

the **National Center**
for **American Indian Enterprise Development**



We Mean Business for American Indians!

The National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development
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**The National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development Recognizes
American Indian Business Leaders, Scholarship Winners, and Advocates at INPRO 2007**

Los Angeles— Guests and supporters gathered into the elegant Millennium Biltmore Hotel Crystal Ballroom to take part in an evening of tribute to honor the diversity, economic success & achievement of American Indians at the National Center's 32nd Annual American Indian Progress in Business Awards Banquet (INPRO 2007) on September 20, 2007. Lockheed Martin served as the presenting sponsor of this event that benefited The American Indian Fellowship in Business Scholarship Program and The National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development (NCAIED). Other major event sponsors included: Hilton Hotels, Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation, Macy's, Northrop Grumman, Raytheon, Southern California Edison, The Walt Disney Company, BAE Systems, MGM Mirage, Sempra Energy, and Toyota Motor Sales, U.S.A., Inc.

The black tie gala event was kicked off by the National Center's President and CEO, Ken Robbins (member of the Standing Rock Sioux tribe) who welcomed the guests and opened with comments regarding the business and economic development of Indian Country, outstanding leadership, role models present in Indian country today, and the many contributions and continued support of numerous corporations. Dinner Chair, Mr. Gary Bailey, Vice President of Material Management for Lockheed Martin welcomed guests and opened with words of wisdom and expressed Lockheed Martin's continued support of economic development in Indian country. Lockheed Martin's video "Second to None" was heart felt as it captivated the audience with Lockheed Martin's commitment to world safety and security. Performances by Dancing Earth set the tone for the evening as the awards were presented by the National Center's President and the Chairman of the Board along with presenting sponsor Lockheed Martin. Mr. Ron Solimon, a member of the Laguna Pueblo Tribe and Chairman of the National Center Board of Directors, presented the Jay Silverheels Achievement Award, NCAIED's highest honor, to Mr. Joe Garcia (Ohkay Owingeh), President, National Congress of American Indians (NCAI). Mr. Garcia has made significant contributions over the past decade to enhance the entire Native American Community. The First American Enterprise Award was presented to Northrop Grumman Corporation by National Center President, Mr. Ken Robbins. Accepting on behalf of Northrop Grumman was Ms. Susan Coté, Vice President of Corporate Contracts, Pricing and Supply Chain. Ms. Coté emphasized Northrop's continued commitment to the National Center and to American Indian business and Economic Development. Northrop Grumman continues to share the mission and vision of the National Center and looks forward to the continued partnership and future progression in Indian country. Master of Ceremonies and entrepreneur, Mr. D.J. Vanas, thanked the crowd for their continued support of Native Americans and also thanked the National Center for all the wonderful work they have done for the economic development of Americans Indians. Mr. Vanas expressed his gratitude toward corporate America for their continued commitment to economic development and their strong belief in Indian country.

Dinner Chair, Mr. Gary Bailey, and Lockheed Martin Native American scholarship honoree, Dave Hambrick, Senior Manager for Experimental Test Support, had the honor of presenting five American Indian Fellowship in Business Scholarship Awards to American Indian business students: Sonja C. Thompson, a member of the Navajo Nation, Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute, Albuquerque, NM; Rachel G. Murphy, a member of the Cowlitz Tribe, Pennsylvania State University, University Park, Pennsylvania; Tonya V. Vanderpool, a member of the Athabascan Village of McGrath, University of Alaska Southwest, Juneau, Alaska; Lockheed Martin Native American Scholarship winner Jon Paul Swan, a member of the Chippewa Cree Tribe, Harvard Business School, Cambridge, Massachusetts; and the Joseph C. Angello winner Teri Lynn Cawelti, a member of the Bishop Paiute Tribe, Western Governors University, Salt Lake City, Utah. The students were selected from a large pool of applicants and each spoke of their continued commitment to higher education and community involvement. Each student expressed their gratitude to the National Center and to all the respective sponsors who share in the National Center's vision and mission.

During INPRO, Mr. Robbins expressed his gratitude for the support from the corporations, tribes, Indian businesses which allows the National Center to carry out its mission. The National Center is the premiere national management-consulting organization in Indian Country today. This year marks the National Center's 37th anniversary year in bringing quality services to American Indian entrepreneurs and tribes. NCAIED provides business assistance to tribes and individuals, at no cost, to foster American Indian participation in our economic system and increased economic progress through successful business ownership. Founded in 1969, Incorporated in 1970, the National Center benefits from sustained relationships with the public and private sectors. The National Center is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization with eleven offices strategically located across the country in Arizona, California, Washington, Montana, Colorado, North Carolina, North Dakota, DC, and Georgia. These locations allow NCAIED to serve Native American businesses on a nationwide basis. The National Center is the only national non-profit organization solely dedicated to developing American Indian economic self-sufficiency through business ownership.

For more information on The National Center or future Sponsorship Opportunities, please call (800) 462-2433 ext 243, or visit the NCAIED web site at www.ncaied.org.

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