



2020 ANNUAL REPORT

INDIANA NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN AFFAIRS COMMISSION

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OUR MISSION

The Indiana Native American Indian Affairs Commission (INAIAC) was established to study issues common to Native American residents of Indiana in the areas of employment, education, civil rights, health, and housing. Based on this effort, the INAIAC makes recommendations to appropriate federal, state, and local governmental agencies in these areas of concern to our state's Native and non-Native people. The vision of the commission is to bring the Native community together, support a diverse and thriving Native culture, and help identify opportunities to enhance social, educational, and economic development for Native American and Indigenous people in Indiana.

ORGANIZATION

The INAIAC consists of fifteen (15) voting members appointed by the governor and/or representing designated state agencies, and two (2) nonvoting members, each appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives or the president pro tempore of the senate.

A staff director working within the Indiana Civil Rights Commission provides support and facilitation for INAIAC meetings, programs, events and initiatives.

The Indiana Native American Indian Affairs Commission was established by section 3 of Chapter 32 under Indiana Code 4-23.

A WORD FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Upon reflection on what has certainly been an unprecedented year, the Indiana Native American Indian Affairs Commission has worked to find innovative ways to serve our constituents, maintain and build relationships with our partners and neighbors, and advance our mission to support Native American individuals, families, and communities across the state of Indiana. We are far from alone in having to rethink how to conduct our business, implement initiatives, and create meaningful connections in a time when we must prioritize the health and safety of all.

Organizations and institutions of every kind have had to make these same adjustments, both across our state, and nation. As INAIAC Chair, I am proud of the work we have accomplished as a commission, both in our focus on raising awareness of the vibrant and diverse Native American cultures and communities in Indiana, and in our programs which, especially now, provide critical resources for Native American and Indigenous people.

We look to 2021 with hope, and continued commitment to the highest quality service and mission-centered work.



SCOTT BREWER

CHAIR

**INDIANA NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN AFFAIRS COMMISSION
ENROLLED CITIZEN, POKAGON BAND OF POTAWATOMI OF
MICHIGAN AND INDIANA**

FROM THE DIRECTOR

It is a privilege to support the Indiana Native American Indian Affairs Commission, a diverse, dedicated group of leaders, educators, agency representatives and legislators, and to present this report highlighting the commission's accomplishments during 2020. This year has presented many challenges as we continued to implement programs and provide resources to Native and non-Native communities alike. None of this would be possible without a committed, creative, engaged group of commissioners, and the State of Indiana is fortunate to benefit from their talent and dedicated efforts.

Lisa Welch, MS
Director, Indiana Native American Indian Affairs Commission

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Indiana Native American Indian Affairs Commission (INAIAC), in partnership with host agency, the Indiana Civil Rights Commission, worked quickly to adjust to unprecedented circumstances brought on by the pandemic, while still maintaining focus on its mission-critical work.

In compliance with Executive Order 20-09, signed March 23, 2020, the INAIAC successfully moved their meetings to a virtual platform while still allowing guests and members of the public to participate. Quorum was established at all scheduled meetings so new business would not be impeded or delayed, and the commission was able to hold conference calls between meetings as necessary for timely follow up on urgent action items. The INAIAC boasts a diverse roster of engaged, hardworking commissioners representing several Native American tribes, legislators, and state agencies.

As the situation with this public health crisis continued to evolve, the INAIAC was able to prioritize the efforts which would have the most impact, and were most adaptable amid new restrictions to mitigate the spread of the coronavirus were laid out.

These diligent efforts resulted in a brand new program designed to provide support for Native American Indian Hoosiers in areas already identified during the commission's 2019 listening session series, now compounded by COVID-19. Vital programs for Native American scholars were maintained, and public outreach and education programs designed to recognize the cultural, economic and historical contributions of Native Americans across our state were presented to new online audiences. The INAIAC looks forward to continuing this momentum into 2021.



PROGRAMS & INITIATIVES

THE INAIAC SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The commission remains committed to supporting education and economic development opportunities for Native American Hoosiers, with the goal of making Indiana a great place for all individuals and families to live, learn, work, and thrive. The INAIAC offers the Daryl Baldwin scholarship to Native American students residing in-state and attending an institution of higher learning in Indiana. Students are able to apply for awards in the amount of \$3,000.00 for spring and fall semesters. The John Daughtery, Jr. Scholarship offers \$1,000.00 for summer semesters. Students attending an Indiana vocational or technical school are able to apply for the Marcus Winchester Scholarship, with awards of up to \$2,500.00 per semester.

In 2020, the INAIAC awarded two (2) summer semester scholarships, and seven (7) scholarships for the 2020-21 fall/spring academic year. Awardees are attending the following schools:

- Indiana University Bloomington
- Indiana State University
- Ball State University
- Purdue University
- Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis

\$21,500.00 in scholarship funds were awarded in 2020. Awardees representing seven Native American tribes participated in undergraduate and graduate programs including post-secondary education leadership, science, general studies, public health, marketing, media arts and sciences, and hospitality and tourism management. The INAIAC is poised to continue growing this scholarship program through strategic promotional efforts, streamlining processes, and collaboration with partner agencies and organizations.

PROGRAMS & INITIATIVES

COVID - 19 RESPONSE

In 2019, analysis of qualitative and survey data taken from a statewide series of listening sessions indicated that Native Americans/American Indians in Indiana faced a number of challenges in the areas of health and nutrition, education, and professional development(1). These disparities were further exacerbated by the onset of the coronavirus pandemic.

In addition to the serious health risks presented by the virus, isolation efforts to flatten the curve in the spread of COVID-19, and the slowing of economic activity in response to the pandemic resulted in disruption and difficulty for individuals and communities across the country. In Indiana, all Hoosiers are affected by the closing of schools and businesses, job losses, and other economic, social, and emotional hardships. Native Americans have also experienced disparities in infection rates. While comprising only 2.6% of the population, Native Americans, Native Alaskans, Pacific Islanders and Individuals identifying as more than one race currently account for 11% of cases in the state(2).

The complex disruptions in social, health, educational and economic systems have led to an increased need for resources for Native American Indians in several key areas, including food security, employment services, mental health services and housing aid(3).



In response to this complex crisis, the INAIAC developed and implemented the Coronavirus American Indian Response Network Support (CAIRNS) grant. The commission provides quarterly grants of up to \$2,000.00 for organizations, tribes, non-profits and other institutions which manage programs to provide assistance and relief to Native Americans in Indiana. Eligible programs address pandemic-related issues involving food insecurity, mortgage and rent assistance, health and mental health care, and employment and placement assistance. The CAIRNS program will be available through 2022, at which point the commission will evaluate efficacy and consider an extension of the funding period.

PUBLIC EDUCATION & OUTREACH

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

Due to restrictions on gatherings, in November 2020, the INAIAC successfully pivoted to a virtual space for a month-long celebration of Native American heritage and history, diverse cultures, and economic contributions in Indiana. In partnership with tribal leaders, commissioners, state agencies, and cultural and educational organizations, the INAIAC was able to greatly increase engagement with constituents across the state.

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Live or recorded events featuring Native American artists, authors, Native American Hoosier Veterans, tribal historic preservation officers, and educators, a 50% increase in events held in 2019

9.2%

Overall increase in long-term followers across all social media platforms after participating in INAIAC Native American Heritage Month virtual programs.

294%

Increase in Facebook engagement, video views, and clickthroughs to INAIAC website compared to an average month

155%

Increase in Twitter profile visits compared to an average month

PUBLIC EDUCATION & OUTREACH

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

The Indiana Native American Indian Affairs Commission would like to recognize and extend our gratitude to the following partners who contributed to the success of Native American Heritage Month programs:

The Myaamia (Miami) Tribe of Oklahoma

Pokégnek Bodéwadmik (Pokagon Band of Potawatomi) of Michigan and Indiana

Eiteljorg Museum of American Indian and Western Art

Purdue Native American Educational and Cultural Center

Indiana Department of Education

Indiana Department of Transportation

Native American Heritage Month - Art Museum Day

Interview with Eiteljorg Artist-in-Residence

Karen Ann Hoffman

- Monday, Nov. 9
- 2pm
- Join us on Zoom, see event info

Visit www.in.gov/inaiac to learn more about our virtual programs celebrating Native American Heritage Month.

#NativeAmericanHeritageMonth #INDigenousIN

INvaluable.
INvincible.
INDigenous.
INdiana.

This Veterans Day, the Indiana Native American Indian Affairs Commission honors and thanks all who have served.

#VeteransDay #NativeAmericanHeritageMonth #INDigenousIN



NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

Presented by the Indiana Native American Indian Affairs Commission



INspired.
INsightful.
INDigenous.
INdiana.

Celebrate Native American Heritage Month with the Indiana Native American Indian Affairs Commission

#NativeAmericanHeritageMonth #INDigenousIN



PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

The Indiana Native American Indian Affairs Commission wishes to thank the organizations, groups and institutions with which we partner in order to advance our mission and serve Native Americans as well as all individuals and communities in Indiana:

ISDH, Office of Minority Health
 Indiana Minority Health Coalition
 Indiana Youth Institute
 Minority Health Disparities Task Force

Indiana Dept. of Transportation
 IN Dept. of Administration - Division of
 Supplier Diversity
 Indiana Dept. of Revenue

2020 COMMISSION

The commission director, executive committee, and the Indiana Civil Rights Commission thanks our commissioners for their passion, innovation, and service:

Governor's Appointees

- Chairman Scott Brewer,** Pokagon Band of Potawatomi
- Vice Chair Sally Tuttle,** Oklahoma Choctaw
- Secretary Paul Strack.** Miami of Oklahoma
- John L. Adams,** Shawnee Tribe
- Felica Ahasteen Bryant,** Dine (Navajo) Nation
- Peter Magnant,** Keweenaw Bay Native Indian Community
- Dorene Red Cloud,** Oglala Sioux Tribe

State Agency Representatives

- Gabrielle Koenig,** Family & Social Services Administration
- J. Matthew Walsh,** Department of Education
- Matthew Rea,** Department of Natural Resources
- Antoniette Holt,** Department of Health
- Anthony Jones,** Department of Workforce Development
- David Liebel,** Department of Correction
- Sean Tierney,** Commission for Higher Education

General Assembly Appointees

- Senator Greg Walker,** 41st District
- Representative Daniel Leonard,** 50th District



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

References

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- (2) Indiana COVID-19 Dashboard, Indiana State Department of Health. (2021, February 04). Retrieved February 04, 2021, from <https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/2393.htm>
- (3) Hobot, J., Sherman, E., & Crevier, F. (2020). Resiliency in Crisis: The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the urban American Indian nonprofit sector urban on the (pp. 1-16, Rep.). Seattle, WA: National Urban Indian Family Coalition.

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