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National Indian Education Association Bids Farewell to Executive Director Diana Cournoyer

Washington, DC, July 3, 2024 – On behalf of the National Indian Education Association (NIEA) Board of Directors, we would like to uplift and honor a decade of service by outgoing Executive Director Diana Cournoyer.

Serving as Executive Director for the last five years, Ms. Cournoyer has worked tirelessly in the pursuit of NIEA's mission to advance comprehensive, culture-based educational opportunities for American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians.

"Diana is a visionary, and her leadership has led to the growth of NIEA's standing as a national thought leader in policy and education," said Tesia Zientek, NIEA President. "We are grateful to Diana's years of service and vision to establish a paradigm shift through education sovereignty. Her legacy will live on as the organization continues the momentum to change the American education system to better serve Native students."

Centering the future of Native education through tribal sovereignty, the initiatives and partnerships developed under Ms. Cournoyer's leadership will continue to thrive with the talented and passionate NIEA staff.

The NIEA Board will be conducting a national search for the next NIEA Executive Director in the coming months.

Starting July 1, 2024, Rusty Creed Brown will serve as the NIEA Interim Executive Director until a new Executive Director is hired.

To read the full Farewell Statement from Diana Cournoyer, visit www.NIEA.org homepage.

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The National Indian Education Association (NIEA) advances comprehensive, culture-based educational opportunities for American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians. NIEA was formed in 1969, in Minneapolis, Minnesota, by Native educators who were anxious to find solutions to improve the education system for Native children. The NIEA Convention was established to mark the beginning of a national forum for sharing and developing ideas and influencing federal policy.