

CPFdn News

Weaving Partnerships to Improve the EBCI's Quality of Life and Strengthen Western North Carolina

August 2009



Left to right, David Gipp, Joe Garcia, Susan Jenkins of Cherokee Preservation Foundation, Laura Harris, and Manley Begay, who participated in a convening in Cherokee to brainstorm about a leadership program for adult members of the EBCI

Convening Focuses on Leadership Program for Adult EBCI Members

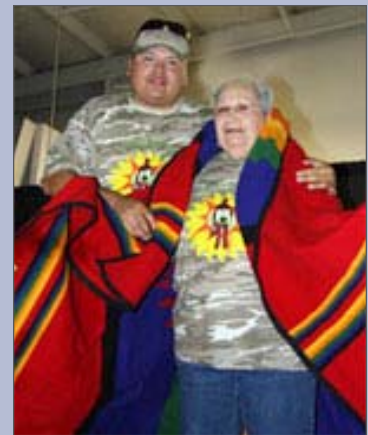
Twenty-five leaders and key representatives of EBCI tribal entities, as well as educational, non-profit and community organizations, participated in a convening in Cherokee in July to help develop a culture-based leadership learning program that will serve adult EBCI members. Participants are helping Cherokee Preservation Foundation (CPFdn) define the type of leadership program most appropriate for the EBCI, where best to develop and apply the program, the desired elements of the program, and how best to deliver the program to tribal members.

CPFdn has been developing a progression of leadership programming over the past three years, starting with youth opportunities. Youth programs developed so far include the cross-cultural eco-study program that enables tribal youth to travel to Costa Rica, the Cherokee Youth Council, and the Jones-Bowman Leadership Award Program.

Now the focus is on an adult leadership program. Four distinguished national guests came to the convening to share their experiences and perspectives about culture-based learning for adults with the local participants (continued on page 3).

Cherokee Day of Caring 2009

Nearly 250 volunteers turned out for the fifth annual Cherokee Day of Caring on May 14 to help neighbors in need, tackling projects such as painting, laying carpeting, building fences, mowing and weeding, and general yard clean-up. The event also honored ten Quiet Heroes who help neighbors every day in their communities, and a Good neighbor who makes a difference on the Qualla Boundary but is not an enrolled member of the Eastern Band.



Benji Stamper, a member of the Day of Caring Committee, awarded Pat Hornbuckle of Painttown a Pendleton blanket in connection with her Quiet Hero award.

Four Young Leaders in Training Receive Jones-Bowman Awards

Cherokee Preservation Foundation has announced the names of the recipients of its 2009 grants under the Jones-Bowman Leadership Award Program, which makes awards each year to undergraduate students committed to developing leadership capabilities.

The program honors the memory and leadership of Principal Chief Leon Jones and Mr. James Bowman, members of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI) and founding members of the Board of Directors of Cherokee Preservation Foundation. Award recipients include:

Sky Kanott of the Yellowhill community, a junior at Western Carolina University who is pursuing a degree in communication. As president of Di-Ga-Li-I, the Native American Student Association at WCU, she has led efforts to grow the organization, educate students about different tribes and their cultural traditions, and

recruit students to live at WCU's Native American House

Samantha "Sam" Hinojosa of the Snowbird community, who is a freshman at Hawaii Pacific University and plans to major in International Business. Sam has been an active member of the Snowbird Community over the past two years, including Snowbird's 2008 Christmas dinner.

Hunter Thomas of the Birdtown community, who is a sophomore at Johnson & Wales University in Charlotte pursuing a degree in Sports, Entertainment and Events Management. Hunter, who has served as a volunteer during community trash pick-ups and at his community gym, is working to be a good role model for his family.

Alyssa Sampson of the 3200 Acre Tract community, who is a freshman at Southwestern Community College preparing for a career teaching early elementary students involved in the EBCI's language immersion program (*continued on page 5*).



Jones-Bowman Fellows selected in 2009 and 2008 came together at a retreat in Cherokee on August 7-8. Pictured left to right are Samantha Hinojosa ('09), Hunter Thomas ('09), Sky Kanott ('09), Gerard Bell ('08), Kevin Jackson ('08) and Damian Solis ('08). Not pictured are Alyssa Sampson ('09) and Lucretia Hicks ('08).

Center for Native Health Obtains Nonprofit Status

With financial support from Cherokee Preservation Foundation (CPFdn), the new Center for Native Health in Cherokee has become a 501(c)(3) organization, which among other benefits, enables it to apply for grants.

The Center for Native Health integrates community-based traditional knowledge into all facets of Native health care and education, and promotes wellness and balance for Indigenous peoples. Its goal is the reduction of health disparities for Native communities engaged in the preservation and respectful application of traditional knowledge.



The CENTER for NATIVE HEALTH

The Center has organized a monthly Elders and Clinicians Meeting that takes place on the last Wednesday of each month. Topics from these sessions have included elders' thoughts about the traditional place of Cherokee women and concerns regarding violence against women today, Cherokee childbirth traditions, things for clinicians to consider when treating Cherokee patients, use of traditional plants as medicine, and concerns about prescription drug abuse in the community. CPFdn is providing support for these gatherings.

The Center is working on a Summer 2010 symposium that will bring together Native and Western Science.

New Cherokee School Campus Is Special

Much has been made of the beauty and eco-friendliness of the new Cherokee Schools campus, but just as impressive is the technology-themed environment that has made it possible to implement project-based learning (PBL). This learning model emphasizes student-centered instruction by assigning projects to them. In carrying out the projects, students see real world applications for what they learn.

Cherokee Preservation Foundation (CPFdn) and other partners have funded the development of improved programs that prepare the students for productive lives and create an educated workforce for the Cherokee community.

CPFdn grants totaling nearly \$2.8 million have enabled a computer for each student, electronic Smart Boards instead of blackboards, hand-held computers for teachers, the preparation of integrated curriculum guides and benchmark assessments, teacher training focused on improved instruction and learning opportunities for all students, and integra-



Ahli-sha and Jake Stephens were at the dedication ceremony for the new Cherokee school campus with their son, Kaden.

tion of Cherokee culture into all classes.

National Experts Contribute to Leadership Convening

(continued from page 1)

Mr. Joe Garcia, President of the National Congress of American Indians and Chairman of the All Indian Pueblo Council, told the group, "Native American survival is at stake – our culture, language, sovereignty, health and well being. Becoming educated and incorporating our traditional values and beliefs into the education of our people is the key to our success."

When Garcia spoke at a Cherokee community event later in the day, he told the audience, "We have a lot of challenges, and we need to start with ourselves. We have to be knowledgeable about problems and the changes that will fix a problem, and not be so critical about things that go wrong. We must be able to mix academic knowledge with cultural knowledge for the next generation."

Dr. Manley Begay, Senior Lecturer and Associate Social Scientist in the American Studies Program at the University of Arizona, asked, "What kind of society do you want 100 years from now? Through its leadership programs, the EBCL is laying a foundation for younger generation leaders. Your leadership program will be a life-time work, a legacy for your tribe."

Ms. Laura Harris, Executive Director of American Indians for Opportunity (the home of the American Indians Ambassadors Program), told local leaders they will be developing a program "to cultivate doctors, lawyers and Indian chiefs. For thousands of years, tribes have had different kinds of leaders deal with different kinds of problems. Consider the creation of a holistic leadership program that helps participants have a stronger sense of

identity, be proactive, and have a non-victim mentality and a global perspective."

Dr. David Gipp, President of United Tribes Technical College in Bismarck, ND, remarked, "We have an obligation to teach and re-teach the traditional ways many have not known about. Our leaders need to be well grounded and well informed about our traditions and culture so they can teach it to young people, who crave to know who they are and what they are about. The information must come from us, not from archeologists."

For more information about Cherokee Preservation Foundation's leadership programs, contact Bobby Raines at 828/497-5550.

Cherokee Youth Council Receives Grant for Teen Pregnancy Video

The Cherokee Youth Council (CYC) has received a \$16,500 grant from First Nations Development Institute to produce a video about teen pregnancy from a Cherokee and a youth perspective. The CYC enables youth, grades 7 through 12, to be involved in addressing issues that directly affect them. At a recent teen summit, CYC members identified teen pregnancy as a topic of particular interest, believing as local health officials do that a high rate of teen pregnancy exists on the Qualla Boundary, even though the extent has not been fully quantified.

CYC members have personally witnessed situations where teen pregnancy has resulted in curtailment of education, disruption of families, teenage girls having to carry on as single parents, and other hardships. Members said they also know of instances in which young families are doing well.

The video about teen pregnancy in the Cherokee community will feature interviews of Cherokee teen parents, their family members, elders, teachers, community leaders, and other teens and parents. The storyline will be about the real life experience of being a young parent and the challenges such an experience presents. The project will help teens determine the true meaning of parenthood within the context of Cherokee cultural traditions.

The project will take approximately a year to complete. DVDs will be distributed to teachers and educators on the Qualla Boundary and in



(Photo credit: Newsweek)

nearby counties, as well as to new youth councils in Swain and Graham counties, libraries, and organizations that serve youth. CYC members will be available to present the video and lead discussions. The video will also be featured on a My Space page that CYC is creating for itself, and on YouTube and other web sites.

The CYC provides opportunity for middle and high school students to build leadership skills through a culture-based program of activities and learning. It gives young people a voice and direct participation in the community activities of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians. The CYC is sponsored in part by Cherokee Preservation Foundation and housed in the Cherokee Reservation Cooperative Extension Office. For more information about the CYC, contact Karina Bottchenbaugh at 828/554-6938

First Nations Development Institute in Longmont, CO, works to restore Native American control and culturally-compatible stewardship of the assets they own – be they land, human potential, cultural heritage, or natural resources – and to establish new assets for ensuring the long-term vitality of Native communities.

Educating Young Philanthropists

Cherokee Preservation Foundation hosted Native Americans in Philanthropy and its Circle of Leadership in Cherokee in July. The program trains young leaders committed to service to Native communities and interested in careers in philanthropy. The program prepares participants to be knowledgeable, reflective and strategic partners in the philanthropic arena.

"In Cherokee, it was very helpful to see how Cherokee Preservation Foundation provides seed money to its community and how they keep those dollars circulating within their community," said Scott Davis, Executive Director of the North Dakota Indian Affairs Commission.

"The staff at CPFdn has shared with me models they've developed and used, and I will be sharing these with other North Dakota Tribes. In Cherokee, I see a very beautiful, progressive community, and Cherokee Preservation Foundation is a model that all Tribal Nations across the country could follow."



Consultant Jim Rock (Dakota) helped facilitate the Circle of Leadership meeting in Cherokee.

Recycling Effort Is Growing in Cherokee

The Cherokee Youth Council's Green Team launched the Tribal Wide Recycling Bin Kick-off at the new courthouse of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians on August 18. Over the next few months, 1,000 desk-side recycling containers are being placed in Tribal departments. EBCI House-keeping will empty those containers into bigger recycling bins or recycling trailers, which Tribal Recycling will then handle.

The Cherokee Youth Council is educating each department about the program, with assistance from Tribal House-keeping and Tribal Recycling.

The 1,000 recycling containers, which have been funded by a Cherokee Preservation Foundation grant, are embla-



Left to right at the Recycling Kick-off were Ahli-Sha Stephens, Ellie Lincoln, Karina Bottchenbaugh, Jack Gloyne (Clerk of Court), Gatlin Cruz, Tony Walkingstick, Monica Lambert (Legal Secretary) and Amanda Wolfe.

zoned with a Cherokee symbol that means *endless*. In its search for a Cherokee symbol that would come close to the modern day meaning of environmental sustainability, the Generations Qualla committee

that worked on Cherokee's vision for a green community consulted with elder Walker Calhoun. He showed them the symbol that can be interpreted to mean *endless*.

Leaders in Training Receive Jones-Bowman Award

(continued from page 2)

Alyssa Sampson, who has served as a volunteer at the Dora Reed Day Care Center and at Tsali Manor, has been part of the "Unto These Hills" cast for 13 years.

The new Jones-Bowman Fellows will receive annual funding to participate in individually planned leadership learning programs that include activities such as special academic enrichment and tutoring programs, U.S. and foreign travel, conferences, leadership development training, mentoring experiences and sponsored volunteer service.

Four of the Jones-Bowman Fellows who received awards during the inaugural year of

the program in 2008 reapplied to continue with the program and were accepted.

They are Damian Solis, Kevin Jackson, Lucretia Hicks and Gerard Ball.

"The Jones-Bowman Award program provides an unusual and wonderful opportunity to develop leadership skills and experiences during the years of undergraduate study," said Susan Jenkins, executive director of Cherokee Preservation Foundation. "This learning program is based on the Cherokee tradition of leadership and is about caring for others and giving back to the community. As participants become skilled leaders through the Jones-Bowman experience, the entire Tribe will benefit."

For more information about the Jones-Bowman Leadership Award Program, visit Cherokee Preservation Foundation's web site at www.cpfdn.org. See the drop-down menu under Resources and click on the Jones-Bowman Award.

About CPfdn News

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