

International Visitor Leadership Program Representatives Visit Pawnee Nation

By Toni Hill
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On Friday, Sept. 6, 2013, representatives from the International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) honored Pawnee Nation with a visit as part of the mandate of Engaging Underserved and At-Risk Youth.

“It was refreshing to have these young representatives from Latin American visit our Tribe,” said Karla Knife Chief, PBC representative. “It’s great to see the passion and concern in engaging our youth and assisting those who are often underserved. I feel that we have helped others through our participation today, which makes me feel very good about the Tribe’s efforts as a whole.”

Members of the Pawnee Business Council (PBC), the Executive Office and the Education Division greeted the guests, offered an overview and tour of the Reserve and the Cultural Learning Center and served a traditional meal. Also present were representatives from the Pawnee Nation Law Enforcement and the Pawnee Nation Youth Services departments.

According to Administrative Officer Jim Glick, the objectives of the U.S. State Department for this project involved engaging underserved and at-risk youth.

The process includes examining primary prevention programs for at-risk youth such as family support programs, after school activities, truancy and dropout prevention programs and job training programs. “Other actions involve exploring the efforts of schools, community-based organizations and faith-based groups to intervene before early problem behaviors (ages 7-14),” Glick said.

“[We also] highlight support services for gang-involved youth and their families to help youth make positive choices; and to examine re-entry programs for gang members recently released from prison.”

Honorees from the IVLP included Glick, David Arosemena from Panama, Lobsang Barrios A., Maria Eva Brahim DIB from Argentina, Sarai Diaz from El Salvador, Lilvio Fernandez Luis from Cuba, Felix A. Farina Noguera from Paraguay, Jose R. Mejia Liriano from the Dominican Republic, Yelitza C. Quevedo Ruiz from Venezuela, Jorge Luis de la Rosa Toscano from Colombia, Monica Parra Valero from Mexico and Mary Ponte from Venezuela.

“Thank you and all of the tribal members for the kind welcome you extended to our group during today's visit,” Glick said. “We wish you all the best as you strive to make life better for all of the members of your nation.”