

Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribal College Holds Strategic Planning Meeting

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Thirty-four individuals attended the recent Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribal College Strategic Planning Committee held at the Southwestern Oklahoma State University Wellness Center on the Weatherford campus. Participants developed initiatives and action plans from five strategic goals that were formulated at the first meeting held in November 2007.

The Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribal College Strategic Planning Committee held its second meeting on June 21 at the Southwestern Oklahoma State University Wellness Center on the Weatherford campus.

Thirty-four individuals attended the meeting, and participants developed initiatives and action plans from five strategic goals that were formulated at the first meeting held in November 2007.

Dr. Henrietta Mann, president of the CATC, said it is the intention that by 2010 CATC will gain an associate membership in the American Indian Higher Education Consortium (AIHEC) and accreditation by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) of the North Central Association of Colleges and Universities.

Mann said the Strategic Planning Committee is critical in assisting CATC with the extensive planning necessary to guide it through its initial developmental stages. The strategic plan is literally the roadmap that guides the tribal college in its ongoing development. The groups worked under the parameters of the CATC's vision and mission statements, which are as follows:

Vision Statement

The Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribal College is our national academic sanctuary and the home of traditional tribal knowledge which promotes the strong values that have always guided the hearts and minds of the people and which honors the treasured human gifts the ability to think, to hear, to feel, and to walk on this good earth.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribal College (CATC) is to provide a quality cultural based and academically rigorous general education for tribal and non-tribal citizens. The main focus is upon traditional tribal knowledge, quality of life, and enhancing the status of American Indians in contemporary America.

Goals were discussed and initiatives and action plans were developed for each of them.

The goals and individuals responsible for each goal are as follows:

- Strategic Goal 1: Accreditation and Recruitment of Faculty – Chair, Dr. Radwan Al-Jarrah, Initiatives and Action Plans:

Budget, Campus for CATC (Short and Long Term) possible sites: Colony, Cheyenne, Weatherford, Dean/VPASA, Educational Plan, Charter, By-laws, Vehicles, PLC, 2008 AIHEC Meeting, Self Study, 2009 HLC Meeting, Collaboration with SWOSU, Marketing CATC, Hiring of Faculty, Faculty Handbook, Staff Handbook, Catalog

- Strategic Goal 2: Strategic Partnership – Chair, Chief Harvey Pratt, Initiatives and Action Plans:

Collaboration with SWOSU, Collaboration with C & A Dept. of Education, Collaboration with C&A Tribes, Collaboration with other Tribal Colleges, Marketing CATC, Grants Planner/ Researcher, Educational Programs, Public relations Program, Coordinate with tribal headsmen for advise and traditional values. . . .

- Strategic Goal 3: Financial Plan – Chair, Dr. Lessley Price, Initiatives and Action Plans:

Financial Stability, Mission Statement, CATC Budget as a Separate Line Item, Campus for CATC, Collaboration with SWOSU and C&A Tribes, Marketing CATC, Grants and Contracts Solicitation. . . .

- Strategic Goal 4: Recruitment and Retaining of Students- Co-Chair, Janice Boswell, Initiatives and Action Plans:

Educational Plan, Mission Statement, Curriculum, Students Data Base, Students Handbook, Vehicles, Cohort Group, Assessment, Targeted Number of Students, Collaboration with SWOSU and C&A Dept. of Education, Marketing CATC, Scholarships/Tuition Waivers/Textbooks/Seminar (Workshops, Conferences), Attendance. . . .

- Strategic Goal 5: Establishment of CATC as the Language and Cultural Capital of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes- Chair, Mr. Frederic Murray, Initiative and Action Plans:

Curriculum, Library, preserving the C&A Languages and Culture, Marketing CATC, Grants and Contracts, Collaboration with SWOSU, Outreach Activities, Continue developing and acquiring information resources in support of CATC curriculum needs in support of the accreditation process, Hire two archivists/ partner with existing stakeholders to establish commonality of needs. . . .

During the session, Mann gave a cultural lesson in how Cheyennes view the development of a person from infancy to being a young person, on to being an adult, and finally becoming an elder.

She used the analogy of how like plants and trees, the people are culturally and spiritually rooted in the earth, first as young, fragile plants whose lives have to be nurtured and protected. As they mature to being young people, they are like the supple willow that can be bent and shaped by the teachings of the people. As they become adults, they are like the strong cottonwood tree which has strong cultural roots anchored deep into the soil and give shelter, shade, and protection to all those who come to sit underneath the branches and leaves. Finally, as elders, like a dried cottonwood branch, their teachings can be thrown into the fire of life to give warmth and light to the people.

Mann used the cultural analogy to describe the growth of the college, and the stages it will go through to reach maturity and attaining its vision.

Also attending the meeting were: Frederic Murray, Chief Charles Sleeper, Susan Sleeper, Chief Lawrence Hart, Glenn Meriwether, Gail Wilcox, Haley Kliewer, Dr. Radwan Al-Jarrah, Pauline Harjo, Dr. Lessley Price, Joyce Martinez, Billy Williamson, Dr. Cindy Foust, Jasper Washa Sr., Quinton Roman Nose, Lieutenant Governor Melvin Whitebird, Dr. John Hays, Chief Gordon Yellowman, Dr. David Peakhart, Brian Sikes, Rupert Nowlin, Alden Whiteman, Speaker of the Legislature Ellen Sweezy, Susan Hart, Don Tofpi, Joyce Twins, John Elder, Janice Boswell, Minoma Nixon, Chief Harvey Pratt, Clara Baker, Floyd Bringing Good, and The Honorable Ida Hoffman, member Cheyenne and Arapaho Legislature.