

**Obama re-appoints Anderson and Thomas to NACIE National
Advisory Council on Indian Education**

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WASHINGTON, D.C. - President Barack Obama has re-appointed two members of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation to his National Advisory Council on Indian Education.. In August 2010 the President announced the appointment of Greg Anderson of Eufaula and Virginia Thomas of Okmulgee to serve on the 15 member council. The members received notice of intent to appoint by the President in July 2010. They were initially appointed by President George W. Bush in April of 2004 and are the only two members reappointed by President Obama. The NACIE members are appointed by the President and advise the Secretary of Education on issues such as funding, administration and the development of regulations and administrative policies related to all Indian education programs.

Appointments to the National Advisory Council on Indian Education are open ended and members serve at the pleasure of the President. Anderson and Thomas are honored to have another opportunity to work with other council members on

issues critical to the future of Native American students. "It is a privilege for us to be included in education reform at this level. This is a great opportunity for the members to make a collective and collaborative effort to improve programs for our people. The President has demonstrated an interest in issues that affect Native Americans and with this council has made a commitment to improve our education programs."

Greg Anderson is the Superintendent of the Eufaula Dormitory, a Bureau of Indian Affairs residential living facility for Native American youth. He has been with the program for 26 years, 21 as Superintendent. Mr. Anderson has been involved in education issues at many levels and has served on several federal committees for improvements in education. He currently serves as co-chairman of the BIA-Negotiated Rule-Making Committee. He was recently appointed by Gov. Brad Henry to serve on the Oklahoma Advisory Council on Indian Education.

Virginia Thomas is Manager of the Johnson O'Malley Program for the Muscogee Creek Nation which serves 47 school districts and approximately 17,000 students. Ms. Thomas is a founding member of the National Johnson-O'Malley Association and has served as the National President for the past 14 years. She has been involved with JOM for the past 39 years as tutor, counselor, home school coordinator, teacher, program coordinator and other positions. Ms. Thomas also serves on the National Advisory Council of the National Resource Center for Tribes and has earned numerous awards for her work in Indian education.