

Tribal Summit Brings Together Statewide Representatives

The Maricopa Community Colleges and the Inter Tribal Council of Arizona, Inc. (ITCA) are co-hosting the "2009 Summit of Arizona Community Colleges & Indian Nations and Tribes." The event is open to media coverage and will be held Wednesday, June 24, 2009, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Mesa Community College Library, LB145.

This event is a first-time meeting to bring together tribal and higher education representatives to discuss collaboration and information sharing and to develop plans to address challenges facing American Indian students attending college in Arizona. Some of the specific agenda items include breakouts to address how disbursement of tribal funds for college are handled, addressing the housing and other student support issues particular to tribal students, and credit transfer issues.

Targeted participants include Tribal leaders and Tribal education program representatives, Arizona community college and Tribal college representatives, and state university and K-12 programs for American Indian Students. More than 130 participants have registered for the event, including representatives of 16 tribes, Arizona's three universities, nine college districts including the Maricopa District, and five K-12 school districts.

The meeting was organized after Maricopa Chancellor Rufus Glasper's Native American Community Advisory Council recommended that the Chancellor develop a strategy to meet with Tribal leaders to learn more about the challenges facing Tribal students attending Maricopa colleges. The Chancellor met with the ITCA, which recommended that, in addition to one-on-one meetings, the Chancellor meet with several Tribal representatives to initiate these collaborative discussions. ITCA agreed to co-host this meeting with Maricopa, and both decided to invite other Arizona college districts.

2009 Summit of Arizona Community Colleges & Indian Nations and Tribes
Mesa Community College, 1833 W. Southern Ave., Mesa, AZ 85202

Wednesday, June 24, 2009, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Program Agenda

8:00 am, Registration & Breakfast Refreshments.

8:10 am, Welcome & Introductions, Co-Host, ITCA Member - Lt. Governor Joseph Manuel, Gila River Indian Community, and Co-Host, MCCCDC Chancellor Rufus Glasper.

8:20 am, Invocation.

8:25 am, Opening Remarks by Tribal & College Leaders.

9:00 am, Overview of Objectives & Agenda.

9:05 am, Setting the Stage - Review of American Indian Student Profile issues, Bo Colbert, MCCCDC Academic Affairs

9:15 am, An 8-State Collaborative Model for College & Career Readiness, Jacob Moore, President, Arizona State Board of Education.

9:30 am, Tribal & College Leadership Roundtable - Information Sharing & Consultation.

11:00 am, Concurrent Breakout Sessions

- Tribal Education Funds Disbursement (LB 145)
- Student Housing Assistance (AS 191)
- Transfer Programs (3rd Floor Reading Room)

12:00 pm, Lunch.

12:30 pm, Lunch Speaker, Dr. Olivia Vanegas-Funcheon, President, Tohono O'odham Community College.

1:00 pm, Plenary Session - Next Steps

2:00 pm, Conclusion & Adjournment, Co-Hosts, ITCA Executive Director John Lewis & MCCCDC Chancellor Rufus Glasper.