



the National Center

for American Indian Enterprise Development

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MEDIA RELEASE

AMERICAN INDIAN BUSINESS CONFERENCE WILL FEATURE HEADS OF COMMERCE AND SBA

Commerce Secretary Locke and SBA Administrator Mills to Speak at RES 2010

Phoenix, AZ – January 25, 2010 – The 24th Annual Reservation Economic Summit & American Indian Business Trade Fair (RES), presented by The National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development (NCAIED), and sponsored by the Chickasaw Nation and the Office of Indian Energy and Economic Development, will include in-person keynote speeches by two high-ranking Obama administration officials. The conference is scheduled for February 21-24 at the Las Vegas Hilton in Las Vegas, Nevada.

NCAIED announced today that Gary Locke, U.S. Secretary of Commerce, will provide the keynote speech during the RES 2010 opening general session on Monday, February 22. At the Department of Commerce, Locke is charged with helping implement President Obama's ambitious agenda to turn around the economy and put people back to work.

Locke is the second Obama-appointed official to accept an invitation to speak at RES 2010. Karen Mills, Administrator of the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), will speak during the general session on Wednesday, February 24. The SBA has a leading role helping small business owners and entrepreneurs secure financing, technical assistance, training and federal contracts, and is the nation's largest single financial backer of small business. Leveraging the conference theme, "The Power of Indian Country – Today. Tomorrow. Together.," Ms. Mills will speak on the power of business in Indian Country.

"We are very excited to have Secretary Locke and Administrator Mills at RES this year, said Margo Gray-Proctor, NCAIED Board Chairwoman. "The fact that the heads of two such important federal government departments as Commerce and the SBA are coming to speak directly to our audience, shows their level of commitment for small business development."

Actor and entertainer Litefoot (Cherokee) will serve as emcee of the conference, which will feature other outstanding presentations from leading keynote and featured speakers in Indian Country; large plenary sessions; learning sessions on current native business topics; the Business Trade Fair with over 350 exhibitors; networking receptions; Native entertainment and the American Indian Marketplace featuring 50+ Native artisans.

"Real time" business opportunities will also be offered at RES 2010 through the NCAIED Procurement Pavilion featuring the N2N® Business Connection – *powered by Business Matchmaking*. During this business activity, sellers (American Indian businesses) will hold multiple face-to-face business meetings with large corporate and Tribal buyers via preset matchmaking appointments. The N2N® Business Connection features Native to Native (N2N) matchmaking business opportunities with buyers from the largest Alaska Native/Native American tribal and Indian-owned enterprises.

In addition to the Chickasaw Nation and the Office of Indian Energy and Economic Development, other RES 2010 sponsors include Patton Boggs LLP, Raytheon, Lockheed Martin, Native American Contractors Association (NACA) and Northrop

Grumman Corporation.

Another highlight of the conference is the 22nd Annual National Center Golf Classic, which will take place on Sunday, February 21, 2010, at the Las Vegas Paiute Golf Resort. This year, for the first time, the tournament will take place on two of the resort's courses simultaneously: The Chairwoman's Course and the Scholarship Course.

Excellent corporate and tribal sponsorships for both RES 2010 and The National Center Golf Classic are available. For more information please visit www.ncaied.org, email events@ncaied.org or call 800-462-2433 x243.

The National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development was founded in 1969 and is dedicated to developing American Indian economic self-sufficiency through business ownership. It is headquartered in Mesa, Arizona, with offices nationwide. NCAIED is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

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