



JANET BARRESI
STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION
STATE OF OKLAHOMA

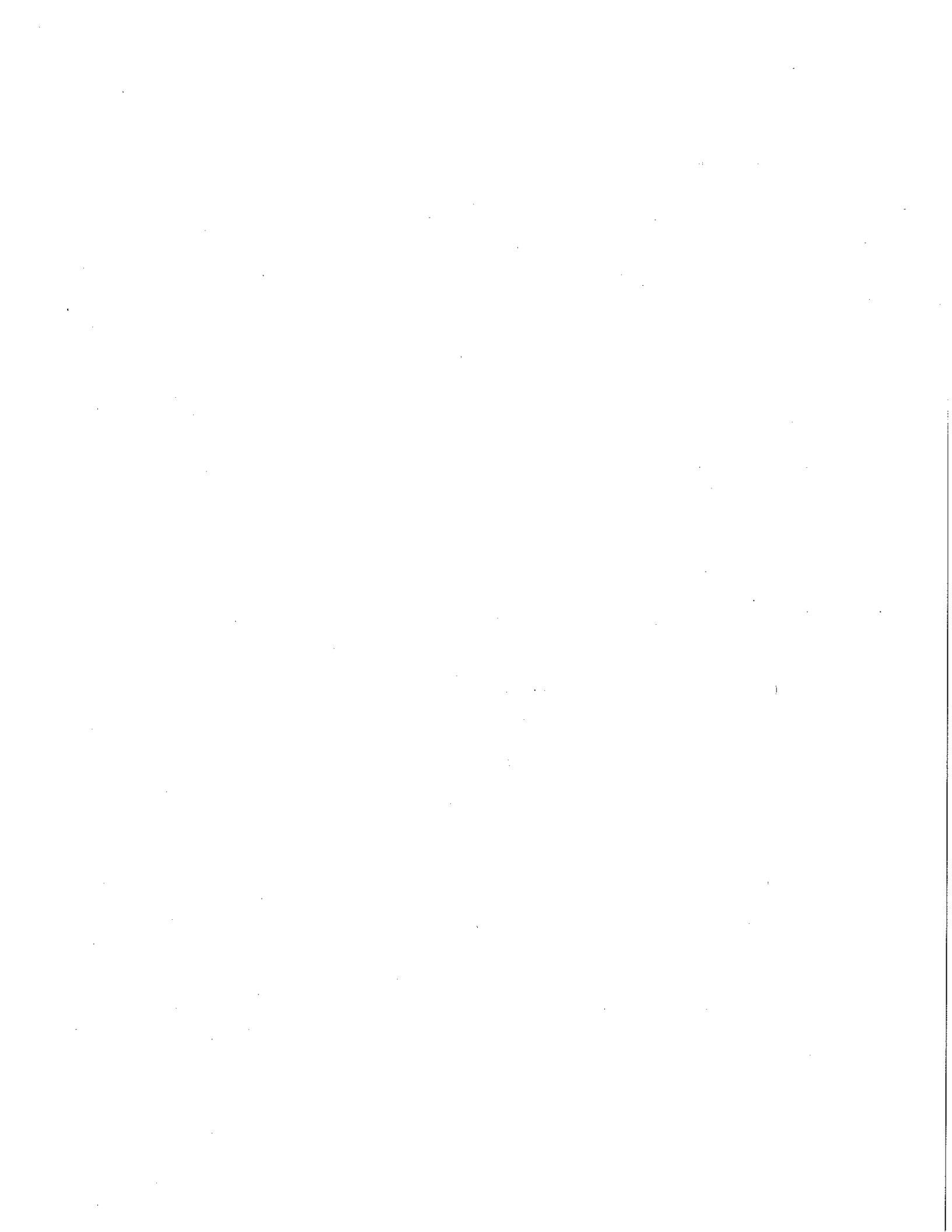
MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Members of the State Board of Education
FROM: Janet C. Barresi
DATE: December 18, 2014
SUBJECT: Oklahoma Advisory Council on Indian Education Report

Oklahoma Advisory Council on Indian Education, Jim Parrish (Chair), will present the Annual Report for 2014.

JCB/me

Attachments



OKLAHOMA ADVISORY COUNCIL ON INDIAN EDUCATION
(70 o.s. § 3-173 (OSCN 2010), Oklahoma Advisory Council on Indian Education Act)
ANNUAL REPORT 2014

December 18, 2014

The Oklahoma Advisory Council on Indian Education (OACIE) has recently completed their meetings for the calendar year ending 2014. This report will cover the yearly report and the recommendations to the State Board of Education and the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

We have approximately 130,000 American Indian students in our public schools of Oklahoma.

Current members

Current members for the OACIE are as follows: Members representing tribes as appointed by the Governor's office – Dr. Wayne Johnson, Muscogee (Creek) Nation; Ms. Lori Hamilton, Chickasaw Nation; Ms. Lisa John, Chickasaw Nation; Jana Roth, Delaware Tribe; and David Walkingstick, Cherokee Nation; Members representing Tribal Education Departments as appointed by the Governor's office – Ms. Mary McCormick, Sac & Fox Nation; Mr. Jim Parrish, (Chair 2014), Choctaw Nation; Mrs. Judy Davis, Miami Tribe; and Jack Shadwick, Ottawa Tribe; Members representing the Oklahoma Council for Indian Education as appointed by the Governor's office – Ms. Lucyann Harjo (Vice Chair 2014), Coordinator of Indian Education, Norman Public Schools; Members representing statewide teacher organizations, Ms. Esther Bell, Shawnee, OK; Mr. Paul Pinkerton, Stillwell, OK; Member representing statewide organization for school superintendents, Mr. Tom Crimmins, Elgin Public Schools; Member representing Oklahoma Tribal Colleges, President Robert Bible, College of the Muscogee Nation; Representing the Native American Cultural & Education Authority, Nancy Fields; Representing the Oklahoma Department of Career and Technology, Dr. Joe Robinson; representing the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, Matt Higdon, Field Coordinator for Student Preparation; and representing the State Department of Education, Dwight Pickering, Director of American Indian Education.

Purpose

The purpose of the Oklahoma Advisory Council on Indian Education Act is to recognize the unique relationship that Oklahoma enjoys with the Indian tribes located within the state and how Native Americans and Indian tribes play a pivotal role in the educational system of the state in light of this special relationship. The further purpose of the act is to establish the Oklahoma Advisory Council on Indian Education. The purpose of creating the Council is to promote culturally relevant learning environments, educational opportunities and instructional material for Native American students enrolled in the public schools of the state. Because of the number of Native American students enrolled in public schools in our state, this objective will positively affect the educational success of all public school students and encourage further government-to-government cooperation between the State of Oklahoma and the sovereign Indian Tribes in Oklahoma.

Highlights of 2014

1. Presentations from the State Department of Education

A. Angela Toyebo, REACH Coach for the State Department of Education, presented information about the implementation of the Common Core Standards.

B. Dwight Pickering, Director of American Indian Education, presented updates from the State Department of Education on Indian Education at each meeting. The following topics of his presentations are the highlights for 2014:

1. Oklahoma Teacher Resource Website: Mr. Pickering updated the Council each meeting about the website and its progress. The teacher resources website on the Tribes of Oklahoma was launched on July 11, 2014. The website continues to be a work in progress and will continue to grow each year.
2. Indian Education Summit- "Indian Education for All": Mr. Pickering along with the conference leadership organized the 2nd Oklahoma Indian Education Summit. It was held in Norman on September 9-10, 2014. There were approximately 200 attendees and the conference was a huge success. The Council would like to thank everyone for making this year's Summit a great success. The 2015 Summit is in the planning stages and tentatively set for June of next summer.

a. Conference Leadership

- (1.) *Dr. Norma Neely, Director, American Indian Institute, University of Oklahoma*
- (2.) *Jacob Tsotigh, Indian Education Technical Assistance Coordinator, South Central Comprehensive Center, University of Oklahoma*
- (3.) *Dwight Pickering, Oklahoma State Department of Education*

3. Test score information: The Council reviewed the state report on the 5th and 8th Grade Oklahoma Core Curriculum Test, (OCCT), for the American Indian students. The test scores were from years 2010, 2011, and 2012. We compared the scores and found 5th grade maintained almost the same scores in each area except a slight increase in Math and a decrease in writing by 8% from 2010 to 2012. The 8th grade test comparison revealed an 11% increase in reading from 2010 to 2012; however, all other scores were about the same.

The Council also reviewed and compared the EOI results for 2010, 2011, and 2012. We observed the scores increased in Algebra I 8% from 2010 to 2012. Algebra II increased 1.1% from 2010 to 2012. Geometry increased 6% from 2010 to 2012, and English III has increased 5% from 2010 to 2012. Other subject area content remained about the same.

The National Assessment of Education Progress Scale Scores of Reading, Math, and Science were also reviewed. The assessment data was for grades 4 and 8 and compared Oklahoma to the Nation 2009-2010 and 2010-2011. The results revealed that our American Indian student scored higher than the other racial categories. In 2011, American Indian students in Oklahoma are three to eight scores higher than their national counterparts.

The Council also looked at the Oklahoma ACT scores versus National ACT scores by ethnicity for the 2010-2012 graduates. The report shows the ACT composite score for Oklahoma was 20.8 and this has been the same standard score since 2007-08.

However, since 2000, only American Indian students had higher scores in Oklahoma than their national counterparts. American Indian students outscored their national counterparts by one standard score. The ACT score for American Indian students in Oklahoma for 2012 was 19.4. This has not changed much since 2010 and the Council would like to see the ACT scores of the American Indian students increase.

4. Native Language Certification issues were discussed with the Council by Mr. Pickering. Mr. Pickering informed the Council of the progress of HB 2921 during this legislative Session. HB 2921 was signed into law by Governor Fallin.
5. State Tribal Education Partnerships (STEP) Grant updates were presented by Dwight Pickering at each meeting.

2. Presentations by OACIE Board Members

- a. Greg Anderson, Superintendent of Eufaula Boarding School, presented to the Council updates on the most recent business of the National Advisory Council on Indian Education (NACIE). Upon the recommendation by Mr. Anderson the Council approved and submitted a support letter of American Indian Education to the U.S. Department of Education and the U.S. Department of the Interior.
- b. Lucyann Harjo presented to the Council updates on the business of the Oklahoma Council for Indian Education (OCIE). The highlights of her reports include the announcement that over 700 American Indians students were inducted into the Oklahoma Indian Student Honor Society this year. These high school and college students met the requirement of maintaining a 3.9 cumulative grade point average. An update was given about OCIE's American Indian Challenge Bowl, where 25 teams competed in this year's competition, learning the history and culture of Oklahoma's 39 Tribes. It was a great success.
- c. Tom Crimmins presented to the Council updates on current legislative issues.

- d. Dr. Joe Robinson presented to the Council updates on the enrollment of Native American students in Career Tech Centers.
- e. Matt Higdon presented to the Council updated enrollment figures for Higher Education.

3. Presentations by Guest Speakers

- a. Kristy Smithson, Manager of Native American Partnerships, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Oklahoma, presented the Big Brothers Big Sisters program to the Council in order to inform the Council how her organization is seeking recruits, mentors for American Indian "at risk" children in Oklahoma and how they have created partnerships with schools, programs, and tribes to assign mentors for children.

4. Activities of the OACIE

- a. In April, a meet and greet session was held by the Council at the State Capitol for the purpose of meeting the members of the Native American Caucus and other members of the legislature.
- b. Several members were active in the passing of HB 2921. This bill was passed and signed by Governor Fallin. It was designed to put into law the current qualifications for Native Language Teacher Certification. The law states that Native American language classes taught in the public schools may be counted by a public school in fulfilling core curriculum requirements and shall be granted the same credit as a world language. HB 2921 states that Native Languages may be taught in the public schools by any qualified teacher who holds a valid traditional or alternative Oklahoma teaching certificate or a teacher who holds a valid certificate in Native American Languages issued by the SDE. The Council would like to thank Desa Dawson, Director of World Languages for the SDE, for her work with Native Language Certification.
- c. HB 3243 was passed and signed by Governor Fallin. This bill gave new life to this Council through 2020.
- d. In July, the Oklahoma Indian Education Resource website was officially launched.
- e. Several Council members were active in the promotion of College Board's access and equity to Advance Placement courses for all high school students. Council members presented at the Native American Student Advocacy Initiative Conference and hosted a one day training at the Indian Education Summit.

5. OACIE Partners in Indian Education

American Indian Institute, University of Oklahoma

South Central Comprehensive Center, University of Oklahoma

Oklahoma Education Television Authority (OETA)

Native American Caucus of Oklahoma Legislators

College Board

Oklahoma History Center

Oklahoma Historical Society

Jacque Secondine Hensley, Native American Liaison, Office of Governor Mary Fallin

Oklahoma State Department of Education

Oklahoma Council for Indian Education

National Advisory Council on Indian Education

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Oklahoma

6. Recommendations to the State Board of Education.

a. The Council recommends once again to the State Department of Education to add funding to increase the staff of the Indian Education Department in order to broaden the support of districts and schools in the implementation of the Title VII and Johnson O'Malley Programs.

b. The Council also recommends the continual support of the SDE in the provision of additional staff development opportunities for teachers and schools on the cultural diversity of our Native American students.

c. The Council requests the collaboration between the State Department of Education and the Tribes to continue to promote progress in building effective partnerships for the betterment of the American Indian students in Oklahoma.

d. The Council request for the State Department of Education and the Tribes to work together to improve the graduation rates of American Indian students in Oklahoma.

e. The Council requests for the State Department of Education to promote the inclusion of culturally related standards into the State Academic Standards.

It is the Council's charge and duty to continue to:

1. Identify strategies for developing an efficient and reliable process of communications between Oklahoma education entities, educators, tribal organizations and other interested parties;
2. Identify and disseminate research-based, measurable criteria, both behavioral and academic, by which the success and efficacy of the education offered to Native American students in Oklahoma may be measured;
3. Analyze data to ensure that education agencies in Oklahoma continue to address the education needs of Native American students;
4. Encourage and promote Native American educational leadership at all levels of the education system; and
5. Make recommendations to the State Board of Education for programs that will help achieve the purposes of the Oklahoma Advisory Council on Indian Education Act.

If you have any additional questions, feel free to contact me, Jim Parrish, Director of the School of Choctaw Language, at 1-800-522-6170, ext. 2250, or at jparrish@choctawnation.com.

Jim Parrish, Chairman of the Oklahoma Advisory Council on Indian Education.