

NATIONAL INDIAN EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

2012/2013 BOARD OF DIRECTORS CANDIDATE

Mary Kim Titla | Bio

Mary Kim Titla began her education advocacy work in the early 1980s when she served as Secretary of the NIEA Board while a student at the University of Oklahoma. She also received the NIEA Student of the Year Award. Mary Kim pursued a TV news career but after 20 years, she resigned and moved home to the San Carlos Apache Reservation where she found her place in the field of education. In 2007, Mary Kim earned an emergency certificate to work a Substitute Teacher for the San Carlos Unified School District (SCUSD). She filled in on a long-term basis to plan and execute lesson plans for various grades, integrated technology in the classroom, assessed students and communicated with parents.

The SCUSD superintendent eventually hired her as part-time Communications Officer to: ensure timely and accurate communication between the SCUSD and the general community; promote programs, recognitions, and the district vision; and increase public understanding and support of the district through the exchange of information and the establishment of collaborative relationships with stakeholders and the media. She created and distributed district publications for marketing purposes; developed and implemented district public relations initiatives; and organized community presentations. She also assisted the Governing Board in its lobbying efforts with members of Congress.

Last year Mary Kim received a waiver from Arizona State University to do an internship as a school Principal. As a Principal intern she underwent intense training built on the ISLLC standards for Education Leadership so she could become an effective and data driven school leader. The internship included: (a) supervising, evaluating and mentoring teachers to ensure instructional effectiveness; (b) collaborating and developing a shared mission and vision with stakeholders; (c) planning and facilitating monthly Intern Development meetings involving reflective discussions; (d) collecting low inference data during classroom walk-throughs; (e) disciplining students using the Restorative Practices approach; (f) planning and facilitating Site Council meetings with parents to create awareness about state testing; and (g) collaborating and developing a partnership with tribal leaders to provide incentives to students who passed the state test.

Despite a steep learning curve this past year, Mary Kim welcomed each experience to build on the knowledge needed to be an education change agent. Her personal vision is *“Everyone involved in a child’s education must go above and beyond to ensure every student receives a world class education in a safe environment.”* After completing her internship, the SCUSD superintendent hired her again as Communications Officer but on a full-time basis as she knows first-hand the challenges building Principals face as they attempt to communicate with internal and external stakeholders, as well as the challenges in the systems that augment communication.

Mary Kim earned a Bachelor’s degree in Journalism from the University of Oklahoma in 1982. She earned a Master’s degree in Mass Communication from Arizona State University in 1985 and a second Master’s in Education Administration and Supervision also from ASU in 2012.