

# SAC and FOX NEWS



Happy New Year

Kemîshâtemopena êthâkihiyakwe!

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## Chief's Address To The Nation

Happy New Year, Sac and Fox Nation!

I hope you have had an enjoyable holiday season, Christmas break from school and job, and that your favorite college football team won in whatever bowl that it played. I wish all of our student athletes and scholars the best in the upcoming second semester, whether it be in the sports arena or classroom. Just remember to give God the glory and praise for helping you in your achievements!

I hope the per capita payment and Cobell settlement payment helped you in some small way and that you are anticipating an exciting and prosperous new year, because I certainly am for our people.

Remember that whatever you pray and give thanks for, please remember our Sac and Fox Nation as we continue to move forward together with God's grace and mercy.



Chief George Thurman

National News  
EDUCATION

\*Some news for our tribal youth for this next year:

Are you ready for 2013? The New Year is just around the corner and it is time to start setting your goals. Specifically designed for Native youth (13-24 years old), *NDNSpark* is a new NCAI tool that will help

you remember those resolutions and track your progress. Whether you are planning to walk a mile every day, improve your jump-shot, or read a new book every month NDNSpark's goal tracker will record your goals, track your progress, and challenge others in your community.

NDNSpark is an online community for Native youth to use as they develop into the next generation of leaders. The online community will support youth as they set individual goals, achieve community goals, and build leadership skills overtime. Members that sign up will automatically be added to the NCAI community where monthly goals will be set for our community, youth teams can establish their own pages, and individuals can ask others for ideas or tips about community projects. The opportunities are endless, and NCAI is looking forward to helping youth across the nation organize and achieve any goal they set. NCAI Contact Information: Terra Branson, Legislative Associate-tbranson@ncai.org

\*New Reports Focus on the Inextricable Link between Improving Education and Strengthening the Economy.

A series of new reports have focused on the inextricable link between improving education and strengthening the economy:

- Inseparable Imperatives: Equity in Education and the Future of the American Economy (Alliance for Excellent Education): As students of color and diverse ethnicities rapidly become the leading population of public school systems in numerous states, closing educational achievement gaps and providing a quality education to all students can secure the United States' future economic prosperity, according to this new report. Noting that two-thirds of the U.S. economy is driven by consumer spending, the report argues that raising individuals' education levels will boost their purchasing power and increase the national economy.

- The Economic Benefit of Postsecondary Degrees: A State and National Level Analysis (State Policy Resource Center): This report adds to the dialogue about the value of a college degree in three important ways. First, on a national level it examines trends in degree production in terms of the median income associated with different degrees. Second, this report provides state-level data on the wage premiums associated with degree attainment across seven broad discipline categories, in effect, taking the national-level analyses down to the state level. Finally, the report provides degree production data from 2010 and the five-year growth from 2005 for each of the seven discipline categories allowing states to compare improvements in degree production to those fields that lead to higher incomes for graduates.

- The Economics of Higher Education (Departments of the Treasury and Education): While postsecondary education has become increasingly important,

there have also been growing concerns about the cost and affordability of higher education. This report discusses the current state of higher education, with a brief high-level overview of the market and a more detailed discussion and analysis of the financial aid system. It also discusses the important changes the President has made to make higher education more accessible and affordable.

\*Reconnecting the Circle Essay Contest (Deadline: February 22)

Reconnecting the Circle's 2012 essay contest is currently open for submission. This year's contest asks students to respond to the question: "Which Native American values are important in today's world and why?" 10 students will be selected to win, each of whom will receive a \$2,500 cash prize. All high school students (grades 9-12) are eligible to submit essays.

The deadline to enter is Friday, February 22, 2013. Please go to: <http://www.reconnectingthecircle.com/essay-contest-2012/> for more information and how to submit.

### WHITE HOUSE TRIBAL NATIONS SUMMIT

December 7, 2012 NCAI Broadcast: White House Tribal Nations Summit Recap, Call for Notes, and Transition Meeting Save the Date.

President and Cabinet Officials meet with Tribal Leaders to reaffirm Nation-to-Nation Relationship.

The 4th Annual White House Tribal Nations Summit convened when the President, eight members of his Cabinet, numerous high-level Administration officials, and hundreds of tribal leaders from across the country met in our nation's capital to discuss key issues facing tribal nations.

"Three years ago, I was proud to see that this conference was the largest gathering of tribal leaders in our history," remarked President Obama, "back then an event like this was rare. Today, it's gotten routine. What I told you then is that I was committed to more than a unique nation-to-nation relationship, I was committed to getting this relationship right, so that your nations could be full partners in our economy and your children can have a fair shot at pursuing the American dream and that no one has to live under the cloud of fear or injustice."

#### Key Announcements

The administration responded with action to address top tribal priorities through a number of important announcements.

Secretaries Salazar and Vilsack announced an interagency policy on sacred places. Secretary Vilsack noted that "the President is very, very insistent that these sacred sites are protected and treated with dignity and respect." Secretary Vilsack also announced his department's report on sacred places, a collaborative effort with tribes and the Forest Service, would be released on December 6.

Deputy Secretary of the Treasury Neal Wolin announced the release of a guidance document on General Welfare Exclusion,



Officers and new Chief of Police sworn in: (From Left) Chief District Judge, Darrell Dowdy; Range Master of operations, Quinton Lane; Officer, Jerred Eversole; Officer, Patrick Taylor and Sac and Fox Nation Chief of Police, Bob Roberts. (staff photo)

which includes a wide range of benefits, for example, assistance with housing, utilities, education, job placement, elder assistance, disabilities, emergency/temporary assistance, and religious/cultural activities payments.

Secretary of Health and Human Services Kathleen Sebelius announced a national agreement for the Department of Veterans Affairs to reimburse the Indian Health Service for services provided to Native veterans. Secretary of Labor Hilda Solis announced the finalization of the Department's consultation policy and several secretaries underscored key new investments that are detailed in NCAI's Summit Overview.

Throughout the Summit, the administration also underscored its commitment to key tribal priorities during the Lame Duck session, including protecting the Indian Country budget, passing a clean *Carciari* Fix, and reauthorization of a Violence Against Women Act with tribal priorities included.

2012 White House Summit Speakers

#### Opening Session

- Secretary Ken Salazar, Department of the Interior
- Secretary Arne Duncan, Department of Education
- Deputy Secretary Neal Wolin, Department of the Treasury
- Acting Secretary Rebecca Blank, Department of Commerce
- Secretary Kathleen Sebelius, Department of Health and Human Services
- Secretary Tom Vilsack, Department of Agriculture

#### Closing Session

- Leaders of Each Tribal Leaders Breakout Session
- Secretary Ray LaHood, De-

partment of Transportation

- Secretary Hilda Solis, Department of Labor
- President Barack Obama

In advance of the Tribal Nations Summit, NCAI and regional intertribal organization partners developed a briefing book outlining key tribal priorities. One aspect of this book was a Framing Paper of Nine Transformative Steps that the President could take to advance our nation-to-nation relationship. The nine steps are as follows:

1. Visit Indian Country
2. Create an Interagency Policy Council
3. Modernize the Trust Relationship
4. Establish an Administration-wide Policy on Sacred Places
5. Promote Economic Security by Ensuring Governmental Parity between Tribes and States
6. Recognize our Nation-to-Nation Relationship in International Forums
7. Prioritize Appointments that Impact Indian Country
8. Direct the Census Bureau to Lead a Periodic Indian Country Economic Survey
9. Ensure Tribes are Included in National Policy Reform Efforts

I feel honored and privileged to have represented you as Chief during 2012 and am equally excited about the year 2013 for our people. May God continue blessing our Nation! Amen.

Sincerely, George Thurman,  
Principal Chief

## Upcoming Events

January 8, 2013  
5 pm

Sac & Fox Nation Veterans' Meeting  
Elders Bldg Stroud

January 9, 2013

Elders Advisory Committee Meeting  
Stroud  
Election of Officers  
Potluck & White Elephant Bingo  
10:00 am -3:00 pm

January 26, 2013  
10:am

Sac and Fox Nation Special Governing Council Meeting  
Community Building



Employees of the Year 2012: Lori Gregory, CHS MGR and Boyd Cummings IT MGR were named "Employees of the Year" during the annual employees Christmas dinner, December 20, 2012. (staff photo)