

Testimony

Tribal and State Relations Committee

Wednesday, February 5, 2014

By: Lucy Fredericks, Director of Indian Education

lkfredericks@nd.gov (701-328-1718)

Department of Public Instruction

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

Good Morning, My name is Lucy Fredericks and I am the Director of Indian Education for the ND Department of Public Instruction. I have been in this position for over a year and have enjoyed working with all schools in ND and those that serve Native American students. My primary responsibility is to provide for focus, planning, strategies, programs and implementation of Indian Education policy and program initiatives (Indian Education hand out provided). I am here to provide you with an update and department program initiatives that we are currently working on in the Indian Education Unit here at DPI. In Collaboration with Scott's office, NDIAC we are planning a ND Indian Education Summit scheduled for Tuesday- July 22 , 2014. The Summit will be here at the Capitol. This will be the First Annual Indian Education Summit for DPI/NDIAC. Sessions will be provided on Native American education topics and other professional Development trainings for all educators in ND.

The other initiative we are continuing to work on is the development of North Dakota Native American Essential Understandings and Standards. We would develop inter tribe specific strands from each of the 5 tribes in North Dakota. Each Essential Understanding would be tribe specific based on ND Historical Society Indian Studies Literature. We would then get input from Elders to adjust and further develop. These understandings would represent what is deemed "essential" about the culture, history, Language, practices and lifestyles of the Native Americans in North Dakota. These would be available for all teachers to use in North Dakota. (Hand out on Essential Understandings)