

## North Carolina Indian Cultural Center Well and Alive

Pembroke, N.C. There has been much hard and soft media coverage on the North Carolina Indian Cultural Center (NCICC) during the past few days. The NCICC Board of Directors feel the media has reported fairly, and hope they will continue to report the activities of the Cultural Center. However, some specific quotes by individuals were not founded, or the persons were uninformed. The Center is for all citizens of North Carolina. The State Legislature mandates it, and the composite of the governing board is also mandated.

One year ago this month, the NCICC Board of Directors was reorganized and new leadership was put in place. This new leadership inherited a Cultural Center that was on the verge of bankruptcy, mounting debt, owed wages, and an eroding infrastructure. There were no programs being implemented, no plan of operation, nor a meaningful plan for the future. The only resources coming to the Center were receipts from the swimming pool and volunteerism. Creditable linkages with the business community and the local social structure were nonexistent.

These findings prompted the Board to reassess the position of the Center and begin to embrace "smart growth" by marketing the many features of the Center, including the *Riverside Golf Course* and *Strike at the Wind* drama. Although these two organizations are governed separately, we aligned with them to provide cutting edge Indian programming, arts, crafts, recreation and teaching, including service functions, such as rental of facilities and supporting out reach activities for profit and nonprofit entities. These services would reach and impact on customers to the Center who seek out such entertainment and new knowledge.

The NCICC wants to carry out programs that are in demand so that external audiences, especially potential customers, view its services and activities as the best value in similar markets across North and South Carolina. These will provide the North Carolina tourist and traveler with more effective and efficient Indian programs of arts, crafts, and recreation.

Today, the Center operates multi-cultural and sports enrichment programs for youth from a range of communities in Robeson County. There are also programs for the elderly. We are marketing three major festivals each year, including other services, such as Pow-Wow's, culture and arts, play grounds, picnic grounds, camp grounds, nature trails, swimming pool, amphitheater, lake boating, canoeing and fishing. We have liquidated much debt, paid back wages, repaired some infrastructure, and our financial picture allows for fiscal stability in all programs. There are also grant programs in the review stage. Partnerships and collaborations have contributed to the enhancement of the fiscal structure for the Center.

None of the above has been easy, but with perseverance from communities we can eventually bring the Center to a level where all North Carolinians will be proud, especially Indian peoples. There is a commitment from the Department of Transportation to pave the road at the entrance of the Center, which will enhance its presentation. Further, the Center recognizes that volunteerism is a critical intervention and help from citizens is highly encouraged.

The author is Gene Brayboy, NCICC Board Chairman

### Give Your Family a "WORLD VIEW"

PEMBROKE, NC - What if someone told you there was a way to contribute to world peace, expose your family to a new culture without ever leaving your home and make someone's dream come true? Does this sound too good to be true?

Each year, Academic Year in America (AYA) offers this opportunity to Pembroke families. This year, the 20-year-old AYA program will bring more than 1,100 students age 15 to 18.5 to the United States. With AYA's tailored matching system, Pembroke families have the unique opportunity to find a student who will be the perfect fit for their household. Students come from more than 30 countries, such as Germany, Brazil, France, Italy and South Africa and have a multitude of diverse talents and interests. You can see some of these students at [www.academicyear.org/students](http://www.academicyear.org/students).

Bringing an international student into your home is an excellent way to give your family a "world view" of a different culture, according to host dad Tim McMahon, whose family has hosted five AYA students.

"The result is that my children have made friends and traveled around the globe," McMahon said. "My children have visited several of our students on their own and have made extremely close and personal friendships. In fact, our entire family has visited the families of two of our exchange students and developed close friendships between the families."

There are several key elements to the hosting experience. For five or 10 months, Pembroke host families must provide their student with two meals a day and a place to sleep and study. Most importantly, they must welcome their student into their home as if they were a son or daughter. To help facilitate the exchange experience, Pembroke host families will receive assistance from an AYA Local Coordinator. Upon successful completion of the exchange, Pembroke host families can earn up to \$1,000 towards travel to visit their student.

"What better way to learn about world peace than by taking a child into your home and taking care of them?" Diane Asai, one of AYA's Local Coordinators and host mothers, said. "When people ask, 'Why do you host?' I tell them the truth: We do it for the long-term relationship we're going to have with a child and their family. You change their life and they change yours."

To learn more about hosting an AYA student, call Danielle Carpino at (800) 322-4678, ext. 5164 or e-mail [dcarpino@aifs.com](mailto:dcarpino@aifs.com). AYA is a not-for-profit organization designated by the U.S. Department of State to offer J-1 visas to international students. AYA is sponsored by the American Institute For Foreign Study Foundation, which was founded with the assistance of the late Robert F. Kennedy.



Colonel Archie Stanton Lockee

Colonel Archie S. Lockee, a Pembroke, NC native, died in Omaha, Nebraska on June 23, 2001 after an illness with cancer. He was born August 2, 1924 the son of the late Reverend Archie and Lulu Lockee, also North Carolina natives.

He attended schools in Pembroke, later completing his high school requirements in Columbia, SC. From high school, he enrolled in the University of South Carolina and after two years entered the United States Army Air Corps; winning his silver wings in 1945 just as World War II was ending. He continued his flying duties, accumulating over 10,000 hours and qualifying in practically all the types of aircraft in the Air Force inventory. He had a distinguished career as a pilot in the United States Air Force. He served in combat in Korea and Vietnam. He was shot down on a combat mission in Korea. He was a highly decorated pilot receiving many awards for heroism including the prestigious Legion of Merit. He received several meritorious promotions for outstanding performances in staff and operational positions. He was extremely proud of his recognition as a plane commander of a B-47 Bomber and crew attaining the highest level of performance and efficiency. He loved serving his country.

In addition to his many assignments, he was a graduate of the Air War College in Montgomery, Alabama. He commanded a squadron of Jet Transport Aircraft and headed up a Joint United States/United Kingdom Task Group in England. While on active duty, he earned a degree in engineering from the University of Nebraska at Omaha. He retired from the United States Air Force in 1974 after serving over 30 years of faithful service to his country. During his active duty years, he saw service in practically all parts of the world where the United States has a political or economic interest.

After retirement, he and his wife established residence in Lincoln, Nebraska where he was able to devote his efforts to his many hobbies. He was an avid quail hunter, and a lover of bird dogs which he enjoyed training. He was a skilled woodworker, and enjoyed skeet and trap shooting. He often grew a garden big and fruitful enough to feed his whole church congregation!

He was an active member of the First Baptist Church in Lincoln, Nebraska. He served several terms as a deacon, including terms as chairman, and was a Sunday school teacher for many years. He was also an active member of The Gideons, a Life Member of the National Rifle Association and the Lincoln Gun Club.

Lockee is survived by his wife, Mary Lou Caldwell; sons and daughters-in-law: Bruce and Debbie Thompson, Dr. Brad and Laura Lockee, John Thompson, Michael S. Lockee, Sr.; his daughter Linda and son-in-law, and J.L. Willming, 15 grandchildren, 4 great grandchildren; his brothers: Captain Gary Lockee of La Grange, Tennessee, Dr. Otto Lockee of Charlotte, NC; his sisters: Sylvia Taylor and Joyce Williamson of Fort Worth, Texas. He was preceded in death by a sister, Georgia Lockee Farrell and his parents, Archie and Lulu Lockee of Forth Worth, Texas.

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FROM THE DESK OF THE SUPERINTENDENT  
by Dr. Barry Harding  
Public Schools of Robeson County



There's no doubt that, when changes of any kind are made in an organization, there is a tendency on the part of those involved to question why those changes were made. So it is with employee transfers.

I think that it's important, first of all, to understand that transfers are not made simply for the sake of making transfers. A great deal of thought goes into the process along with consultation with people who are in a position of being able, in an impartial way, to observe operations at a school affected by the transfers. After due deliberation, transfers in the final analysis, are made to improve situations at the two schools involved. The transfer of an employee from a particular school often means that the school from which that employee is being transferred doesn't need his or her talents as much as the school to which he or she is being transferred. Thus, in no way, should the transfer be viewed as a negative thing. As a matter of fact, it could easily be considered as a compliment. That it often isn't can be attributed, at least partly, to input from others not as familiar with the reasons for the transfer as those involved with making the decisions.

There is little doubt that, besides the person being transferred, there are others who may feel that they would rather that the employee be allowed to remain where he or she has spent the recent year. There may be parents who have developed a kind of friendship with the employee and don't want to see them go. There may even be children who like the employee and would prefer that they be allowed to remain. Unfortunately, none of these people are in a position to view the overall picture - something which I and those involved with deciding on assignments for the upcoming year have to do.

Board policy assigns to the superintendent the responsibility of assigning people to schools where they are most needed. As I said earlier, there is a great deal of study and consultation that I go into with people on our staff before I am able to come up with the decisions that allow me to place the people who are qualified to fill positions at other schools that need to be filled.

Is everyone who is transferred happy about being transferred? Very probably not. However, if they would consider the overall good of our school system and how what they have to offer their new school will affect that, I would like to think that their concerns would be alleviated. These, after all, are good employees who are dedicated to the education of the county's children regardless of at which school.

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