



College Career Fair

This year's College Career Fair was at the APS Berna Facio Training Center. Sixty organizations including colleges, resources, military, trade schools, and certificate programs came to share information with students and their families. Over 100 parents and students came to learn more about college and career opportunities.



Mission

By working together with schools, parents, and communities, APS Indian Education Department develops enhanced and supportive Indigenous educational opportunities for American Indian/ Alaska Native students by increasing knowledge of Native values through teaching language and cultural differences.

Twenty-one students from various high schools volunteered to help with the event. They were greeters, photographers, and the cleanup crew. We appreciate everyone who was able to attend this fabulous event!



Jobs for America's Graduates (JAG) Initiation and Induction Ceremonies

JAG is a non-profit organization dedicating to supporting young people of great promise. There are over 1500 JAG programs throughout the country. Del Norte High School and Cibola High School have received special funding to have JAG programs for Native American students. Every school year, JAG classes identify officers and coordinates a ceremony of Initiation and Induction (I&I). The students coordinate the event and invite special guests. Del Norte High School had their event on October 5, 2022 in the lecture hall.



*Tim Garro
Del Norte JAG Specialist*



*Special guest speaker: Rebecca Reyes,
Deputy Director of Indian Education,
Public Education Department*



JAG officers from Del Norte High School (left to right): Nilaya Deschene, Vice President, Shelea Wilson, President, Kassie Peywa, Treasurer, Keyanna Smith, Secretary, with Senator Bill Tallman, Bernalillo District 18 (center)

NOTE: The officers each received a special jacket to wear!

Cibola High School I&I October 19, 2022 in library



The JAG Mission...
Empowering our nation's young people with the skills and support to succeed in education, employment and life.



The JAG Vision...
Every young person is prepared for future success.



Left to right: Ms. Amber Reno, Cibola JAG Specialist; Kyle Tapaha; Albuquerque Urban Indigenous Coordinator; Lauren Begay, Historian; Hailey Martinez, President; David Notah, Director of Community service; Vantora Fernandez, Director of Career Development; David Vigil, Secretary/Social Event Director; Clemy Garza- JAG NM Board member, Garza Enterprises Inc./ McDonald's franchise owner

Meet New Indian Education Staff!

Yaa't'eeh, My name is Thorn Begay and I am the Instructional Manager for Indian Education at APS. I am from the Diné tribe and originally from Forest Lake, AZ. My family and I reside here in beautiful Albuquerque, New Mexico. I enjoy participating and watching any sport activities, I enjoy listening to a variety of music and am a big fan of learning. I graduated from Window Rock High School "Go Scouts" and then pursued my Physical Educational Degree from the University of New Mexico (UNM). I have worked as a PE teacher and coach with APS, BIE and NACA. Somewhere along the way, I earned my Masters in Educational Leadership from UNM and found a role in Administration at NACA. This year, I returned to APS and have enjoyed my role very much. I look forward to working for the APS District, I hope to have a positive impact with the Indian Education Department and I plan to support our Native American community in Albuquerque through collaboration and culture.

Thank you for your time and please know we have a great staff here at APS-IED.

Thorn Begay
thorn.begay@aps.edu



Yá'át'ééh t'áá anooltsoh! Hello everyone! My name is Jana Antonio-Cheung. I am Diné, from the Red House People clan, born for the Bitter Water clan, my paternal grandfather clan is the Towering House, and my maternal grandfather clan is the Mud People. I graduated from the University of New Mexico with a Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education. I have earned multiple endorsements in Language Arts, Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages - TESOL and Gifted Education. I have taught first to fifth grade students in elementary school for the past 14 years. I am returning to Mission Avenue STEAM Magnet School as the Indian Education Department Resource Teacher for the Indigenous Initiative.

In my spare time, I love spending time with my family. My husband and I have three children, ages 7, 9, and 12. We read books, draw, bake, take walks, play at the park, play video games, watch movies and travel. I have developed a commitment to support students in achieving social and academic development and success. I'm excited to support and work with our Indigenous families.

Jana Antonio-Cheung
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Tribal Leader Summit

Every fall, the Indian Education Department coordinates a Tribal Leader Summit. This year the summit was held on October 17, 2022 at the Berna Facio Training Center. Tribal leaders throughout New Mexico, APS superintendents, board members, and staff come together to discuss educational issues as it relates to Native American students. This summit had presentations and discussions regarding:

- Heritage Language Programs
- Gifted Education
- Foster Care
- School Indigenization Projects

Tribal leaders have an opportunity to spend time and have open discussions about the APS education process and how to improve the support that is unique to Native students. Part of the conversation focused on the challenge of recruiting more Native American educators within APS. For more information on this issue, you can read an article by Bella Davis, journalist for New Mexico In Depth: “Thousands of Native students attend Albuquerque schools. Most will never have a Native teacher.” <https://nminddepth.com/2022/thousands-of-native-students-attend-albuquerque-schools-most-will-never-have-a-native-teacher/>



Left to right: Thorn Begay, Indian Ed Instructional Manager; Kyle Tapaha, Chair of City of Albuquerque Commission on American Indian Alaska Native Affairs; Verenice Gutierrez, APS Assistant Superintendent of Equity & Support; Josefina Dominguez, School Board Member; Scott Elder, APS Superintendent; Virgil Lucero, 1st Lt. Governor Pueblo of Isleta; Lloyd Felipe, 1st Lt. Governor, Pueblo of Acoma; Philip Farson, Senior Director of APS Indian Education Department

Senior Information Night

On October 26, 2022, the Indian Education Department (IED) hosted an information senior night for parents and students. Several families from various high schools attended this to learn how to support their seniors as they are getting close to graduation. Sara Money, the College Career Readiness Counselor shared information regarding:

- Career exploration: www.dws.state.nm.us/whyIwork
- Apprenticeship programs
- College opportunities
- Reimbursement from IED: <https://www.aps.edu/indian-education/programs/all-programs>
- Scholarships: <https://www.aps.edu/students-parents/scholarships/scholarships> FAFSA: <https://www.nmeaf.org/money-mondays>
- Seals & Stole award: <https://www.aps.edu/indian-education/programs/recognitions-and-awards/seals-and-stole-award>



Sara Money, College Career Readiness Counselor, sharing information with parents and students.

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