



July 10, 2019

Dear Community Member

The All Pueblo Council of Governors passed Resolution 2019-13 in May of 2019 to support the commencement of planning and to join the Leadership Institute, All Pueblo Council of Governors Education Committee, NM Public Education Department, and other collaborators to host an Education Institute on July 22-24, 2019 at the Santa Ana Star Casino Hotel. The Institute will provide time and space for us to formulate recommendations on policy, program, budget and legislative initiatives in response to the landmark decision in Yazzie/Martinez v. State of New Mexico in preparation for the 2020 legislative session.

Not since the first Education Policy that was unveiled in 1890 have we had an opportunity to define education for our children aligned with our core values and designed for our purposes. This is a watershed moment in our state and in the nation for Indian Education. The recommendations developed at our Pueblo Education Convocation and endorsed by the All Pueblo Council of Governors in July of 2018, was a monumental beginning. The recommendations paved the way for framing the necessary legislative agenda to provide the foundation and framework to build upon to fulfill the promise of education for our children.

In preparation for the 2020 legislative session, we plan to further refine our recommendations from early childhood education, primary and secondary education and higher education and the transfer of cultural knowledge. The 2019 Legislative Session yielded important legislation creating an Early Childhood Education and Care Department with special tribal provisions as recommended and the enactment of HB250, legislation signed into law for the governance and accountability of education programs are two examples of our collective efforts.

This next session will be a monumental moment in our time. How we respond to this opportunity will define the course of our way of life and how we sustain all the Gifts of our Creator. We are at a crossroads. Our language and cultural systems and institutions are fragile after years of onslaught of policies and laws intended to weaken them. How we respond will define what future generations will inherit from us.

The recent passing of Judge Singleton of the Second Judicial District who rendered this landmark decision is untimely and a huge loss. Who will replace her is unknown. What we do know is, there will be heavy emphasis on moving what is referred to as an Indian Education agenda/legislation we have previously developed which must be expanded. Developing an "education blueprint" as we have referred to is the intent of this Education Institute. This will be a guiding framework to take the next step in elevating our efforts to build upon what others have contributed to. Time is of the essence and in coordination with the All Pueblo Governors we extend an invitation to you. You have been identified as a valuable asset to these efforts and we are hopeful that you will join to contribute to this call of our respective Governors. This is by invitation only as this will require total commitment to the two and a half days to fulfill this ambitious agenda.



Regis Pecos, Co-Director
Santa Fe Indian School Leadership Institute



E. Paul Torres, Chairman
All Pueblo Council of Governors



Carnell Chosa, Co-Director
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