



...Keeping Native American Legislators Informed

Winter 2010

Did You Know?

At least five states (Arizona, New Mexico, Oklahoma, South Dakota, and Washington) require the inclusion of tribal history within the educational curriculum of public schools.

Quick Links

NCNASL Home Page
NCSL State Tribal Institute

Contact Information

National Caucus of Native American State Legislators

c/o The National Conference of State Legislatures
7700 East First Place
Denver, CO 80230
Phone: 303-364-7700
Fax: 303-364-7800
Email: state-tribal-info@ncsl.org

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Washington

Vice Chair

Delegate Talmadge Branch
Maryland

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A Message from the Chair

By Representative John McCoy (Wash.; Tulalip)

Welcome to the fall edition of the NCNASL e-newsletter. I hope you all made it through the election season successfully and in good health. The success of tribal communities is directly correlated with the educational outcomes of their youth. For that reason, I am very pleased to share a new position paper from the Education Committee of the Caucus. Retiring Senator Carol Juneau (MT) deserves special recognition for spearheading this project and, with the Committee, for producing an excellent paper on the current status of educational achievement for American Indian, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian students.

I wish you all the best during the upcoming legislative session.

News you can use

- **Stay** up-to-date with news and announcements on the [NCNASL Website](#).
- **Read** the new [policy resolutions](#) on Arizona's new immigration law, industrial hemp, and more adopted by the Caucus at the NCNASL 2010 Annual Meeting.
- **Get informed**—The National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) State-Tribal Institute has a number of [resources](#) available on its website.

Caucus News

The **NCNASL Annual Meeting** was held this past June in Washington, D.C. Members enacted four [policy resolutions](#) and heard presentations from the National Indian Education Association, pharmaceutical company MedImmune and the U.S. Department of Interior. Some of the issues discussed included use of the flu vaccine in Native American communities, Arizona's immigration law and its affect on Indian nations, broadband access in rural communities and [early childhood education](#). In addition, Biotechnology Industry Organization (BIO) welcomed the Caucus to their D.C. offices where members heard presentations on biotechnology and its presence in agriculture, energy and health care.

The Education Committee recently released a position paper on the state of education in American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian communities. The paper identified [13 goals](#) for the Caucus, and outlines an action plan for each. Read more about the [full report](#) on the NCNASL website.



Some familiar faces will be changing legislative chambers beginning in 2011. Find out who by clicking [here](#).

Do You Know This Member?

Maryland Delegate Talmadge Branch

Talmadge Branch has represented the 45th Legislative District since 1994. He was born in North Hampton County, North Carolina on January 30, 1956. He received his elementary and secondary education in Baltimore's east side public schools and went on to receive a B. A. in Political Science from Salisbury State University. During his political science internship in the Baltimore City Council, Delegate Branch decided to utilize his skills and dedicate his life to public service. In 2006 he was named the Majority Whip for the Maryland House of Delegates.

Talmadge is currently Vice-Chair of the National Caucus of Native American State Legislators, and in addition to his membership in NCNASL, he is a member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), and Chairman of the Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland. Other boards and agencies on which Delegate Branch has served include the Judith P. Hoyer Blue Ribbon Commission on Early Child Care and Education, the Institute for Public Affairs and Civic Engagement and Salisbury State University.

Delegate Branch has sponsored a number of bills in recent years that focus on benefiting and raising awareness of the Native American community in Maryland. In 2002, he co-sponsored a Resolution Designating November as "American Indian Heritage Month", and in 2008 Branch was one of three sponsors of a law making the Friday after Thanksgiving a paid, legal holiday named American Indian Heritage Day.

Delegate Branch is the father of three children and an award-winning tribal dancer with the Baltimore American Indian Center.

Stay Informed

[The Empty Shawl: Honoring Native Women by Stopping the Violence Against Them](#)

[Shinnecock Indian Nation becomes 565th Federally Recognized Tribe](#)