Ysleta del Sur Pueblo

Economic Editor

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Economic Development Department Holds Tigua Youth Nation Building 101 Seminar

The Ysleta del Sur Pueblo (YDSP) Economic Development Department (EDD) kicked off its 1st annual Tigua Youth Nation Building 101 Seminar, a program that teaches Tigua teens how to become leaders in their community. The Seminar was held on August 15th and August 22nd.

The Economic Development Department worked with 19 tribal youth who learned the basics of Ysleta del Sur Pueblo's history, government, social and economic demographics, Tribal economics, and Tribal agency services. In addition, to Tigua historical and contemporary issues, the youth were introduced to "Nation Building." Nation Building is a term describing efforts of a tribal nation to increase its capacities for self-rule and for self-determined, sustainable community and economic development. The Pueblo was introduced to the concepts of Nation Building during its work with the Harvard Project on American Indian Economic Development and Native Nations Institute located at the University of Arizona at Tucson. Both these organizations have been working closely with the YDSP Economic Development and Tribal Council. *Continued on page 2*

Nation Building Participants from August 15, 2009, Session 1

Tigua Youth Development

A goal of the EDD is to consider the challenges that Tigua youth face in becoming productive citizens and to invest time and innovative ideas to meet those challenges. The EDD staff is committed at all times to consider the welfare of the Pueblo, the excellence and efficacy of EDD programs, and the preservation and growth of the Pueblo's assets. We recognize that a critical asset that will support the growth of the Pueblo is Tigua youth. Therefore, this year EDD decided to invest a portion of our time to support and the development of Tigua youth.

To do so the Department, partnered with the Ysleta del Sur Pueblo Empowerment Program. The collaborative effort resulted in a diverse set of services to build the capacity of Tribal youth by fostering a community environment where Tigua youth can build the skills, information and tools they need to succeed. *Continued on page 3*

Nation Building Participants from August 22, 2009, Session 2

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"The camp was attended by very bright Tigua youth who just need a little guidance to become capable and talented Tigua leaders," said Patricia Riggs a member of Ysleta del Sur Pueblo and Director of Economic Development. The camp was intended to expose Tigua youth to the current and future needs of the Pueblo. The Seminar also provided the historical perspective of the Tribe in a manner that helped participants to understand the difficult sacrifices and hardship that Tigua ancestors endured for the Pueblo to survive and flourish in the present. EDD presenters were comprised of Chris Gomez, Councilman and YDSP Planner, Deanna Rodriguez, Research Assistant; Pat Riggs, Director of Economic Development and Alex Simental, Grants Manager. A special presentation of Tigua emergence and a blessing was performed by Javier Lorea, Tigua War Capitan.

Tigua War Capitan, Javier Lorea, with Tribal Youth

Nation Building 101 Session Participants

Areas of discussion during the Tigua Nation Building Camp, included the Tigua Indians Act of 1968, the 1987 Restoration Act, the Pueblo Revolt of 1680 as well as discussion of why Speaking Rock Casino was closed, the Tribe's ability to tax, limitations on tribal membership, the importance of YDSP agencies and services, and Tribal poverty and unemployment levels. The students further developed their skills by participating in interactive games and activities and won prizes for participation.

The EDD plans to offer the program again next year. Tigua Youth Nation Building 101 is a continual work-in-progress and will develop according to present and future needs of the Ysleta del Sur Pueblo. The Nation Building Camp was designed as a collaborative with YDSP's Empowerment Program Workforce Development Act youth summer internship, however, all Tribal teens were invited to attend.

One youth participant had this to say about the camp, "It was good because they taught us a lot of our past." Another participant stated, "I learned some information that I never knew about until the presenters informed us about them [Tigua subjects]." As noted earlier, this year we had a total of 19 students participate and hope to reach out to more Tribal Youth next year.

Patricia Riggs working with Tribal Youth on Community Weaving

Tigua Nation Building 101 Graduates

The Economic Development Department congratulates all Tigua Nation Building 101 graduates and wish them success and prosperity. We also look forward to seeing them develop personally, thrive professionally and contribute to the future of the Pueblo.

- Gary Arriola
- Stanley Estala
- Irma Gomez
- Ricky Granillo
- Sergio Lorea Jr.
- Irene Romero
- Richard Romero
- Gloria Paiz
- Angel Paiz
- Jose Paiz
- Naomi Ramirez
- Gloria Rodriguez
- Ruben Saenz Jr.
- Erica Silvas
- Samuel Silvas Jr.
- Jesus Silvas
- Miguel Silvas, III
- Adrian Valenzuela
- Brandon Valenzuela

Tigua Youth Development, *cont. from page 1*

The EDD agreed to aid in the delivery of financial literacy education for Workforce Investment Act Program Summer Program. It also committed itself to the development of a youth Nation Building program that was delivered in August 2009. *See Tigua Youth Nation Building 101 Seminar (page 2)*

EDD realizes that the Pueblo needs an army of up-and-coming, young passionate Tiguas to try their hand at re-building the Pueblo. Therefore, we hope to develop youth into adults who will contribute their minds and hearts to tribal government, work as administrators, spearhead new programs and found new companies that will bring forth new resources and capital that will fortify the Pueblo's future.

As part of the collaborative, the EDD also mentored a tribal youth – Sergio Lorea Jr. Sergio served as an EDD intern and provided aid in the development of an electronic "Tigua" dictionary, generating the Tiguapreneurship curriculum binders, documenting Tigua events, filming Tigua elders, inputting on the development of the Nation Building Curriculum and a myriad of other tasks. He was especially positive, pleasant and productive. Foremost, his commitment to Tigua culture and traditions was inspiring. The EDD also guided him with the development of a pseudo entrepreneurship company Thur-Shan Productions.

In his address to the employees of Ysleta del Sur, Tribal Youth and Intern, Sergio Lorea told staffers: "Thank you for providing me the opportunity to work at the Pueblo and learn about the government's role and about how economic development supports the Tribe. I am grateful for being able to also attend Nation Building training and to learn how I can contribute to the Tribe's future."

This project was especially gratifying to the EDD. We wish all Tigua youth and Sergio a successful and rewarding future.

Sergio Lorea at 2009 Gathering of Nations

Preparing to be Tribal Leaders in the Future

Tigua Youth were given the opportunity to identify key areas of personal development needed to become Pueblo leaders in the future. The participants understood the importance of developing themselves in order to be able to successfully carry the Pueblo forward. Areas of personal development the youth listed included:

- Educating Ourselves
- Learning Tigua language
- Participating in Traditional Ceremonies
- Participating in Pueblo Juntas
- Develop Leadership Skills
- Helping and getting to know the community
- Helping Elders
- Set Goals

The future Nation Builders left the training understanding that there are many steps they need to take to prepare themselves to carry Tigua culture forward. As evident from the their own answers above, tribal youth know leadership requires a commitment to developing ones self.