

PRESS RELEASE

July 29, 2021
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Albuquerque, New Mexico, USA

Press Contacts
Jonathan Sims – (505) 681-4009,
jonwsims@gmail.com
Teran Villa – (505) 301-9062
tvilla@indianpueblo.org

Protecting the Sacred Trust

A Gathering of Tribal & Community Voices

MEDIA ADVISORY – PRESS CONFERENCE

JULY 30TH 2021 - 10am

Indian Pueblo Cultural Center Courtyard

2401 12th St NW, Albuquerque, NM 87104

Albuquerque NM – The All Pueblo Council of Governors (APCG) calls upon the State of New Mexico to end systemic racism for Native students in the state’s public schools. In a resounding voice, the Pueblo Governors say Native children are the key to maintaining our Indigenous cultures, languages, and traditional ways of life both now and into the future. Tribal leaders believe that systemic racism in public schools today is tied to the history of boarding schools established across the country to intentionally kill the cultural identity of Native children. They contend that public education policies of forced assimilation have been used historically to that end and still affects tribal communities and their children today.

“The New Mexico legislature and public education policymakers need to know that a strong cultural identity is important for our children’s academic progress. In addition to math, reading, science and the arts, our children need to know about their history, traditions, Native languages, and tribal laws,” said APCG Chairman Wilfred Herrera. “The Legislative Education Study Committee has a responsibility to shift the paradigm and that begins by removing its controversial Director.”

To improve the educational outcomes for Native children, the tribes insist the state must invest in the Tribal Remedy Framework, a comprehensive set of recommendations and solutions developed by tribal advocates and education experts in response to the historic *Yazzie/Martinez* lawsuit. Democratic Representative Derrick Lente of Sandia Pueblo has led the way by persistently introducing legislation the past three sessions using the Tribal Remedy Framework as the basis.

“My constituents, who come from communities of color, are demanding nothing less than excellence in education,” said Rep. Lente. “They are tired of seeing their children at the bottom on state and national rankings. It’s time for a change because our children deserve it.”

Tribal leaders say they have an inherent obligation to protect their children and communities--that Sacred Trust must be upheld. Acoma Pueblo Governor Brian Vallo said, "We have a chance to bend history, to make it different, to create change, so that our future generations of Native children have it better than we do. It will take acts of courage and a collective belief that the history of Native People will be shaped by what we do today."

The All Pueblo Council of Governors invites members of the media to a press conference on Friday July 30th at 10 am at the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center on 12th St. in Albuquerque, NM. This gathering is an unprecedented coming together of tribal leaders, legislators, education advocates, leaders of major organizations, advocacy groups, and community members who will be attending this event.

For Further Information.

Contact Teran Villa, (505) 301- 9062 - APCG Policy Coordinator,
tvilla@indianpueblo.org

Contact Jonathan Sims – (505) 681-4009

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You are invited to a Zoom webinar.

When: Jul 30, 2021 10:00 AM Mountain Time (US and Canada)

Topic: PRESS CONFERENCE - Protecting the Sacred Trust

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88078296726?pwd=QkREMDJhZWY5bERtWS9DZUNHWm1iUT09>

Passcode: 505575

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