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AGENDA ITEM: Tribal Affairs Update

BACKGROUND: The attached table provides information on the activities related to tribal affairs for the months of October and November 2012. The first column lists four categories that indicate the overall content areas that summarize tribal affairs for this reporting period. These areas include:

- Tribal-State Relations
- Public Awareness Efforts in Tribal Sectors
- Developing Cultural Competency/Tribal Considerations in Early Childhood Development
- Coordination and Collaboration

The second column provides a brief summary of the activities and accomplishments.

RECOMMENDATION: For informational purposes only.

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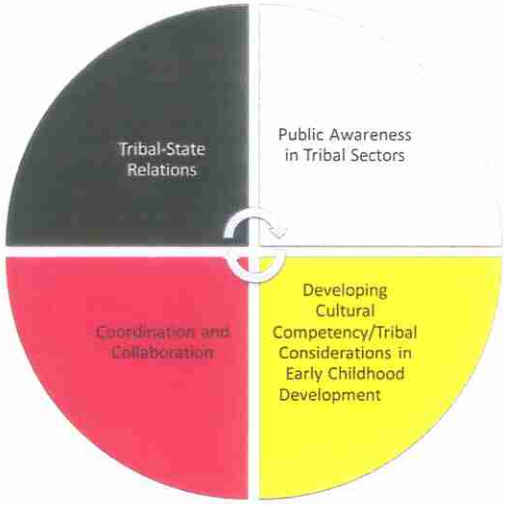
TRIBAL AFFAIRS STATUS REPORT
October-November 2012

Project Type	Description
Tribal-State Relations	This reporting period Tribal Affairs presented updates to the Tribal Consultation Policy for a first read by the State Board. A second read and potential approval will occur in December. FTF and the Arizona Department of Education met with education partners located in the Gila River Indian Community to discuss potential partnerships and FTF and Department of Education programming and available early childhood supports. Tribal Affairs in partnership with Research Evaluation is preparing to post a new staff position to focus on implementation of the FTF evaluation plan specific to partnership with tribes.
Public Awareness Efforts in Tribal Sectors	During this reporting period the Tribal Relations page on the FTF website is in the process of further development to include updated information, graphics and images that are reflective of our progressing partnerships with the tribes. The new page is scheduled for launch the first week of December 2012. The changes and updates are a result of feedback obtained from tribes and tribal stakeholder recommendations.
Developing Cultural Competency/Tribal Considerations in Early Childhood Development	In recognition of Native American Heritage Month (November) Tribal Affairs will host a learning session that will offer an opportunity for FTF staff to learn about cultural considerations and the diversity of Arizona tribes. The event will feature a cultural presentation from Miss Indian Arizona Devanie Duwyenie and a presentation on storytelling from the 2012 Spirit of the Heard Award honoree Freddie Johnson.
Coordination and Collaboration	This period, Tribal Affairs and Program staff met with the Director of the Inter-Tribal Council of Arizona (ITCA), John Lewis to share information related to the FTF Evaluation Plan, SFY 14 Tribal Region Allocations and the Public/Private Partnerships Plan. Director Lewis also provided updated information related to potential partnership opportunities for FTF involvement in the ITCA Early Childhood Working group and their upcoming Indian Child and Family conference. In November, Tribal Affairs met with the National American Indian Alaska Native Head Start Collaboration Office Director, Mike Richardson, to discuss efforts to increase early childhood and health discussions at the national level with organizations such as the National Indian Education Association and the National Indian Health Board.



The following projects are currently in progress by Tribal Affairs:

- Tribal Affairs is in the process of scheduling presentations to tribal leadership to discuss the FTF Evaluation Plan and the Quality First rating system. The intent of these meetings is to provide tribal leaders with information about these efforts and provide an opportunity for dialogue about issues and concerns that may arise for their respective tribes and nations.

- FTF will facilitate a panel discussion with tribal grantees to present innovative partnerships around early childhood development and health on tribal lands. This dialogue will take place at the ITCA Indian Child and Family conference in December.