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Governor



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**STATE OF NEVADA  
INDIAN COMMISSION**

June 18, 2010

**RE: Call for Action and Assistance – Stewart Indian Cultural Center**

Dear Friend,

I am writing today to impress upon you the urgency for action and the need for your assistance. Efforts to preserve a portion of the former Stewart Indian School in Carson City, Nevada are now in jeopardy. As you may know, Stewart closed in 1980 after 90 years of educating American Indian youth from throughout Nevada and the surrounding states of Idaho, Arizona, California, and Oregon. There is a high probability you have relatives or may know someone who may have attended Stewart.

Due to the significance of this school and its important historical contributions, the property is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is currently being maintained by the State of Nevada. The State of Nevada took ownership of the property in the 1990's after the school's closing and has a responsibility to display the memorabilia and artifacts of the school as stipulated in the deed. The Nevada Indian Commission assumed responsibility for the State and, accordingly has actively sought funding for the rehabilitation of Building #1 (former school Administration Building) to serve as the new home of the Stewart Indian Cultural Center (see enclosed photo). As such, numerous dedicated alumni, former employees and other interested individuals have worked diligently together to provide direction and focus in the preservation efforts. Collectively, the group adopted a mission to preserve the history of the Stewart Indian School by educating the public about the contributions of American Indians, the school, the boarding school era, and most importantly, a means of honoring and paying tribute to the thousands of American Indian students who attended the school. Once completed, the project will showcase the rich history and celebrate the culture and heritage of American Indians.

Recognizing the importance of this undertaking, the Nevada Indian Commission submitted a grant proposal in 2008 to the State of Nevada, Commission for Cultural Affairs and was awarded \$150,000 to begin renovation. Shortly thereafter, the project expended \$7,000 to restore electricity to the building, but the remaining \$143,000 was retracted due to an unanticipated requirement to have remaining work completed by the State Public Works Board who requires a management fee. The management fee is not an allowable expense under the grant guidelines. In addition, the Nevada Indian Commission was advised that before a Certificate of Occupancy for the Stewart Indian Cultural Center could be issued, a seismic evaluation and corresponding seismic retrofit on the 87 year old building was necessary.

While this was devastating news, we still had the fact that we had also been awarded \$130,000 from the Commission for Cultural Affairs in their 2009 grant cycle. And, recently we were awarded \$100,000 in the 2010 grant cycle. However, the same management fee requirements are still in effect and in order to continue rehabilitating the building, we need your help!

Over the past several months, we have been in discussions with the State of Nevada Public Works Board and successfully negotiated the required management fee for the project. To see the project to completion we have to come up with approximately \$100,000 in private funds. **If we can raise \$100,000 in private funds to pay the management fees associated with the project then we can keep the CCA funds that have been awarded and progress will continue.** The Commission for Cultural Affairs will assess our success in raising funds and ultimately decide whether we get to keep our allocation and make the dreams of so many become a reality.

We recognize funds may be tight and we live in a troubled economy, but this is truly a time when you can make a big difference and touch the lives of future generations. Please consider making a donation to the Stewart Indian Cultural Center Gift Account to preserve the history of the Stewart Indian School. Send your donation to:

Nevada Indian Commission  
ATTN: Stewart Indian Cultural Center Gift Account  
5366 Snyder Ave.  
Carson City, NV 89701

I would be happy to speak with you directly or, if necessary, provide further information about this extraordinary undertaking. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (775) 687-8333 or at [srupert@nic.nv.gov](mailto:srupert@nic.nv.gov).

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sherry L. Rupert".

Sherry L. Rupert, Executive Director  
State of Nevada Indian Commission

Enclosure