



NATIVE AMERICAN CULTURAL & EDUCATIONAL AUTHORITY

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Gena Timberman Named Executive Director for the Native American Cultural & Educational Authority

OKLAHOMA CITY, OK (February 4, 2008) – Gena Timberman has been named Executive Director for the Native American Cultural & Educational Authority (NACEA) effective January 24, 2008. Timberman began her work with the Authority in December of 1999 when she was appointed as the Deputy Director. NACEA is the state agency responsible for developing the nearly 300 acre site on the Oklahoma River, that will be the future home of American Indian Cultural Center & Museum (AICCM). The development includes three other significant components: A landscaped and programmed **"Park and Trails System,"** Privately funded and operated **"Business Enterprises"** that complement the mission of the Cultural Center, and a **"Visitor/Welcome Center."**

Timberman grew up in Oklahoma and is a proud member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. Graduating from the University of Oklahoma College of Law in May 1999, she is a member of the Oklahoma Bar. "Gena has proven during her tenure as acting director that she is more than qualified to be the Executive Director. She has the vision, energy and experience necessary for the task at hand. We expect her to be a driving force which will help make this dream a reality," states Governor Bill Anoatubby, Chairman, NACEA Board of Directors. Timberman has been positively advancing the mission and goals for the agency for eight years, while also serving as the Staff Coordinator for the museum for the past year. "Timberman provides visionary leadership, institutional consistency and has developed positive relationships with the many stakeholders involved in this project," says AICCM spokesperson, Shoshana Wasserman, Director of Marketing and Public Relations. "I have been blessed to be a part of this journey to build an American Indian Cultural Center & Museum in Oklahoma. The Center is a dream that is finally becoming a reality and I am honored to be appointed to this position, working with a world-class team on a world-class project for Oklahoma," said Timberman.

Timberman's experience with insurance defense, product liability, commercial law, and economic development of Native American businesses will be a tremendous asset to the project as the commercial enterprises develop with the museum's growth. Timberman served as a legal intern in the Department of Justice, Washington, D.C. She served in both the Office of Tribal Justice and the Environment & Natural Resources Division, Indian Law Section. As an intern in the Office of Tribal Justice, she committed her efforts to the research of Indian law issues affecting Indian country and writing speeches for the Attorney General Janet Reno's activities relating to Indian country and her meetings with tribal court judges and tribal leaders. As a law student, Timberman attended the Oxford Summer Law Seminar at The Queen's College, Oxford, England; served as an Editor of the American Indian Law Review from 1997-1999; was a Student Member of the American Bar Association; served as both the President and Vice President of the Native American Law Student Association; honored as a Sequoyah Scholar; recognized as the Joseph F. Rarick Indian Scholar; received the Mueller Law Scholarship for a recognized American Indian Law Scholar; and served as a member of the National Native American Law Student Association Moot Court Team.

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Timberman received her B.A. degree in English Literature with Honors from Oklahoma State University in 1996. As President of the Native American Student Association, She received the Outstanding Contribution to the Native American Community Award. In addition, she was employed by Oklahoma State University to work in the Multicultural Development & Assessment Center in assisting Dr. Pete Coser, Native American Director, in coordinating Native American activities and developing the fellowship of Indian and Non-Indian students alike. Timberman was a member of the Golden Key National Honor Society and Sigma Tau Delta English Honor Society. As a former Wings of America, Southern Plains runner, she has been active as a Facilitator and Leader for the Wings of American Running & Fitness Camps. The camps, sponsored by Nike, have been influential across the United States in promoting the health and wellness of Native American people in Indian country. She has also been active in United National Indian Tribal Youth (UNITY) as a Native Youth Leadership Development Facilitator. Timberman is a member of the Downtown Rotary Club, serves on the Oklahoma Health Center Foundation Board of Trustees, The American Heart Association Board of Directors, and the American Red Cross of Central Oklahoma Board of Directors, the Oklahoma Indian Affairs Commission Board and the Board of Directors of the Oklahoma Museum Association.