

The NCIEDI  
**DEVELOPER**

## Economic News from Around Tribal Communities in N.C.

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### **Native Leaders Attend 2008 NC Entrepreneurship Summit**

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NCEIDI along with their long time partner, the NC Rural Center brought together 27 American Indian elders and leaders from across North Carolina to the 2008 **NC Entrepreneurship Summit** held **February 26<sup>th</sup>** in **Greensboro**. Notable representatives were Greg Richardson, Haliwa, NCCIA; Robert Deese, Lumbee, board member, Robeson County School System; Calvin Morrow, Meherrin, business professional; and Brady Martin, Sappony, Board member, NCIEDI just to name a few.

The theme was *Doorways to Entrepreneurial Communities* of all varieties. Program highlights included serial entrepreneur Nido Qubein, entrepreneurial communities from NC and beyond, updates from education leaders, policy makers and business financiers about their initiatives in supporting entrepreneurship, and an entrepreneurial showcase of the Piedmont Triad region. As a pre-summit event, NCIEDI hosted the 2008 Native Economic Roundtable in which native leaders and business professionals along with Entrepreneurship Summit presenters met to discuss the status of Indian populations and the current economic development issues faced by all tribes in NC.

The summit is an annual statewide event for policy makers and community leaders who support entrepreneurs and small businesses as key drivers of economic and community development. The summit was initiated by the Rural Center in 2006 and is now evolving into a major event with strong statewide participation from all sectors and communities. The Piedmont Triad region is hosting the 2008 summit, and the process for other regions to compete to host the next summit in 2010 will be announced at this event. NCIEDI committed to ensuring that native voice is given in support of the Event each year. Through a grant funded by the Kellogg foundation through the NC Rural Center, NCIEDI has been instrumental in fostering the entrepreneurial spirit in native communities statewide, and will continue to promote entrepreneurial growth in future endeavors.

**NC Indian Economic Development Initiative's Mission:**

*NCIEDI's mission is to foster, enhance and promote economic development in North Carolina's urban and tribal communities through the creation and preservation of good jobs, the creation of social and capital assets, and increased capacity for individual tribal member's self development in the local, state, national and global economic sphere.*



### **United Tribes of NC Holds 33rd Annual Unity Conference**

The Board of Directors of United Tribes of North Carolina held its thirty third annual North Carolina Indian Unity Conference on March 20 - 22, 2008. The event was held at the North Raleigh Hilton, and attracted over 200 participants. This year's theme, "Honor, Integrity, Distinction: Stitched Together Through Threads of the Past" centered on promoting unity among tribal elders and young community leaders in the eight tribes and four urban associations of the state. NCIEDI held a financial capacity building workshop during the event, inviting NCIMED, H&R Block and the Roper Group to discuss issues pertinent to the financial success of native small business owners.

A Juried Art Exhibition was held as a part of the annual event. Exhibits included Best in Show, an Award for featured Artist, Best of Paintings and Drawings, Best of Pottery/Sculpture/Carvings, Best of Basketry and Beading and Best of All

Other Mediums. There was also a non-Juried Art Competition for K - Adults as part of the annual exhibit, and an arts reception honoring the artist and to announce the winners.

AT&T sponsored the event's banquet. Various community awards were given for outstanding native achievements and accomplishments throughout the



Amber Holland

year. On Saturday, \$500 academic scholarships were awarded to ten deserving Indian students in honor or memory of persons from various tribal communities in the state.

Also held during the annual Indian Unity Conference was the Miss Indian North Carolina Princess Pageant. The 2007-2008 out going princess Brittany Simmons, crowned Amber Holland, Lumbee, as the 2008-2009 year winner. The conference also included a Gospel Sing and an intertribal Powwow on Thursday evening.

# News for North Carolina Tribes

## FROM THE DESK OF *Tony Hayes*

Dear Tribes, Partners and Associates,

The first quarter has been a very busy one for the Initiative! We have hosted and participated in several high level business events across the state. We continue to work on the ground with numerous clients, new and existing on enhancing and expanding their businesses and opportunities. Our Board of Directors has been very supportive and continues to work behind the scenes to promote our positive economic efforts for Indian Communities as a whole.

As many of you know the Agency has also taken a steadfast position against the racially disrespectful and outstandingly detrimental comments levied by the Raleigh radio station G-105 on their morning show a few weeks ago. Regardless of the outcome, I trust it will

be beneficial to our communities now and in the future. I am very pleased to have witnessed and participated as an agency, tribe and individual in the coming together of all our Indian Communities as one to fight the injustices targeted specifically at the Lumbee. We are all NC Indians and should *never* tolerate any groups or individuals to speak ill any of our tribes or people! I am very optimistic that we can use the same *unity, passion* and *intellect* to address the critical issues that, affects and afflicts our people and make much needed change and progress for all of us. It is time for us to come together, young and old, male and female to promote the agendas that will benefit us as a people. Let's get busy or we will continue to be ignored or just plain forgotten. I call for our leadership, in all sectors, business,



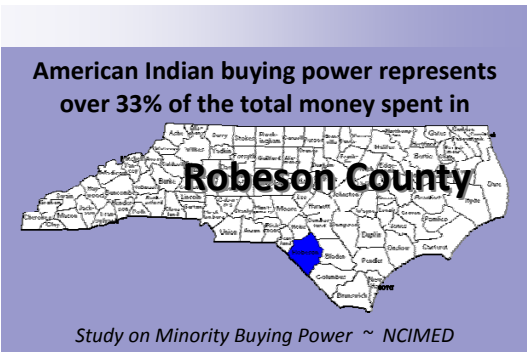
NC General Assembly Rep *Ronnie Sutton* at the April NCCIA Rally over racist comments from G105.  
*Photo by Brandi Brooks*

educational, political, tribal, public and private to commit to making this happen. Just like the conference on the Capitol Grounds in protest of G-105, let's pick a date and come together to make some real history for North Carolina.

Respectfully,

*Tony Hayes*

W.A. "Tony" Hayes, CEO  
NC Indian Economic Development Initiative



### Agency Client Activity

During the first quarter of 2008, NCIEDI provided business development services to 15 American Indian businesses—for of whom were returning clients. Of the 15 businesses, seven are in the “start up” phase and eight are established businesses.

The types of services provided include:

- Financing (six companies—loans totaling 1.4 million)
- Initializing certification process (four companies)
- Business plan development (five companies)

*We're here for you—let us know how we can help your business grow!*

## FEATURED AMERICAN INDIAN SMALL BUSINESS OWNER: *Kim Hunt* with Edward Jones

Kim Hunt is a financial advisor with Edward Jones in Pembroke, NC. Edward Jones provides financial services for individual investors in the United States and, through its affiliates, in Canada and the United Kingdom. Edward Jones is known for the uniquely personalized service it offers individual investors and small-business owners. Kim has established relationships by making visits to members of Pembroke before opening for business. Kim has been

successful in Pembroke because of her ability to serve her clients with investments that are tailored specifically to individual investors. By living in the communities in which they work, Edward Jones financial advisors can become active members of the communities they serve. Kim works with her clients to understand their personal goals -- from college savings to retirement -- and create long-term



investment strategies that emphasize a well-balanced portfolio and a buy-and-hold strategy. Edward Jones embraces the importance of building long-term, face-to-face relationships with clients, helping them to understand and make sense of the investment options available today.

For more information, Kim can be reached at 910-521-1260; 938 East 3rd St., Pembroke, NC 28372

# News from the NCIEDI Board

## FEATURED BOARD MEMBER: *Brice Watkins, Occaneechi Band of the Saponi Nation*

Meet NCIEDI board member, Brice G. Watkins, Jr. A member of the Occaneechi Band of the Saponi Nation, Brice has served on the board for three years. Additionally, In his capacity as an Occaneechi Tribal Council member, he serves as Economic Development Coordinator and Youth Advisor. He is very active with the Trustee Board, Men's Fellowship and Men's Missionary circle at Springdale AME Church in Burlington, NC. Further expanding his community involvement, Brice is also a NC REAL facilitator, teaching NC Real at the Alamance Community College Small Business Center in Burlington. Brice and his wife, Stepheni (Heggedal), married on July 7, 2007 and reside in Liberty, NC.

Heritage Consultants, a new business venture for Brice, is a consulting firm specializing in working with startup and established restaurant



businesses. Heritage Consultants primarily works with clients in the Greensboro-Triad Area.

Brice has been very active in the Indian community in the past few years. He has attended anti-racism seminars, E2 training, economic development workshops, and, nationally, the Consortium for Entrepreneurship Education Conference in Charleston, SC.

He has been an integral part of the

NCIEDI's vision and development of Project G7 financial literacy curriculum. He along with Christina Theodorou (NCIEDI), Sheila Wilson (Sappony), NC REAL, and the Rural Center, were the innovators for this program. NCIEDI's goal for this program is to teach our Indian youth the proper way to manage, control, invest, and save money for their future. He will be spearheading the August pilot program with the Occaneechi youth. He will also be training Tribal facilitators in their communities to teach this curriculum to their youth with NCIEDI's vision.

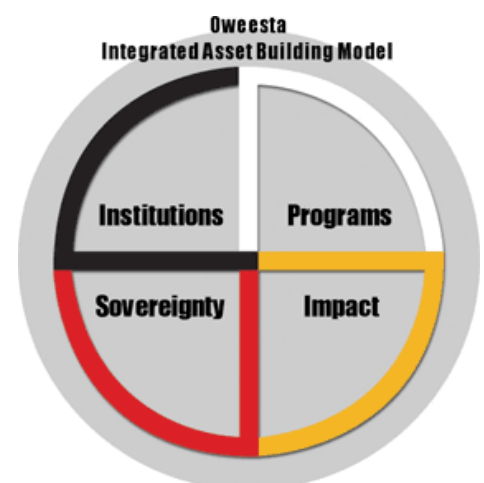
Brice's passion for helping youth has shown through this project—and others—and is a great asset to NCIEDI, the Occaneechi and all Indian people across the state of North Carolina. His motto is "Not giving a HANDOUT but lending a HAND UP!"

## FEATURED AGENCY: *First Nations Oweesta Corporation*

NCIEDI recently became national regional partners with the First Nations Oweesta Corporation, part of the First Nations Corporation in South Dakota. The Oweesta today was born of a long-term effort of their affiliate First Nations Development Institute to take a direct role in Developing Native Assets at the local level in Native communities. NCIEDI and Oweesta have teamed together to develop NCIEDI's the native youth financial education curriculum, and ensure the success of the program through including NCIEDI as a national

partner with the NFEC-Native Financial Education Coalition. Christina Theodorou is now a certified Oweesta Trainer through the support of the NC Rural Center and a grant through the Triangle Community Initiative. The mission of Oweesta is to enhance the capacity of Native tribes, communities and peoples to access, control, create, leverage, utilize and retain financial assets; and to provide appropriate financial capital for Native development efforts. NCIEDI welcomes Oweesta in the support of the economic development and

financial education of tribal populations in North Carolina.



[www.oweesta.org](http://www.oweesta.org)

## Meeks: Predatory lenders are eyeing your stimulus payment

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By: Elsie Meeks, First Nations Oweesta Corporation

In an effort to jump-start the U.S. economy, Congress recently approved a new economic stimulus package directing the Department of the Treasury to send "economic stimulus payments" to over 130 million individuals and families beginning in early May. Payments will range from \$300 to \$1,200, with an additional \$300 for each qualifying child. Do not confuse this with your income tax refund, which will arrive separately. It is a one-time payment meant to assist American families and help the economy.

This provides quite an opportunity for most of us to

catch up on bills, buy gas or groceries, or to replace that long-worn-out refrigerator. Unfortunately, this is an opportunity not only for people who need an extra financial boost, but for the predatory tax preparers and payday loan vendors promising instant, on-the-spot payments. Don't be fooled! These "deals" are not deals at all - they will cost you and will eat away at this one-time opportunity. These services come with huge interest rates and hidden fees.

Picture this scenario: a married couple with three children is expecting a \$2,100 check in May. However, they are enticed by an offer to get their payment early by a predatory tax preparer and accept a payment of \$1,600 in April. The reality here is that this family has just agreed to a loan with

an annualized interest rate of 190 percent. They have just given away \$500 of their much-needed and deserved rebate!

This is not just a hypothetical scenario. Instead, real-life situations just like this are played out over and over again each year at tax time. Hard-working families give their hard-earned money away on the promise of quick and easy money. The anticipated economic stimulus payments present another opportunity for predatory lenders to acquire a portion of your income.

So, whether you need to pay your bills, get clothes for the kids or put gas in your car - the list is probably endless - if you are



First Nations Oweesta Corporation

considering going to a payday lender to borrow against your stimulus payment, or using a paid tax preparer that will give you your money "instantly," please reconsider. Think about using a free tax preparation site instead. The IRS sponsors Volunteer Income Tax Assistance sites that are staffed by trained and IRS-certified volunteers. These volunteers will prepare and file your tax return for you free of charge. To find one, you can call (800) 829-1040 or contact the North Carolina Indian Economic Development Initiative for more information.

For more information on the economic stimulus payments, visit [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov).

*Elsie Meeks, Lakota, is the president and CEO of First Nations Oweesta Corporation and the chair of the Native Financial Education Coalition. For more information, visit [www.oweesta.org/eitc](http://www.oweesta.org/eitc),*



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The January NCIEDI Board meeting was hosted by SAS Institute Inc. at their headquarters location in Cary, NC.



Many thanks to SAS for consistent collaboration and continued support!



### Upcoming Events:

**July 24: Quarterly Board Meeting,  
hosted by SAS in Cary, NC**

August 4-6: **Carolinas MSDC Business  
Opportunity Conference, Embassy  
Suites, Charleston, SC**