



**ECHO Culture and Change Symposium**  
**Choctaw, Mississippi**  
**October 8, 2008**

***National Indian Education Association***  
***Program Initiatives & Legislative Advocacy***

**Dr. Willard Sakiestewa Gilbert**  
**President**

**National Indian Education Association**  
**(NIEA)**

# NIEA

- 3,500+ members
- Advocacy & Professional Development
- American Indians, Alaska Natives & Native Hawaiians
- Trust Relationship



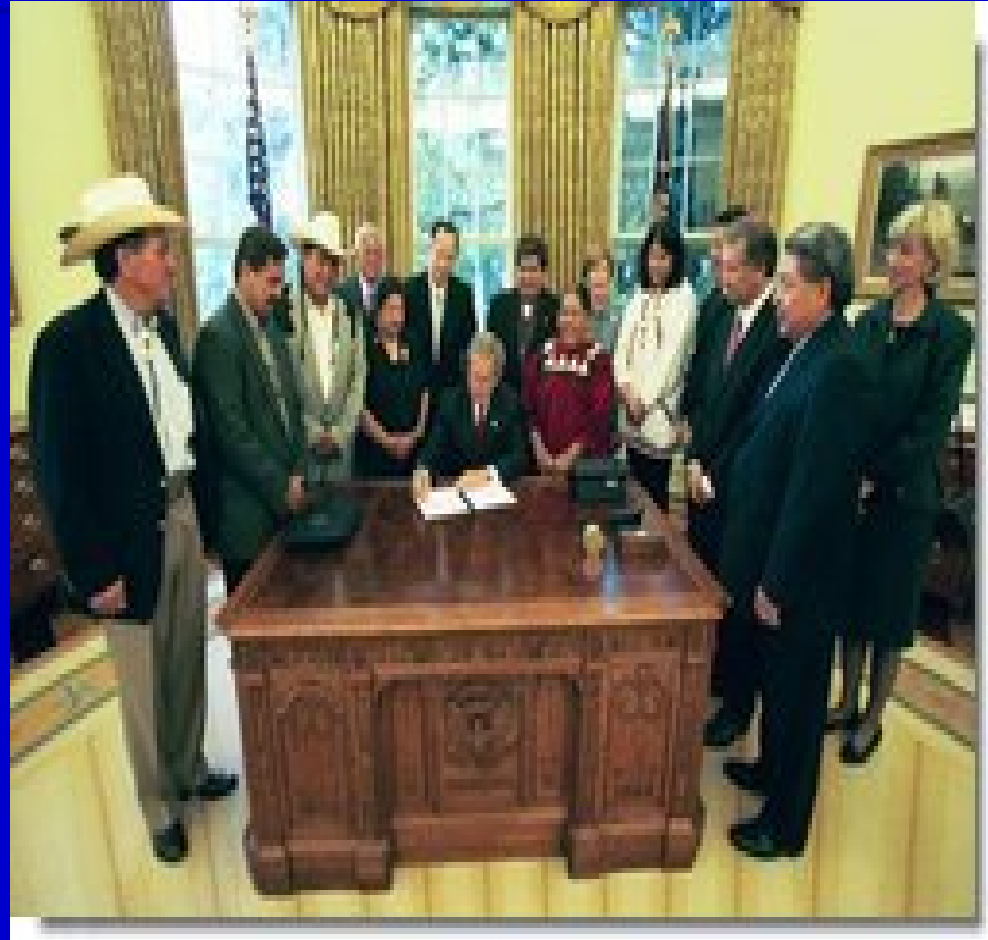
## National Indian Education Association

### MISSION

*The mission of the National Indian Education Association is to support traditional Native cultures and values; to enable Native learners to become contributing members of their communities; to promote Native control of educational institutions; and to improve educational opportunities and resources for American Indians, Alaska Natives and Native Hawaiians throughout the United States.*

# Federal Reports & Legislation

- *The "Meriam Report" (1928)*
- *The Indian Education Act (1972) (P.L. 92-318)*
- *Executive Order #13336  
American Indian & Alaska Native  
Education Act 2004*



# NIEA Program Initiatives



- **Native Language Revitalization**
- **Native Children's Agenda**
- **No Child Left Behind (NCLB)**
- **High School Policy Reform**
- **STEM- Science, Technology,  
Engineering, & Mathematics**
- **National Native Cultural Education  
Standards**

# Native Language Loss

- Marie Smith Jones, Eyak Language



# Native Language Revitalization Initiative

Esther Martinez Native  
American Languages  
Preservation Act 2006



- Cherokee Nation  
Immersion Classroom



# Native Children's Agenda Initiative



Mississippi Band of  
Choctaw Indians

# Native Children's Agenda

Partners:

**NIEA**

**NCAI**

**NICWA**

**NIHB**

**NCUIH**



**Sponsored by the  
Kellogg Foundation**

# No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Initiative

- NIEA's top legislative priority
- Since 2005, held 12 NIEA sponsored Field Hearings across Indian Country
- NCLB (ESEA Act) reauthorization postponed

