



WELCOME TO OUR

Monthly Newsletter



A Fresh Look



This newsletter will give you an overview of the different programs and services the Education Department provides. We will continue to publish a monthly newsletter with fresh material and articles by the 15th of each month.

Any articles relating to educational/career opportunities and upcoming events can be shared here! Feel free to submit any public contributions or information to educationdirector@wrpt.org.

Thank you!

In this newsletter you will find:

↓ Overview of programs, services, resources, announcements and more. Keep Reading!

Meet Our Team



Sara Twiss
EDUCATION DIRECTOR

How mu? (How are you all?)

My name is Sara Twiss, and I am a proud member of the Walker River Paiute Tribe. I have a Bachelor of Arts in Humanities degree from Sierra Nevada College and a Master's in Community and Regional Planning from the University of New Mexico. In my previous work with the UNM Center for Participatory Research, I worked on various projects, including our NM Research, Evaluation, and Learning team, where we provided evaluation and technical assistance to the W.K. Kellogg Foundation grantees. I was also a researcher, facilitator, and mentor for our Tribal Data Champions Fellowship program. Before this position, I worked for a non-profit organization that focused on restorative justice practices and alternatives to detention, specifically for individuals/communities of color. I will work strategically with our Education staff to ensure we deliver our programs and services to our fullest potential. We work hard to create meaningful partnerships across various levels of educational institutions and organizations that our students are a part of. Education is a lifelong journey, and it is critical to meet the needs of our community at all levels to ensure that our students are readily prepared for college or a career. I am pleased to provide service at this level and for future generations to come.



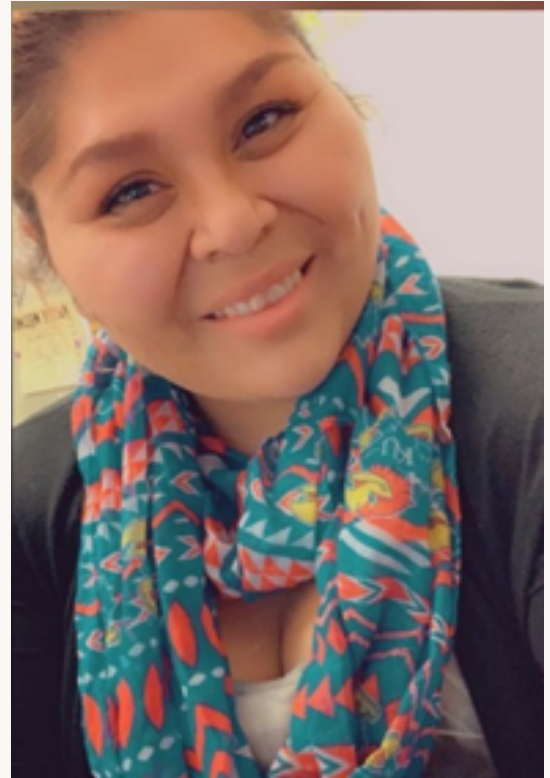
Dawna Jackson
NYCP COLLEGE & CAREER COACH

My name is Dawna Jackson, some people might remember me as Dawna Leyva and probably most remember me as Dawna Fernando. I was born here at the Walker River Paiute Tribe clinic when it was still the hospital, some years ago. I am a descendant of the Murphy and Benjamin Paiute bloodline. I am also half Pueblo from New Mexico. I have had a few jobs here in Paiute Country. The most rewarding career that I had was working at the Schurz Elementary School for 20 years as a Certified Paraprofessional. In recent years, I took a small pause from the workforce and I am currently employed at the WRPT Education Department. My role is under a grant Native Youth Community Project, College and Career Coach that focuses on 7th - 12th grade to be college and career readiness. To add, I do transportation for tutoring, college tours, college camps, as well as cultural activities. It has been an honor working with our youth to assist and guide them to have a successful and positive future for themselves in their education and careers. I would like to take this time to thank Tribe as well as the parents, guardians, and community for allowing me to have the opportunity to be back into the education realm that I have missed for some time now. Ya'll be safe and have peace for days to come!

Meet Our Newest Team Member!

Hello, my name is Belinda Hooper; I am a member of the Yomba Shoshone Tribe in Reese River Valley, NV. My parents are David and Debbie J. Hooper. My late paternal grandparents are Ernest and Frances (Pacheco) Hooper, and my late maternal grandparents are Donald and Roselyn (Pete) Brady. I am also a descendant of the WRPT, so I am very pleased to be able to work within the community. I got the opportunity to get hired as the Native Youth Community Project (NYCP) College and Career Coach. I am looking forward to getting more learning experiences with the Education Department and working with the Native youth.

I am a recent graduate from Haskell Indian Nation University. I graduated with a Liberal Arts Associate. Prior to completing my Associate's degree, I took an 8-year gap from college due to "life" overlapping me, and throughout the years, I worked for my own Tribe and then a year and some months with Fallon Paiute Shoshone Tribe. Due to the long break, I was able to find my way back to the education world and graduate with my Associate's degree. I will continue with my own education at Western Nevada College to get my Deaf Studies Degree and to become a Sign Language Interpreter. I am hoping to complete my dream in a few years. Therefore, I am looking forward to bringing my educational skills to my co-workers and to the youth and letting people know it is never too late to complete their dreams, and if there is a will, then there is a way. Thank you.



Belinda Hooper

NYCP COLLEGE & CAREER COACH



***WE ARE CURRENTLY HIRING FOR AN
EDUCATION SPECIALIST POSITION!***

***CONTACT OUR HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE OR
EDUCATION DIRECTOR FOR AN APPLICATION!***

Overview of Our Programs



Higher Education Grant Program

CONSOLIDATED TRIBAL GOVERNMENT PROGRAM
DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
WESTERN NEVADA AGENCY

Purpose: To provide financial aid to eligible Indian students to enable them to attend accredited institutions of higher education. To promote Indian self-determination and improve the quality of life in Tribal communities by providing great flexibility in planning programs and meeting the community's needs.

Application Deadlines:

Aug 1st (Fall Semester) and Dec 1st (Spring Semester)



The Tax Fund Use Plan also contributes to Higher Education funding each year, including the following programs:

The **Adult Vocational Training (AVT) Program** assists enrolled members of the Walker River Paiute Tribe in acquiring the necessary job skills for a satisfactory level of performance and full-time employment.

The **Enrichment Program** is to allow Walker River Tribal members the opportunity to enhance their skills and enrich their lives by attending higher education classes on a part-time basis, summer classes, and Ph.D. or Master Programs.

AVT and Enrichment Application Deadlines:

Dec. 15th, Mar. 15th, Jun 15th, and Sept. 15th

Agai Dicutta Scholarship Policy - *Applicable through applying for the Higher Education Grant or the AVT Grant program:* The scholarship is made available from tax revenues collected on the Walker River Paiute Reservation. Each year, the revenues vary, and each year, the amount allotted to the Education Department varies. This funding is contingent on the amount of business conducted on the reservation.

**You can access all of our applications and policies at the
Walker River Paiute Tribe's main website.**

WWW.WRPT.ORG

Overview of Our Programs Continued



Johnson O'Malley Program (JOM)

DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
WESTERN NEVADA AGENCY

Purpose: To fund programs that meet the unique and specialized needs of eligible Native students. Funds may be used for supplemental programs to meet the special educationally related needs of eligible Native students. Funds under this program are not to be used for capital expenditures.



The **JOM Program** assists with various areas of the Education Department, including summer enrichment activities, community gatherings and events promoting education and cultural activities, and parental expenses, including graduation assistance, student body/activity cards, lab fees, course fees, test fees, school/shop supplies, sports fees, and other school-related materials.

JOM also supports incentive costs related to academic excellence and back-to-school events. In relation to staff, it supports a small percentage towards salary/fringe, training, and travel costs to assist students in after-school tutoring.

JOM is central to providing different educational opportunities, services, and programs to all Native students.



Overview of Our Programs Cont.



Native Youth Community Project (NYCP) Program

The NYCP program is a collaborative effort across three areas in Nevada: the Nevada Department of Education's Office of Inclusive Education's - Indian Education Program, and Local Education Agencies. NYCP initiatives include three initiatives to address the barriers within and outside of school for Native students related to college and career readiness. Our Education Department employs two NYCP College and Career Coaches who provide mentorship and support for 7th-12th grade students while focusing on the following goals:

Goal 1: Implement a successful NYCP that promotes and prepares Native students for college and careers with an emphasis on careers in the teaching profession.

Goal 2: Increase student academic performance by including opportunities in the local community to support Native students.

Goal 3: Increase student motivation and readiness to attend college or vocational training.



For more information and how to sign up for the NYCP program, please contact our office and speak with one of our NYCP Coaches!

NYCP COACHES

Dawna Jackson
djackson@wrpt.org
(775) 773 - 2306 x. 2163

Belinda Hooper
bhooper@wrpt.org
(775) 773 - 2306 x. 2161

Overview of Our Programs Cont.

Walker River Paiute Tribal Library

NATIVE AMERICAN LIBRARY SERVICES:
(BASIC GRANT)



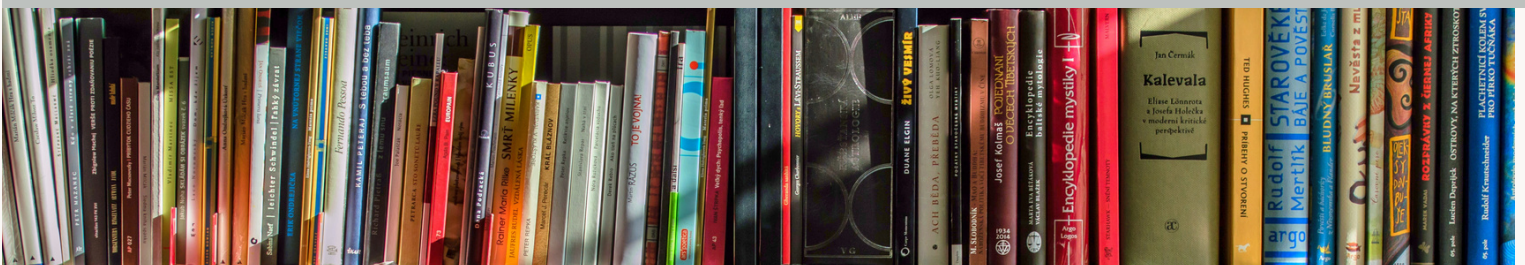
The Native American Library Services Grant program is designed to assist Native American tribes in improving core library services for the Walker River Paiute Tribal Library. Reflecting the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS)'s agency-level goals of championing lifelong learning, strengthening community engagement, and advancing collections stewardship and access, the goals for this program are to:

- Improve services for learning and accessing information in various formats to support needs for education, workforce development, economic and business development, health information, critical thinking skills, digital literacy skills, financial literacy, and other types of literacy skills.
- Enhance the skills and leadership of the current library workforce through training, continuing education, and opportunities for professional development.



The Education Department currently partners with the **Nevada State Library, Archives, and Public Records** and has connected with the **Nevada Indian Commission** and **Nevada's Indian Territory** for resources and updated information to begin building our **Walker River Tribal Library**. As part of this grant, our staff will attend the **2024 Nevada Library Directors' Summit** held in May 2024.

The Walker River Tribal Library will be a space to host workshops related to educational and career readiness, including cultural activities!



OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM EDUCATION DEPARTMENT:

**Education Department
Hours of Operation:
M-F 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.**

**Technology Center Hours:
M-F 8:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
(Please enter through the Education
Department Doors)**

**NYCP Coaches
Transportation for YIS and YHS Tutoring:
Tues. & Thurs. - Depart Schools at 4:00 p.m.
Contact NYCP Coaches to sign up
for tutoring transportation!**




Walker River Paiute Tribe
P.O. Box 220 • Schurz, Nevada 89427
Phone: (775) 773-2306
FAX: (775) 773-2585

WALKER RIVER PAIUTE TRIBE Board of Education Notice of one (1) Vacancy

The Board of Education comprises five (5) members who serve staggered terms per resolution WR-77-99. There is one (1) vacancy. Any enrolled Tribal Member of the Walker River Paiute Tribe and/or resident of the reservation, a parent of Indian children in school, or whose children are eligible for programs may apply.


You may pick up an application from the Education Department or from the Executive Secretary at the Administration Building M-F, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., or email zgonzales@wrpt.org.

*ONE (1) vacancy to stay open for thirty (30) days.
See attached the Board of Education Constitution & Bylaws with additional resolutions passed by the Tribal Council.*




WALKER RIVER PAIUTE TRIBE

TECHNOLOGY CENTER




Hours M-F: 8:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Administered by the Education Department


The technology center provides a convenient service to students on all academic levels and is accessible to anyone in the community. Students and non-students enjoy open wireless networks, which allow users to connect to the internet and browse as needed.



Copy



Print




Scan

Please Contact Ahead of Time for Bulk Copying

For more information, please reach out to the Education Department staff, or you may contact the Education Director at: (775) 773-2306 ext. 2160, educationdirector@wrpt.org

THANK YOU!



TECHNOLOGY CENTER RULES

- ✓ Everyone Must Sign-In & Sign-Out
- ✓ No Food or Drinks Allowed while using the Computers
- ✓ Sanitize the Area Before Leaving
- ✓ Do Not Personalize Computer Settings
- ✓ It is Your Responsibility to Logout of All Personal Accounts
- ✓ Keep Noise to a Minimum Level
- ✓ Surf Responsibly - Never Download or Open Unrecognized Content
- ✓ Remember to Log Off, and Turn Off the Mouse Once Finished

Please contact the Education Department staff for assistance with computer issues or assistance with Copy/Print/Scan Capabilities.

The Walker River Paiute Tribe is not responsible for any lost personal items.

THANK YOU!

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM EDUCATION DEPARTMENT:

WALKER RIVER PAIUTE TRIBE

BOWLING

for Education

Our NYCP program will be hosting an afternoon of bowling while speaking with students and their parent(s)/guardian about their academic goals in school.

FREE ENTRY FOR STUDENTS SIGNED UP FOR NYCP PROGRAM AND ONE (1) ACCOMPANYING PARENT/GUARDIAN

CONTACT DAWNA OR SARA AT THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT TO CONFIRM ATTENDANCE AND RESERVE A SPOT!

(775) 773-2306
EXT. 2160 OR EXT. 2163

MON. FEB 19, 2:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.
17 N Main St, Yerington, NV 89447
RATTLESNAKE LANES

Brought to you by the Education Department

CULTURAL MOVIE NIGHT

Hosted by the Education Department
Food Fundraiser will be available!

FEB. 22
5:30 PM - 7:15 P.M.
FILM LENGTH: 1 HR. 43 MIN.

Schurz Tribal Gym
(Bring your own seats/cushions!)

LINK WRAY BUFFY SAINTE-MARIE ROBBIE ROBERTSON
JESSE ED DAVIS JIMI HENDRIX RANDY CASTILLO TABOO

RUMBLE

The Indians Who Rocked The World

WINNER sundance
HOTDOCS

"Irresistible."
-Screen Daily

"Astoundingly rich and resonant."
-The Hollywood Reporter

They tried to ban, censor and erase Indian culture from rock and roll history but Native American influence is wrapped into modern music's DNA. RUMBLE: The Indians Who Rocked the World is an electric look at Native American influence in popular music, going deep into the Indigenous foundations of rock.

Rated PG-13: Parents strongly cautioned - Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

SENIOR DAY

Leap year!

WNC is offering a day for high school seniors to learn about WNC's programs and resources. Please join us for a FUN-filled day to walk in the shoes of a Wildcat!

What to expect:

- Campus Tour
- Financial Aid Information
- WNC Programs Overview
- Student Life Introduction
- Student Panel

February 29th
Check-in: 9:00-9:30 am
Lunch: 12:00-1:00 pm

Contact NYCP Coach
Dawna Jackson to sign up
your High School Senior!
(775) 773-2306 ext. 2163



**ATTN:
High School
Seniors!**

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM SCHURZ ELEMENTARY SCHOOL:



Schurz Elementary School

2023-24 School Goals

Inquiry Area 1 - Student Success

School Goal:

By May 2024, during Nevada SBAC testing, overall, Math MGP will increase from 36.5% to 60%, and our ELA MGP will increase from 71.5% to 80%. Chronic absenteeism will reduce from 50% to 30%.

Inquiry Area 2 - Adult Learning Culture

School Goal:

By the end of the Academic Year 2023-24, Schurz Elementary School will have evidence that strong professional development and collaboration systems, focused on literacy and math, are resulting in increased student achievement and narrower performance gaps for all student groups raising the academic rigor and the relevance of learning experiences through strong instruction.

Inquiry Area 3 - Connectedness

School Goal:

By the end of the Academic Year 2023-24, at least 60% of the Walker River Paiute tribal community families, staff, community and council members will report that Schurz Elementary School has strong communication that promotes trusting partnerships, a safe learning environment that honors and values the Walker River Paiute tribal community's culture, customs, and language.

SPORTS



FEB
20

Girls VB: SES vs. Hawthorne JH

📍 Schurz Elementary School, 4048 US-95, Schurz, NV 89427, USA

FEB
21

Girls VB: SES vs. Pyramid Lake JH

📍 Schurz Elementary School, 4048 US-95, Schurz, NV 89427, USA



ANNOUNCEMENT FROM SES PRINCIPAL:



Schurz Elementary School

SES Star Rating System

On September 15, 2023 the Nevada Department of Education released Nevada School Performance Framework (NSPF) Star Ratings. Since the US Department of Education offered a waiver due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the last time NSPF Star Ratings were calculated was for the 2018-2019 school year.

The NSPF Star Rating system was developed by teachers, administrators, and stakeholders from across the state. It is designed to summarize a school's performance based on multiple indicators and measures. Parents, students, educators, and communities can use star ratings to understand how schools are performing and closely examine the indicators and measures that determine the ratings.

Schools earn points based on performance in each measure, which are added together to generate a score for each indicator. The results for each indicator are then added together to create a total Index Score, which is on a scale between 1 and 100. Some of the measures that factor into a school's star rating include English and mathematics Smarter Balanced Assessments, science assessments, chronic absenteeism, graduation rate, and school designations.

Schurz Elementary School is a two-star school! SES was a rising star (one-star) for several years prior and was also designated as a Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) school. We are no longer a CSI-designated school (school in the lowest five percent of rated schools based on the NSPF index score). This achievement is a step in the right direction. SES staff acknowledge this achievement but realize there continues to be much work to accomplish. This includes continuing a high level of expectations for each other and our students.

Our preliminary site achievement data up to this point in the 203-24 school year allows us to predict that we are on track to increase our rating to a 3-star! We have student data, right now, that will result in a significant increase in students proficient, or higher in ELA and Math and most importantly Science from our upcoming April state testing.

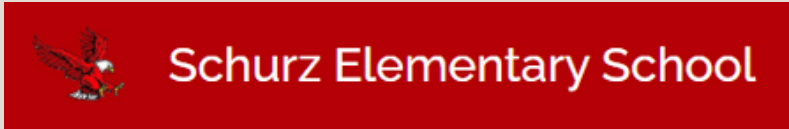
Attached is our star rating report. We ask for your support, as a community, to encourage all of our students, regardless of grade level, to read, read, read. Please read to our younger ones, ask your younger relatives to sit with you and hear them read. Buy or find novels for our older student relatives to read. Our asks here will do everything to help motivate students to keep up the good work.

LANCE WEST, PRINCIPAL

SCHURZ ELEMENTARY SCHOOL - PHONE: 775-773-2323

EMAIL: WEST.LANCE@NVMCSD.ORG

ANNOUNCEMENT FROM SES PRINCIPAL:



Schurz Elementary

School Year 2022-2023 Nevada School Rating

<p><i>School Level:</i> Elementary School <i>Grade Levels:</i> PK-06 <i>District:</i> Mineral <i>School Address:</i> 4048 S. Hwy 95 Schurz, NV 89427</p>	<p>30.0 Total Index Score</p>	<p>School Type: <i>Regular</i> School Designation: <i>No Designation</i> 95% Assessment Participation: <i>Met</i></p>														
<p>Student Race/Ethnicity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 0.0% White 0.0% BI/Afr Am 13.0% Hisp/Latino 0.0% Asian 85.5% Am Ind/AK Nat 0.0% Pac Isl 1.4% Two or More 	<p>School Performance History</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>School Year</th> <th>Index Score/Star Rating</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2021-2022</td> <td>16.0 NR</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2020-2021</td> <td>8.5 ★</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	School Year	Index Score/Star Rating	2021-2022	16.0 NR	2020-2021	8.5 ★	<p>Additional Student Groups</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Group</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Eng Lnrs</td> <td>~40%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Stud w/Disab</td> <td>0%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Econ Disadv</td> <td>~85%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Group	Percentage	Eng Lnrs	~40%	Stud w/Disab	0%	Econ Disadv	~85%
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What does my school rating mean?

Two-Star school: Identifies a school that has **partially met** the state's standard for performance. Students and subgroups often meet expectations for academic performance or growth but may have multiple areas that require improvement. Areas requiring significant improvement are uncommon. The school must submit an improvement plan that identifies supports tailored to subgroups and indicators that are below standard.

How are school star ratings determined?

Schools receive points based on student performance across various Indicators and Measures. These points are totaled and divided by the points possible to produce an index score from 1-100. This index score is associated with a one- to five-star school rating.

How are star ratings determined based on total index score?



2022-2023 School Performance

1/25 Academic Achievement Indicator

Measure	School Rate	District Rate
Pooled Proficiency	16.1	17.8
Math Proficiency	6.6	11.9
ELA Proficiency	31.0	25.2
Science Proficiency	-	13.1
Read-by-Grade-3 Proficiency	-	20.0

14.5/35 Growth Indicator

Measure	School Median	District Median
Math MGP	35.0	37.5
ELA MGP	71.0	53.0

	School Rate	District Rate
Met Math AGP Target	<5	15.2
Met ELA AGP Target	42.8	35.4

3/10 English Language Proficiency Indicator

Measure	School Rate	District Rate
Met EL AGP Target	38.8	35.0

9/20 Closing Opportunity Gaps Indicator

Measure	School Rate	District Rate
Prior Non-Proficient Met Math AGP Target	<5	12.8
Prior Non-Proficient Met ELA AGP Target	47.3	32.6

****1/10 Student Engagement Indicator**

Measure	School Rate	District Rate
Chronic Absenteeism	27.1	33.0
Climate Survey Participation	90.0	N/A

** Reduction in Chronic Absenteeism (CA): Received 1 points in Student Engagement for reducing CA rate by 10% or more over prior year.
 Climate Survey Participation is not a point-earning measure.

LANCE WEST, PRINCIPAL
SCHURZ ELEMENTARY SCHOOL - PHONE: 775-773-2323
EMAIL: WEST.LANCE@NVMCSD.ORG

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM OUR PARTNERS:

February 2024 - YPT ACE Youth Leadership Activities

All Events will be at
Community Center



We have a few events upcoming for all ACE students that have signed up for UNITY, College and Career Services, and or College Tours. Join us at the events below if you are interested in participating!

UNITY Meeting
February 21st 3pm - 5pm

We will be working on our goals and strategic planning for the 2024 UNITY year!

- Learn about UNITY Mission
- Get involved in planning activities and events
- Learn about the National UNITY Conference in Portland, Oregon in June 2024

College and Career Night - FAFSA

February 21st
5pm - 7pm

We will talk about building your college portfolio and the following:

- Filing your FAFSA
- Applying for college & scholarships
- Summer College Camps and Tours

UNITY Elections -
Candidate Night & Elections

- Join us for UNITY Candidate night and hear from the candidates running for the UNITY board!
- Elections will be held on February 28th

February
26th & 28th
5pm - 7pm

For more information:

Sandra Mitrovich. sandra.mitrovich@outlook.com

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM OUR PARTNERS:



Nevada Department of Education
Office of Inclusive Education
Indian Education



INDIAN EDUCATION
Save the Date
ANNUAL SUMMIT
March 26-28, 2024



The landscape of Indian Education: Looking back to Look Forward. Using data to invest in our students.

Details

Location: University of Nevada, Reno's Joe Crowley Student Union, Reno, Nevada

Times: 8:30 am-4:00 pm (registration starts at 7:30 am), **times subject to change**

Registration Cost: \$150.00 Early Bird (February 5- March 15); \$175 after March 15, 2023

Registration opens on Monday, February 5, 2024

For Registration information see the Nevada Department of Education's website

We look forward to seeing you at the 2024 Indian Education Summit!

Since 2008, the Indian Education Summit has attracted professionals from across Nevada who serve American Indian student. It has been the center for school districts, schools, postsecondary institutions, and tribal communities to come together to gather resources and best practices that focus on indigenous culture and tradition.

This year, the aim will be to consider how we use data to increase student success in our state for American Indian students.

Any questions, please contact the Office of Inclusive Education at the Nevada Department of Education: indianeducation@doe.nv.gov or (775) 687-9143.



Honoring Native Graduates



JEREMY J. MEANS
WALKER RIVER PAIUTE TRIBE

Winter 2023 Graduated on Dec 9, 2023

Jeremy Means, student, father, and recruitment specialist at the University of Nevada Reno, graduated with his Bachelor's Degree in Finance with a Minor in Economics.

Jeremy is the son of Kimberly Williams Quintero and the late Donald Quintero, grandson of Alvery and the late Darlene Williams.

Jeremy started his Master of Business Administration degree at UNR in the Spring of 2024.



What you have done to achieve your degree is a spectacular example of dedication towards your future. We are beyond proud of you, Jeremy!



Last, but not Least!

OUR EDUCATION DEPARTMENT IS PUTTING A CALL OUT FOR GRADUATES!

The Education Department of the Walker River Paiute Tribe is putting a call out for all 2023-2024 Native graduates' information.

Please complete the survey link form if you/someone in your family is graduating from 8th grade, High School, a GED program, or graduating from a post-secondary institution. (This includes those completing a program in the Fall 2023 semester.) We'd also like to include those who are home-schooled/online students who are within these grade levels.



**Use the QR Code here to direct you to the link:
Be sure to complete a separate form for each student.
Responses will be accepted until April 1, 2024.**

This information is collected for our end-of-the-year honoring ceremony, data collection, and can help support Native students by providing them with educational and career resources, as well as expanding student outreach to establish service-learning opportunities, professional development, and alumni networks specific to Native students.



**If you have any questions regarding this survey,
please contact Sara Twiss,
Education Director, at 775-773-2306 ext. 2160, or
email educationdirector@wrpt.org.**