



July 29, 2021

Dear ASBA Members,

We've got a situation that we need your help to make right.

In 1996, a group of Arizona school board members gathered together to form the Hispanic-Native American Indian Caucus (HNAIC). Their goal was to ensure that the needs of Hispanic and Native students were known and addressed at the state level. The founders believed that representation on the Arizona School Boards Association Board of Directors was necessary to help achieve that goal, and through a change to the bylaws a single seat was added. It was progress, but it created a structural gap in representation that has lasted for 25 years. The seat alternates in two-year periods from a Hispanic representative to a Native American representative.

Your ASBA Board of Directors believes a change is long overdue. We hope you'll mark the 25th anniversary of the HNAIC by voting yes on a change to the ASBA bylaws to create a seat on the ASBA Board of Directors so that a Hispanic AND a Native American representative can serve at the same time. (See the attached document for an overview of the make-up of the ASBA Board of Directors.)

You'll be hearing more about this over the next few months, from members of the ASBA Board of Directors, and leaders and members of the HNAIC. In September, you'll be getting detailed information on this bylaw amendment as well as information on casting your board's vote. We'll go over the details at your ASBA County Meeting and we also have a webinar planned to answer any questions you may have.

Voting will be open on Sept. 21 and stay open through November. Not only do we need you to participate in the vote, but we also urge you to vote yes so that no students are left behind and no community goes unrepresented.

There *is* room at the table. We need your board's vote to pull up the chair.

Sincerely,

Your ASBA Board of Directors:

Ann O'Brien, President (Deer Valley USD)

Monica Trejo, President Elect (Tempe ESD)

James Bryce, Treasurer (Solomon ESD)

Desiree Fowler, Secretary (Page USD)

Steven Chapman, Immediate Past President (Tolleson UHSD)

Judy James, Apache County Director (Ganado USD)

Keith Guin, Cochise County Director (Tombstone USD)

Harriett Sloan, Coconino County Director (Tuba City USD)
Joanne Conlin, Gila County Director (Payson USD)
Troy Thygerson, Graham County Director (Pima USD)
Kelly Baker, Greenlee County Director (Morenci USD)
Monica Timberlake, La Paz County Director (Quartzsite ESD)
Brian Garcia, Maricopa County Co-Director (Tempe UHSD)
Jill Humpherys, Maricopa County Co-Director (Gilbert USD)
Roger Jacks, Mohave County Director (Kingman USD)
Jarrahlyn Begaye, Navajo County Director, Cedar USD)
Wendy Effing, Pima County Co-Director (Flowing Wells USD)
John Sparks, Pima County Co-Director (Sahuarita USD)
Steve Johnson, Pinal County Director (Florence USD)
Karen McClelland, Yavapai County (Sedona Oak Creek USD)
Tadeo De La Hoya, Yuma County Director (Gadsden ESD)
Kathleen Pasierb, Santa Cruz County Director (Patagonia ESD)
Eva Carrillo Dong, President, Hispanic-Native American Indian Caucus (Sunnyside USD)
Lindsay Love, President, Black Alliance (Chandler USD)
Devin Del Palacio, President, NSBA Black Council (Tolleson UHSD)

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