

Business Committee Supports Tribal Education in Washington, D.C.

During the week of February 26, 2024, Business Committee Councilman Mike Natchees and Department of Education Officials attended the National Indian Education Association's "Hill Week 2024" in Washington, D.C. to support tribal education initiatives. The National Indian Education Association (NIEA) began the week with advocacy training and speakers from Congressional Offices and Federal Agencies. They spoke about federal programs supporting Indian education as well as policy and funding concerns. NIEA also held a reception attended by Representative Harriet Hagerman who is the Chairwoman of the Indian Affairs Subcommittee in the House of Representatives.



Business Committee Councilman Mike Natchees joined other Tribal Leaders, Department of Education Officials, and other Tribal School Officials for NIEA Hill Week

At the end of the week NIEA, tribal leaders, and tribal officials headed to Congress to seek more funding for Indian education and changes in law and policies that limit the ability of tribes to educate their own youth according to tribal standards. Councilman Natchees met with two members of the House of Representatives on the Appropriations Committee, Representative Rosa DeLauro and Representative Mark Amodei. Councilman Natchees also met with Representative Celeste Maloy and Representative John Curtis while Department of Education Officials met with staff for Senator Mike Lee.



Business Committee Councilman Mike Natchees meets with Rep. Celeste Malloy to support Indian Education

During the meetings Councilman Natchees noted that 92 percent of tribal youth are being educated in state public schools and nearly all tribal youth are educated according to state standards. He reminded the Congressmen that this violated the Federal government's treaty and trust responsibilities and the promise of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act. Councilman Natchees asked that Congress lift the moratorium on new tribal schools and fulfill its obligations set out in treaties.

Councilman Natchees also urged Congress to support educating tribal youth according to tribal standards and values. He spoke about the success of the Tribe in educating tribal youth at its Uintah River High School which incorporates Ute history, culture, and values into education.