecting the offer, Commission members agreed to support continued efforts by partner groups to draw attention to G105 broadcast policies, boycott its advertisers and encourage a formal investigation by the Federal Communications Commission.

EXPANSION BUDGET ITEMS – UPDATE

The Commission requested three items for the Governor's Expansion Budget with only one to be funded. Recurring funds for the N.C. Indian Economic Development Initiative is to be included in the Governor's Budget at \$150,000. Total Amount requested under that item was \$513,000. Other items submitted but not funded were: An Equity and Capacity Building Initiative and a N.C. Culture and Preservation Program. It is felt that these initiatives would have helped the Commission further advocate for the needs and concerns of North Carolina's American Indian population on a statewide basis.

DAY OF REMEMBRANCE: 170th ANNIVERSARY OF THE TRAIL OF TEARS

Greg Richardson, speaking on behalf of Gov. Mike Easley, took part in a May 30 Commemoration Ceremony marking one of the saddest points in American history, the removal of Cherokee Indians from their homelands 170 years ago. Dignitaries at the event, held in Murphy, included state Sen. John Snow and U.S. Congressman Zach Wamp.

McCOY NAMED STATE CONTROLLER

Gov. Mike Easley nominated current State Budget Director David McCoy to become the next State Controller to replace Robert Powell, who is planning to retire before the end of this year. McCoy's appointment was approved by the General Assembly in July.

McCoy will be the first American Indian to serve in the position. He has directed the state budget throughout Easley's two terms as governor. Prior



David McCoy

to that, he served in the administration of Gov. Jim Hunt as transportation secretary, the governor's deputy chief of staff and chief deputy secretary of the Department of Administration. During the administration of Gov. Jim Martin, McCoy served as chief counsel in the Department of Administration and as assistant director of the N.C. Commission of Indian Affairs.

McCoy is a graduate of the University of Georgia and holds a Master's degree in education from the University of Georgia, a Master's degree in public health from the University of North Carolina and a law degree from the University of North Carolina School of Law.

CIA ASSISTS HEALTH AND WELLNESS TRUST FUND

The Commission of Indian Affairs will assist the N.C. Health and Wellness Trust Fund Commission, which was established by the General Assembly to invest in programs and partnerships to address access, prevention, education and research that help all North Carolinians achieve better health. The goal is to establish a close working relationship with the Commission's Indian Health Committee and gain input into grant programs that serve the Indian community; ensure Trust Fund staff understand cultural issues involved with Indian grantees; and improve communication between Indian grantees and the Trust Fund.

CIA PARTNERS WITH THE OFFICE OF STATE PERSONNEL

The Office of State Personnel (OSP) is required annually to submit reports to the General Assembly detailing workforce representation data, as well as promotion, new hire, grievance, disciplinary action, performance management and compensation information. Over the years, the reports revealed several unfavorable trends related to various demographic groups. To address these trends, OSP embarked on a Special Emphasis Project in 1999. Commission staff Pamela Graham DeRensis, Mickey Locklear and Elk Richardson participated as facilitators in obtaining perspectives from the randomly selected American Indians in State government. Once the data is analyzed, OSP will collaborate with an advisory committee to identify, design, and implement initiatives to address the employment trends.

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COMMISSION INTERN

Jeffery Booker of Greenville, a State Government Intern, was assigned to the Commission of Indian Affairs for the summer. Jeffery is a student at Pitt Community College and plans to transfer to East Carolina University in the fall to pursue degrees in Education and Business. His summer project was to develop resource material that will introduce schoolchildren to North Carolina American Indian culture.

AMERICAN INDIAN NEWS

NATIVE AMERICAN RESOURCE CENTER REOPENS

A celebration of the reopening of the Native American Resource Center at UNC-Pembroke was held on June 19. The Center was closed during most of the spring semester for remodeling and reconstruction. Improvements include a new lighting system and several new exhibit cases, as well as two new interactive computer displays where visitors may view the Center's video productions.

Also marking the reopening is three new exhibits. The first is *Recollections: Lumbee Heritage*, which features a pre-1945 photographic overview of Lumbee family and community life combined with pictures of the same subjects by Lumbee photographer David Oxendine. Separated by at least 50 years, these two groups of photographs illustrate the rich and continuous traditions that are the legacy of the Lumbee people. *Recollections: Lumbee Heritage* will be on display through the summer.

The second is a permanent exhibit about the history of UNC-Pembroke titled *A Tradition of Learning*. This exhibit features photographs, documents and artifacts from the 121-year history of the institution, from Indian Normal School to Regional University to the present.

The third is another permanent exhibit, *History of the Lumbee Community*. This exhibit allows visitors to walk through time from the earliest documented prehistoric artifacts through the 19th century. Both these permanent exhibits include descriptive text panels that provide an overview of the exhibit material.

OCCANEECHI INDIAN VILLAGE

Visitors will soon be able to step back in time at the Occaneechi Indian Village in Burlington, a reconstructed Siouan village similar to what the early Piedmont settlers would have seen in the late 1600s. The Village, expected to open two days a week for the general public by August, represents a period when the native culture of the area was beginning to change and evolve under the influence of new trade goods from Europe. Call the tribe at 919-304-3723 to set up a group tour.

15 YEAR OLD GRADUATES FROM RCC

Tequorra Tenna Green, age 15, graduated on May 15 from Robeson Community College in Lumberton with an Associate of Arts degree. She is an enrolled member of the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina and a descendant of the Haliwa-Saponi Tribe of North Carolina. She is the daughter of Kara Jones, Executive Director of Metrolina Native American Association in Charlotte.



Tequorra Tenna Green

TV CONVERTER BOX COUPON PROGRAM

The Digital Television Transition and Public Safety Act of 2005 requires TV stations to stop broadcasting in analog and to broadcast only in digital after Feb. 17, 2009. If you receive free TV using an antenna and your TV is not digital, you need to take action sometime before Feb. 17 so you can continue to receive programs.

The Act created the TV Converter Box Coupon Program for households wishing to use their analog TVs after the transition. The federal government is offering households up to two \$40 coupons to help pay for the cost of a certified converter box. TVs connected to cable, satellite or other pay services do not need a converter box to receive programs after Feb. 17.

To request a coupon, apply online at www.DTV2009.gov, by phone at 1-888-DTV-2009 (1-888-388-2009), or by mail at Digital Television Transition, P.O. Box 2000, Portland, Ore. 97308.

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COMMISSION PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES AT A GLANCE

EDUCATION TALENT SEARCH PROGRAM

Students Attend College Horizons

Three participants of the Educational Talent Search were accepted to attend the College Horizons Program at Duke University held June 14-18. Evan Davis (Northwest High School junior), Brittany Anstead (Warren County High School junior) and Matthew Richardson (Haliwa-Saponi Tribal School sophomore) attended the five-day "crash course" in preparing for college. Expert college counselors, teamed up with admission officers, helped the students with college selection, completing applications, writing essays, the financial aid process and college entrance exam preparation.

Students learned about a broad variety of colleges and universities and established personal relationships with admission representatives and college counselors. Among the colleges represented are Duke University, Yale University, Harvard University, Dartmouth College, Stanford University and many more.

Gates Millennium Scholarship

Five Educational Talent Search students from Hoke County High School were selected to attend the Patty Iron Cloud National Native American Youth Initiative June 21-29 in Washington, D.C. Ivey Lowery, Cassie Chavis, Amanda McNeill, AireLinda Tausaga and Leslie Locklear had the opportunity to receive additional training in their pursuit of medical education.

Through its cooperative agreement with the Office of Minority Health, the Patty Iron Cloud National Native American Youth Initiative is an intense academic enrichment and reinforcement program designed to better prepare American Indian/Alaska Native high school students to remain in the academic pipeline and pursue a career in the health professions and/or biomedical research. The Association of American Indian Physicians selects 60 high school students and 12 counselors to attend the program each summer.

SECTION 8 HOUSING PROGRAM

Two commission Section 8 staff members, Hermione Ruffin and Sonya McIver, attended Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) Occupancy Training sponsored by Nan McKay and Associates, a National Housing Training and Consultant firm, April 29-May 1 in Norfolk, Va.

WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ACT PROGRAM

Cape Fear Workforce Development Board Appointment

WIA's Carolyn Crocker has been appointed to the Cape Fear Workforce Development Board Youth Council, a subcommittee of the Cape Fear Workforce Development Board.

The Youth Council is responsible for coordinating youth activities and developing partnerships with other youth agencies in the Cape Fear Region.

National Indian and Native American Employment & Training Conference

WIA Program Director Elk Richardson and Coharie Tribal area WIA liaison Sue Brewington attended the 29th annual National Indian and Native American Employment and Training Conference, held May 19-23 in Wisconsin Dells, Wisc. The conference was hosted by the Ho-Chunk Indian Nation of Black River Falls, Wisc., and featured training workshops for WIA Section 166 administrators and program staff.

Staff gained valuable information on American Indian workforce development issues such as U.S. Department of Labor Common Performance Measures, WIA strategic planning and Comprehensive Services Plan (CSP) planning, Bear Tracks 2 Data Collection and Reporting system, Workforce Innovation In Regional Development (WIRED) Initiative, WIA client exit strategies, effective case management strategies, and analysis of labor market information. Additionally, regional WIA program administrator caucus meetings were attended.

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SUPPORTING OUR NATIVE STUDENTS PROGRAM

SONS Accepting Application for the Fall Semester

The Supporting Our Native Students (SONS) Program is currently accepting applications for the fall 2008 semester. The SONS Program is a college educational access and retention program sponsored by the N.C. Commission of Indian Affairs Economic Development Program. The purpose of the SONS Program is to identify qualified American Indian students enrolled in an accredited North Carolina community college or university and assist them in pursuit of their educational goals.

The SONS Program provides financial assistance to income eligible American Indian students during the fall and spring semesters only. Financial assistance consists of a book voucher and a semester completion incentive payment for each successfully completed semester. An Academic Award of Excellence will be presented to the student/students with the highest grade point average. You must comply with all SONS Program Guidelines in order to be eligible to receive this award. A Graduation Incentive Bonus payment will be provided to students who successfully graduate with a 2.0 or greater grade point average. The book vouchers will reimburse students for book expenses up to \$250.00 per semester and the semester completion incentive payment will be up to \$100.00 per semester. All other amounts will vary depending on the number of students eligible for funding.

To receive an application or to learn more about the program, please contact Kimberly Hammonds at 919-789-5900 or email kimberly.hammonds@doa.nc.gov.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

September 5

Quarterly Commission Meeting
Pembroke, N.C.



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Indian Time is published by the N.C. Commission of Indian Affairs. The newsletter is designed to highlight activities and issues of importance to the American Indian people of North Carolina.

N.C. Commission of Indian Affairs
1317 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, N.C. 27699-1317 (919) 789-5900

COMMISSION MEMBERS Indian Representatives

Coharie Indian Tribe

Gene Faircloth

Cumberland County Association for Indian People

Barbara Melvin ~ Roy Maynor

Eastern Band of Cherokee

Patrick H. Lambert

Guilford Native American Association

Frances Stewart Lowry

Haliwa-Saponi Indian Tribe

Barry Richardson ~ Ruth Ealing

Sappony Tribe

Shelia Wilson

Lumbee Indian Tribe

Furnie Lambert ~ Larece Hunt ~ J. Garth Locklear

Meherrin Tribe

Douglas Patterson

Metrolina Native American Association

Robin Lynn Strickland

Occaneechi Band of Saponi Nation

Sharn M. Jeffries

Triangle Native American Society

Brett A. Locklear

Waccamaw-Siouan Indian Tribe

Elton Ray Jacobs ~ Lila Spaulding

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Employment Security Commission

Harry Payne, Chairman

Designee: Patrice Fields

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Designee: Audrey Velazquez

N.C. Department of Health and Human Services

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Designee: Jan Lowry

N.C. Department of Labor

Cherie Berry, Commissioner

Designee: Patrice Fields

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Paul Brooks

Speaker of the House Appointee

Ray Littleturtle

YOUTH EX OFFICIO

N.C. Native American Youth Organization

Elizabeth Qua Lynch

N.C. Native American Council on Higher Education

Vacant

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<http://images.fws.gov/>

Jayce Williams
N.C. Department of Administration
Graphic Artist

COMMISSION OFFICERS

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McKinley Wooten Jr., Deputy Secretary
Gregory A. Richardson, Executive Director, Commission of Indian Affairs

NEWSLETTER COORDINATOR

Pamela Graham DeRensis

PROGRAM DIRECTORS:

Missy Brayboy, Director, Community Services/Indian Health Initiative
Kimberly Hammonds, Director, Economic Development/Supporting Our
Native Students Program /Community Services Block Grant Program
Mickey Locklear, Director, Educational Talent Search Program
Elk Richardson, Director, Workforce Investment Act Program
W.C. Groves, Director, Section 8 Housing Program