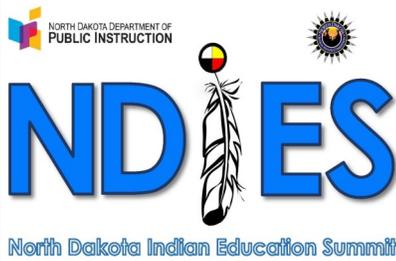


2nd Annual North Dakota Indian Education Summit

By Lucy Fredericks, Director of Indian/Multicultural Education



The 2nd Annual North Dakota Indian Education Summit was held July 7-8, 2015, in the Brynhild Haugland Room of the North Dakota State Capitol in Bismarck. This two-day Summit was co-sponsored by the NDDPI and the North Dakota Indian Affairs Commission. Educators from across the state attended the Summit which was designed to provide quality professional development and best practices and strategies in Indian Education.



Both days of the Summit opened with a traditional opening prayer and flag song by the drum group Flying Low.



Lucy Fredericks, NDDPI Director of Indian/Multicultural Education, welcomed educators from across the state to the 2nd Annual North Dakota Indian Education Summit.



Mr. William (Bill) Mendoza, Executive Director for the White House Initiative on American Indian and Alaska Native Education, was the keynote speaker on Tuesday, July 7.

Pictured L to R: Lucy Fredericks, NDDPI Director of Indian/Multicultural Education; Kirsten Baesler, State Superintendent of Public Instruction; William Mendoza, Executive Director of the White House Initiative on American Indian and Alaska Native Education; and Scott Davis, Executive Director of the North Dakota Indian Affairs Commission

Dr. Charles "Monty" Roessel, Director of the Bureau of Indian Education, was the keynote speaker on Wednesday, July 8.

Pictured L to R: Scott Davis, Executive Director of the North Dakota Indian Affairs Commission; Dr. Charles "Monty" Roessel, Director of the Bureau of Indian Education; Lucy Fredericks, NDDPI Director of Indian/Multicultural Education; and Kirsten Baesler, State Superintendent of Public Instruction.



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Cont.



A group of Native American high school and college students from North and South Dakota held a panel discussion on experiences in high school and challenges they faced. This discussion was facilitated by Sunshine Archambault-Carlow, Manager for the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, and Jenny Scala, Senior Researcher, American Institutes for Research.

On Tuesday during the luncheon, the Lakota Language Immersion Nest students shared songs, introductions, and prayers that they have learned at the Lakota Language Immersion Nest. The Lakota Language Immersion Nest is a Lakota Language Immersion preschool program whose instructors follow a Master Apprentice language acquisition model and participating children are provided with high quality educational opportunities, all executed in the Lakota Language.



A Tribal College panel discussion was held on Wednesday with the Tribal College presidents from Nueta Hidatsa Sahnish College, Cankdeska Cikana Community College, Turtle Mountain Community College, Sitting Bull College, and United Tribes Technical College.

Several breakout sessions were held on both days that included presentations on cultural integration and relevancy, educational equity and cultural responsiveness, dropout prevention strategies, the impact of career and technical education, empowering Native youth, connecting Native American research and practice, and the North Dakota Native American Essential Understanding Project.

The North Dakota Native American Essential Understandings is part of the North Dakota "Indian Education for All" initiative that Superintendent Baesler started to promote understanding of the Native American history and culture of the Tribes in North Dakota. This includes a resource document that will outline basic concepts every North Dakota educator should know about Native Americans in North Dakota. The final document will be available in the future for all North Dakota schools to use.

The North Dakota Indian Education Summit concluded with many positive comments regarding the range of topics, knowledge of the keynote speakers and presenters, and eagerness for next year's summit in July 2016.