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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE
OFFICE OF EDUCATION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20202

November 30, 1976


Mr. Brad Patterson
Assistant to the President
on Indian Affairs
The White House
Room 134
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Brad:

It was very good to meet with you yesterday. I would like to thank you for your support.

Enclosed are some additional information which you suggested that I send you.

Sincerely,


Sylvia Wederath
Assistant Planning Officer
Office of Indian Education

Enclosures



FICE NATIONAL CONVOCATION ON AMERICAN INDIAN EDUCATION
MARCH 1977



- I. Purpose: The purpose of the FICE National Convocation on Native Americans will be to:
- A. provide a forum for the Indian community (i.e., Indian tribes, organizations, departments or agencies, and individuals) to present goals and priorities related to education;
 - B. seek suggestions for improvement of Federal administrative and regulatory policies affecting Indian education;
 - C. consider legislative, administrative and regulatory changes relating to Indian education; and
 - D. recommend an appropriate role for the Federal Government to play in responding to the education goals and priorities identified by the convocation participants.

II. Goals and Objectives

- A. Seek consensus on general goals and priorities of the "Indian community"; specific recommendations for change in administrative and regulatory policy and legislation ranging from early childhood to postsecondary and adult education from convocation participants.
- B. Clarify the programmatic responsibility required for each pertinent Federal agency so that all branches of government will act in concert to create a situation by which each local community can best carry out its own education programs.
 - 1. Identify expressed community needs.
 - 2. Identify the Federal agencies and their programs which currently have the responsibility for and the capacity to meet these needs.
 - a. review the extent to which community needs are being met.
 - b. determine the parameters within which Federal agencies are currently able to meet needs.
- C. Recommend ways by which those Federal agencies which currently do not have the capacity to meet the programmatic needs identified by the community might develop and implement programs through policy and/or legislative changes.



III. Pre-Convocation Procedures

- A. Notify national Indian organizations prior to their Fall, 1976 conferences in order that they may:
 - 1. Develop reports and recommendations for legislative and/or policy changes to be presented at the FICE National Convocation.
 - 2. Request each national Indian organization to recommend one or more key persons who would be invited (by the Assistant Secretary and FICE Chairperson) to participate in the FICE Convocation.
- B. Identify representatives from the community of researchers, practitioners, students involved in Indian education; and further, designate private individuals involved in Indian education as participants in the Convocation.
- C. Conduct a legislative needs analysis to develop areas for change and innovation in Indian education.
- D. Conduct a workshop at the National Indian Education Association Conference (September, 1976), convening education researchers and practitioners to discuss their views on legislative and administrative or policy changes needed to be made to enhance and improve Indian education.
- E. Complete FICE report, Indian Education and Federal Responsibility.
 - 1. Distribute to all convocation representatives prior to convocation. (Draft if final not completed and published.)
 - 2. Request comments and suggestions on strategies to implement report's recommendations.

IV. Convocation Procedures

- A. In conjunction with "Goals and Objectives" (II A & B above):
 - 1. Examine the nature of the programs conducted by Federal agencies in terms of:
 - a. legislative and regulatory amendments and reform
 - b. administrative policy
 - 2. Recommend the legislative amendments and administrative policy

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changes necessary to assure that programs are most effectively administered.

- B. Recommend approaches to assure monitoring and follow-up on recommended actions for Federal agencies including a report on progress available to all convocation participants.

V. Convocation Speakers

- A. Federal agencies (as identified above) will be asked to send one (1) representative each to the Convocation:
 - 1. To speak on his/her agency's intended role in issues involving Indian education; and
 - 2. To lay forth the agency's current capabilities.
- B. Each national Indian organization (and others as in II above) will be invited to send one (1) delegate to the Convocation:
 - 1. To present the needs of the community; and
 - 2. To deliberate with the Federal representatives in determining legislative, regulatory and policy changes.
- C. Papers on major issue areas will be commissioned for completion in advance of the Convocation to provide background for Convocation participants.

VI. Convocation Format

- A. The Convocation would be scheduled for approximately three (3) days.
- B. Day I
 - 1. General Assembly
 - 2. Participants divided into workshops led by a consulting expert to explore the recommended changes resulting from the pre-convocation application of the Delphi System.
 - 3. Re-assembly of groups for debate and dissertation on issues evolving from workshops.
- C. Day II
 - 1. Participants divided into workshops led by a consulting expert to explore the recommended changes resulting from the pre-convocation application of the Delphi System.

2. Re-assembly of groups for debate and dissertation on issues evolving from workshops refining the areas of concern.
3. Workshop: Develop statements on appropriate Federal agency roles in meeting identified Indian community needs.

D. Day III

1. General Assembly
 - a. Recap
2. Divide into workshops: Develop recommendations on new or revised approaches Federal agencies should take to meet Indian education needs.
 - a. Substantive recommendation
 - b. Strategic recommendations
 - c. Follow-up Plan and Monitoring Group
3. General Assembly
 - a. Review and discussion of recommendations



VIII. Mechanisms for Convocation Development and Execution

A. Sole Source

B. Convocation funding

1. Contributions by OIE, BIA, ONAP, and other Federal agencies
 - a. By September 1, 1976, identify contributors and dollar amounts.
 - b. Administration of funds for Convocation will be through FICE with direction from Indian Education steering committee members funding Convocation.



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20202

September 23, 1976

Dr. Rick St. Germaine
President
National Indian Education
Association
Ivy Tower Building
1115 Second Avenue, South
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55403



Dear Dr. St. Germaine:

The Federal Interagency Committee on Education (FICE), which I chair, is planning a National Convocation on Indian Education, to be held in March 1977. The purposes of this conference are to:

- provide a forum for the Indian community (i.e., Indian tribes, organizations, departments or agencies, and individuals) to present goals and priorities related to education;
- seek suggestions for improvement of Federal administrative and regulatory policies affecting Indian education;
- consider legislative changes relating to Indian education
- recommend an appropriate role for the Federal Government to play in responding to the education goals and priorities identified by the conference participants.

I have asked Dr. William Demmert, who serves as Chairman of the FICE Subcommittee on Indian Education, to chair the conference. Dr. Demmert was formerly the Office of Education's Deputy Commissioner for Indian Education and is currently Director of Education at the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Representatives of Indian organizations will be invited to participate, as will selected officials from all Federal agencies concerned with Indian education. The size of the Convocation will be small enough to allow thoughtful interchanges of views.

Because I know that the National Indian Education Association is meeting in Albuquerque next week, I want you to know of our plans so

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that you might allocate time at your meeting to consider the issues, goals, and priorities for Indian education which you feel might be appropriate for discussion at the Convocation next March. I would be pleased to receive your recommendations on these matters when your Conference concludes.

As plans for the Convocation near completion, I shall contact you again with further details. I look forward to your participation and that of the National Indian Education Association in this important activity.

Sincerely,

Virginia Y. Trotter
Assistant Secretary
for Education

cc: Dr. Andrew Lawson



Mr. David Gipp
Executive Director
American Indian Higher Education Consortium
1626 High Street
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Mr. Mel Tonasket
President
National Congress of American Indians
1430 K Street, N.W.
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Mr. Eddie Tullis
Acting President
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1239 G Street N.W.
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Ms. LaDonna Harris
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COPIES OF LETTER ALSO SENT TO:

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