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DOLE APPOINTS KANSAN TO INDIAN EDUCATION BOARD

WASHINGTON - Kansas Senator Bob Dole today announced the appointments of Bob G. Martin, President of Haskell Indian Junior College in Lawrence, Kansas, and Robert K. Chiago of Mesa, Arizona, to positions on the Advisory Committee on the White House Conference on Indian Education.

President Martin's appointment by Dole was strongly endorsed by Senator Nancy Kassebaum. Senator Kassebaum is a member of the Senate Select Committee on Indian Affairs, which is the oversight committee for the White House Indian Education Conference.

"Bob Martin is a nationally-recognized education leader in the Native American community," said Dole. "His experience in and continued commitment to Native American issues makes him an outstanding addition to the Advisory Committee."

"Few in the country have a better understanding of the educational needs of Native Americans than Bob Martin," Kassebaum said. "He will add an important perspective to the Advisory Committee by stressing the importance of higher education at schools like Haskell."

President Martin was born in Pryor, Oklahoma, and is a member of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma. Before becoming the President of Haskell, Martin served as president of Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Martin is also a member of the Indian Nations at Risk Task Force, which advises and makes recommendations to the U.S. Secretary of Education on the condition of education of Native Americans in the United States. Additionally, Martin is a member of the Lawrence Chamber of Commerce and the Lawrence Human Relations Commission.

Chiago, who was originally nominated by Arizona Senator John McCain, is a member of the Navajo Tribe. He now serves on the National Advisory Council on Indian Education and the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs Native American Veterans Coordinating Council. Chiago is currently the Director of the Department of Education, Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community in Mesa, Arizona. Born in Los Angeles, Chiago has also served as the Associate Director of the American Indian Culture Center at the University of California, Los Angeles.

The Advisory Committee is a 23-member council which will plan and coordinate the White House Conference on Indian Education. The Conference will develop recommendations for improving Federal Native American educational programs and examine the feasibility and merits of creating an independent Board of Indian Education to administer and oversee all Federal programs related to Native American education.

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