6th AHEC Focusing on the Indian Health System

AACIHC Resolution and Legislative Advocacy
Learning Objectives

• You will learn about:
  – brief history of tribal stakeholders discussing the need to increase the number of American Indian health care professionals
  – the legislative advocacy that has been conducted to establish the 6th AHEC
  – the bill language to establish the 6th AHEC
Background
Background

- In April 2012, Tribes and other stakeholders convened at the Arizona American Indian Pathways into Health Conference
  - to share successful health career pathway pilot models
  - to share ideas on how to increase the number of American Indians preparing for health professions
Strategies

• Health Career Pathways Pipeline, Education to Employment
  – Creation of an assessment map

• Statewide Strategic Plan
  – Coordination of resources and programs across agencies (Tribes, State, Federal)

• Statewide Advocacy
  – Prioritize the Issue

To advocate for increasing access to high quality health care programs for all American Indians in Arizona.
Legislative Advocacy and Activities
AACIHC Advocacy

• In October 2017, the AACIHC updated their strategic plan
  – Goal: Expand the American Indian health care workforce.
  – Objective: Establish an Arizona American Indian Area Health Education Center
AACIHC Advocacy

• Fall to Winter 2018:
  – Informed Tribes and other organizations of AHEC initiative and secured support
  – Drafted bill language & Identified Prime Sponsor
  – AACIHC members and staff met with key tribal and state leadership and the Governor’s Office

• December 10, 2018
  – AACIHC passed Resolution 03-2018: “Support for the Creation of a 6th AHEC that Focuses on the Indian Health System”
2019 Legislative Session

• SB 1174 - Arizona health education centers; increase

• Prime Sponsor:
  – Sen. Heather Carter LD-15
  – Chair, Higher Education and Workforce Development
  – Vice Chair, Health & Human Services
  – Member, Appropriations
2019

- **SENATE:**
  - Passed out of the Higher Education and Workforce Development Committee and Rules Committee
  - Passed unanimously out of the Senate
- **HOUSE:**
  - Passed out of the Education Committee
  - Died in the Rules Committee as it didn’t receive a hearing.

To advocate for increasing access to high quality health care programs for all American Indians in Arizona.
AACIHC Advocacy

• Fall to Winter 2019:
  – Informed more Tribes and other organizations of AHEC initiative and secured more support
  – Drafted bill language & Identified Prime Sponsor
  – AACIHC members and staff met with key tribal and state leadership and the Governor’s Office
2020 Legislative Session

- HB 2296- Arizona health education centers; increase
- Prime Sponsor:
  - Rep. T.J. Shope LD-8
  - Speaker Pro Tempore
  - Vice Chair, Rules
  - Member, Education
  - Member, Natural Resources, Energy & Water

To advocate for increasing access to high quality health care programs for all American Indians in Arizona.
2020

• HOUSE:
  – Passed out of the Education Committee and Rules Committee
  – Passed unanimously out of the House

• SENATE:
  – Assigned to the Higher Education and Workforce Development Committee and Rules Committee
  – Died in the Senate as it didn’t receive a hearing in either Committee
Advocacy and Support

• Resolutions
  – Navajo Nation, San Carlos Apache Tribe, San Carlos Apache Health Care Corporation, Inter Tribal Association of Arizona and others

• Tribes/Organizations/Individuals sign in to the Request to Speak System as being in support

• Testimony

To advocate for increasing access to high quality health care programs for all American Indians in Arizona.
Bill Language
To advocate for increasing access to high quality health care programs for all American Indians in Arizona.

Bill Language

- https://www.azleg.gov/legtext/54leg/2R/bills/HB2296H.pdf
A.R.S. 15-1643. Arizona area health education system; centers; 5 governing boards; duties

B. The system shall consist of five SIX area health education centers administered by the director of the Arizona area health education system. Each center shall represent a geographic area with specified populations that the system determines currently lack services by the health care professions. ONE CENTER SHALL FOCUS ON THE INDIAN HEALTH CARE 14 DELIVERY SYSTEM.