

## **2009 State-Tribal Leaders Summit**

On May 4, 2009 tribally-designated representatives of the 22 tribes, nations and pueblos met in a Pre-Summit Meeting at the Haak'u Museum / Sky City Cultural Center. The Pre-Summit Meeting provided the designated representatives with the opportunity to prepare for the presentation and discussion of issues and solutions at the Summit. After this Pre-Summit Meeting Governor Richardson, state agency representatives, tribal governors, presidents, Lt. governors, vice-presidents and other special guests were invited by the Pueblo of Acoma to attend a dinner reception at the Haak'u Museum. With traditional dances, entertainment by Native American singer Jana Mashonee, and excellent food the reception provided an opportunity for informal conversation and relationship-building between state and tribal leaders.

The 2009 State-Tribal Leaders Summit began at 8:30 am on May 5, 2009 and concluded at 5:30 pm. Tribal representatives presented the problem statements and proposed solutions as described in the four individual Issue Papers and then raised additional perspectives and concerns. Governor Richardson and his executive agencies then responded constructively to the tribes' requests and proposed solutions, making commitments and presenting ways to address the issues collaboratively.

For example, Governor Richardson committed to creating a state-tribal task force on economic development to work on legislative proposals for Native enterprise zones and to look at other options for bringing high-wage jobs to Indian Country. He also committed to work with tribes to ensure they receive the maximum amount of funding available under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Governor Richardson directed the Indian Affairs Department and the Department of Finance and Administration to develop proposals to increase funding and create a permanent funding source for the Tribal Infrastructure Fund (TIF). He also promised to add two more American Indian representatives to the State's Competitive Grants Advisory Team which is currently working to ensure New Mexico fully competes for competitive grant funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

State agencies were directed to ensure that tribal communities have greater access to New Market Tax Credits for economic development on tribal, and the Governor ordered the Departments of Health and the Indian Affairs Department to develop programs that promote the recruitment and retention of Native Americans in health professions. Governor Richardson also pledged work with the Water Trust Board to make American Indian water projects a priority for funding.

Governor Richardson also directed the Public Education Department work with tribes and the Indian Education Advisory Committee to develop culturally relevant curriculum materials and recruit more Native teachers. And he highlighted a planned summit for later this summer addressing the achievement gap and education disparities among American Indian and Hispanic students.

From tribes, the Governor sought participation and commitment on several issues, including asking each tribe to submit its top priority water project for review by the state. The Governor also requested tribes to work on expediting capital outlay projects so that appropriations are

spent down in a timely fashion, and he asked for input on how tribes can derive greater benefit from state tourism resources, particularly in the area of eco-tourism. Governor Richardson hopes that tribes can take more advantage of the New Mexico film industry, by participating with the New Mexico Film Office in providing locations for filming and workforce development opportunities.

The Summit concluded with a discussion of greater collaboration between the State of New Mexico and tribes in preventing DWI. Toward this end, the governor asked for tribes to consider submitting tribal arrest records to the state, participating in the Super Blitz efforts to curtail DWI and developing cross-jurisdiction agreements between the state, local and tribal patrols to prevent DWI fatalities.