

**Meeting Minutes – Indiana Native American Indian Affairs Commission (INAIAC)**  
**Education and Employment Combined Subcommittee**

Monday, July 25, 2016

The Education and Employment Combined Subcommittee meeting was called to order at 10:02 a.m.

**Commissioners Present:** Erin Oliver, Tracy Locke, Pete Magnant, Shannon Turner, Cameron Clark, Sen. Randy Head, Sally Tuttle

**Commissioners Not Present:** Stacy Townsley

**Staff Present:** Kerry Steiner

**Others Present:** Debra Haza, Paul Strack

**Special guest:** Doug Poe

Members of the Employment Subcommittee: Cameron Clark, Erin Oliver. Since Cameron Clark was the only Subcommittee member present at today's meeting who was also present at the 4/14/16 meeting, he moved to approve the minutes.

Members of the Education Subcommittee: Erin Oliver, Pete Magnant, Tracy Locke, Shannon Turner. Erin Oliver moved to approve the minutes of the 3/4/16 Subcommittee meeting; Tracy Locke seconded and the minutes were approved.

The purpose of this meeting was to discuss creating tuition assistance scholarships for those seeking vocational training rather than a college degree. Kerry Steiner introduced Doug Poe, executive director of the American Indian Center of Indiana (AICI). Doug explained that he currently has 14 participants seeking non-degree training.

Sally Tuttle asked what the success rate was and Doug responded that about 95% of those who begin vocational training school will finish it and get a job in that field.

Pete Magnant expressed some concern about the cost of tuition at proprietary schools and that they are notably higher than at an accredited college, and added that those attending a proprietary school are out in the workforce much faster and therefore paying taxes sooner.

Doug Poe mentioned he had a participant attend mechanic school, which cost about \$22,000, and was not able to get a job when school was done. He added that attending these vocational schools used to be encouraged by the federal government under their Workforce Investment Act training program, but now they use a Life Path program which encourages students to go to Ivy Tech or another school with transferrable credits.

Pete Magnant added that he's not questioning the quality of the education at a proprietary school, rather, it just leads to an educational dead end.

Doug Poe added that the truck driving schools are looking for minorities and women.

Sally Tuttle added that it isn't our job to get them a job; Kerry Steiner added that Employment is one of our focus areas so while we wouldn't actively get them jobs we should provide assistance to this group like we did for those seeking a degree.

Cameron Clark said he sees our role as enabling people to help themselves and wondered how deeply we wanted to inject ourselves into the process of helping someone get an education or a job. Kerry Steiner added that not everyone is going to want to go to college.

Pete Magnant said that down the road credentials are going to play a major role and will be important. Shannon Turner suggested we keep the scholarships separate and that the Employment Subcommittee should manage the vocational training program. Kerry Steiner agreed that was the original thought but it was suggested we have a combined meeting to see if everyone else agreed with that.

Doug Poe said it appears to him that there's a line in the sand as to which direction a person goes as to which program they'll seek funding from – if they're going for a degree from any place like Ivy Tech on up to a college or university, then they'll fall under the Education side, and if they pursue a vocational training program then they'll fall under the Employment side. He said of the participants he has now, about 25% - 30% of them are pursuing vocational training and about 70% - 75% of them are seeking a degree. Erin asked if the accreditation is what creates the line and Kerry responded in the affirmative.

Erin Oliver asked if we should split the scholarship money and Shannon Turner said she feels it should be separate. Kerry Steiner clarified that it was not the intent to split the current funding, rather, to create a second pool of money for the vocational training piece. She suggested we look at \$5,000 and that it be split into five (5) \$1,000 scholarships or two (2) of them at \$2,500 each.

Doug Poe suggested we keep the scholarship amount low so the student doesn't choose a vocational school over a degree school because of the tuition assistance offered.

The meeting adjourned at 10:36 a.m.