



New Mexico
Indian Affairs Department

2014 STATE-TRIBAL LEADERS SUMMIT

SUMMARY REPORT

JULY 18, 2014
PUEBLO OF LAGUNA
ROUTE 66 CASINO AND HOTEL



New Mexico State-Tribal Leaders 2014 Summit Summary Report

The State-Tribal Collaboration Act provides that the State's Governor and the leaders of Indian nations, tribes and pueblos gather at a yearly summit to address issues of mutual concern. This gives state leaders an opportunity to collaborate toward improving the quality of life and maintaining the cultures and languages of New Mexico's Native American citizens. In 2014, leadership from 23 sovereign Indian nations, tribes and pueblos joined in open and constructive communication with Governor Susana Martinez, State Cabinet Secretaries and staff to discuss four priorities: state-tribal consultation; water rights and natural resources; tribal economic development; and education.

Opening Remarks: Honorable Susana Martinez, Governor of New Mexico

Governor Martinez stressed commitment to continuation of collaboration and consultation; highlighting the subject matter expertise of the Cabinet Secretaries and agency staff for productive communication and subsequent actions. After providing examples of effective state-tribal efforts in education, economic development and water infrastructure, Governor Martinez committed to continued support from the State for the benefit of all.

Topic 1: State-Tribal Consultation

Presenters: Arthur P. Allison, Tom Clifford, E. Paul Torres

Perspectives from the State and Tribal Presenters:

1. Building confidence in the State's use of resources requires more information exchange and dialogue between the leadership on critical concerns such as the Tribal Infrastructure Fund, developing statewide water plans, audit compliance requirements, compact agreements, and capital funding process.
2. Strengthening and/or expanding resources of key agencies that provide tribal support (i.e. OSE, IAD) by: evaluating capacity to sufficiently respond to service needs; streamlining of processes; and supporting centralized information exchange and funding assistance (clearinghouse concept) for more comprehensive, coordinated and effective resource utilization.
3. Monitoring and reporting periodically during the year on key concerns and subsequent actions recommended at the State-Tribal Leaders Summit in order to continue productive dialogue, interaction in developing solutions, and attainment of beneficial results.

Topic 2: Tribal Economic Development

Presenters: Jon Barela, Celina Bussey, Richard B. Luarkie

Perspectives from the State and Tribal Presenters:

1. Declining amounts in federal monies leads Indian nations, tribes and pueblos to increased reliance on private sector initiatives, creative financing solutions, leveraging of economic opportunities, and economic innovation and diversity.



New Mexico State-Tribal Leaders 2014 Summit Summary Report

2. Developing knowledge-based labor force becomes crucial to meet employer demands and necessitating incorporation of “work keys” (i.e., critical thinking, foundation and soft skills) in education of students and training of unemployed/underemployed/dislocated workforce.
3. Reviewing tribal policies to alleviate barriers to economic development, developing alliances, and building the competency and capacity required in the data-driven economies.
4. Establishing “economic collaboration” between state government and Indian tribes, nations and pueblos as the basis for development, innovation, investment, and sustainability.
5. Recognizing at the political and government levels that Indian tribes, nations and pueblos collectively generate a high level of employment, generate significant revenues through enterprises (i.e., agriculture, gaming) and natural resources (i.e., leasing, mining), and contribute arts, culture and rich histories to the advantage of all state citizens.

Topic 3: Water and Natural Resources

Presenters: Estevan Lopez, Tony Delfin, Ben Shelly, Charlie Dorame

Perspectives from the State and Tribal Presenters:

1. Actively engaging and collaborating in the state water plan, acknowledging the interconnectedness of water transfers, prioritizing water projects, preserving tribal senior water rights, and promoting stewardship of water.
2. Determining tribal water rights, negotiating settlements, resolving conflicts, ensuring settlement funding, enforcing sanctions against illegal water use, and mitigating misunderstandings in the public regarding senior tribal water rights. This requires ongoing collaboration between the state and tribal governments.
3. Restoring the watersheds and ecosystems after destruction (i.e., fires, diseases, contamination, flooding) remains crucial to the State. To adequately address this requires support of the tribes in interagency cooperation, resource allocation, cost sharing and funding, emergency planning, and adequate management.

Topic 4: Education

Presenters: Hanna Skandera, Jose Garcia, Kevin Shendo, Joseph Suina

Perspectives from the State and Tribal Presenters:

1. Developing cross-cultural relations and competencies by integrating learning environments to incorporate tribal traditional wisdom, knowledge, language, and priorities in educational programs to better prepare students to compete in and contribute to their communities (tribal and civic.)



New Mexico State-Tribal Leaders 2014 Summit Summary Report

2. Determining tribal long-term needs, goals and aspirations for education, conveying them to state agencies (i.e., public education, higher education), and collaborating to “build a pathway” to a successful education infrastructure that benefits current and future generations of students.
3. Contributing to the ease of movement and accreditation for students between school systems (i.e., BIE, PED, tribal colleges, and state higher education institutions) requires the continuation and coordination of data and records sharing initiatives.
4. Sharing of State and tribal resources, partnering to advance education departments and programs (tribal and civic), and incorporating experiential learning with classroom learning, intertwine educational philosophies, and enhance the effectiveness of students’ learning and their application of acquired skills, abilities and knowledge.

Supplemental information on these four discussion areas may be found by referring to the pre-summit issue papers, the visual presentations, the participant notebooks, and speaking notes from the presenters.