



PUEBLO OF ISLETA

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PRESS RELEASE

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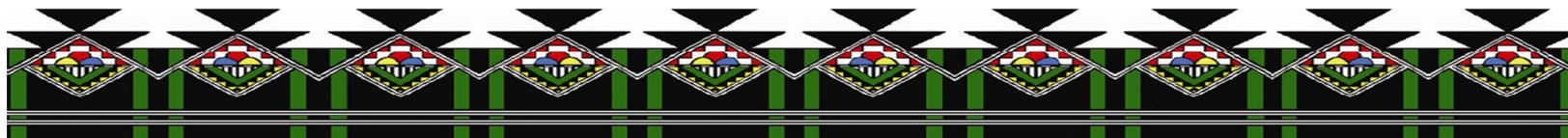
HISTORICAL ACHIEVEMENT IN EDUCATION AT ISLETA PUEBLO

ISLETA PUEBLO, NEW MEXICO – The U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) has formally authorized the conversion of the Pueblo of Isleta Elementary School from a BIE operated school to a tribally controlled Grant School pursuant to Public Law 100-297, the Tribally Controlled Schools Act. The Grant School application submitted by the Pueblo has now been formally approved and will become effective July 1, 2015.

In a public ceremony held on Thursday, March 26, 2015, at the Pueblo, Casey Sovo, Education Program Administrator for the BIE located in Albuquerque, handed a March 23, 2015, formal approval notification by the BIE in Washington, D.C., to Isleta Pueblo Governor E. Paul Torres. The approval of Isleta's Grant application concludes many months of work by the Pueblo to meet all of the strict requirements of the Federal Government to assume responsibility for control over the school.

With this final approval, the Pueblo of Isleta effectively assumes overall control and operation of the School and, is now able to create and fulfill the educational aspirations for Isleta Pueblo children as the Pueblo and their parents determine. The Pueblo envisions that in addition to offering state-of-the-art classroom instruction and technology, they will compete with local communities to provide our local Educators with competitive professional salaries and will provide Instructional Programs that will preserve, honor and instill a deep sense of pride in the local culture and traditional values.

The Pueblo of Isleta Elementary School has been operated on the Isleta reservation by the U.S. Government since the late 1890's and has been the center of village life for generations of Isleta Pueblo Tribal members. The Pueblo is currently in the process of advertising a full array of professional education and support positions to staff the school. Central to the wishes of the Pueblo is that the culture and tradition of the Pueblo be incorporated into the curriculum. In that regard, the native TIWA



Language Program will become a vital part of instruction at the school. Individuals wishing information or to apply for positions at the Isleta Elementary School are encouraged to contact the Human Resources Office at the Pueblo of Isleta at poiemployment@isletapueblo.com.

This approval from the Federal Government not only reflects a monumental milestone in Indian education but also a major achievement in Indian self-determination for the Pueblo.

The Pueblo also plans an elaborate Grand-Opening in a few months of a 16,527 square-foot Assisted Living Facility as well as a 16,429 square-foot Elderly Center.



(l to r) – Michelle Jojola, Isleta Elementary School Board Member; Michael Jojola, Elementary School Governance Board Member; 1st Lt. Governor, Antonio Chewiwi; E. Paul Torres, Governor, Isleta Pueblo; Casey Sovo, Education Program Administrator, BIE, Albuquerque; Derek Boyer, BIE Administrative Assistant; and, Andrew Casiquito, Education Program Specialist, BIE.

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