

News Release

For Immediate Distribution

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IAIA's Achein Center for Lifelong Education to Honor Elders with Daylong Conference

Santa Fe, NM – The IAIA Achein Center for Lifelong Education, Santa Clara Pueblo Senior's Program, and the Eight Northern Indian Pueblo Council's (ENIPC) Senior Services and Peacekeepers are pleased to present the Fourth Annual Tribal Elder Awareness Conference. The conference is open to all tribal elders and tribal leaders and will be held Thursday, September 18, 2008 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Institute of American Indian Arts Campus (83 Avan Nu Po Road).

Special guests for the conference include respected American Indian leaders Joe Garcia, Chairman of the All Indian Pueblo Council and President of the National Congress of Americans Indians, and Alvin Warren, Secretary of the New Mexico Indian Affairs Department. Breakout sessions will cover a wide range of topics such as computer literacy, benefits for elders and other important health and wellness matters for senior Native Americans. Entertainment by individuals such as storyteller Stephen Fadden and art making sessions will add to the enjoyment of this day-long event. IAIA students will be participating, as well, assisting elders in several of the informative breakout sessions.

Ramus Suina, Tribal Relations Specialist for IAIA's Center for Lifelong Education notes, "We are extremely excited and proud to again host the Tribal Elders Awareness Conference on the IAIA campus. The students, staff and faculty look forward to welcoming the Native elders with great pride and respect." Suina adds, "Last year we hosted nearly 300 tribal elders from the nineteen New Mexican Pueblos. This year, we invited elders from other New Mexico tribes, so we expect a larger crowd and our program agenda has been expanded. We'd like to encourage the tribal leaders and state officials from the Council on Aging to attend."

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For more information about the Fourth Annual Elder's Conference, please call Ramus Suina at 505.424.2308 or the Center for Lifelong Education offices at 505.424.2387. For more information about the Institute of American Indian Arts, please visit www.iaia.edu.

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LALA's Mission:

*To empower creativity and leadership in Native arts and cultures
through higher education, lifelong learning and outreach*