



**NATIONAL
INDIAN
GAMING
ASSOCIATION**

Rebuilding
Communities
Through Indian
Self-Reliance

Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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“Indian Gaming ‘08” Information: www.indiangaming.org

“IGRA AFTER 20 YEARS: REBUILDING INDIAN COMMUNITIES”

WASHINGTON, D.C., April 7 – “IGRA After 20 Years: Rebuilding Indian Communities,” a free public symposium focusing on the 20 years since the passage of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (IGRA), will take place at the San Diego Convention Center (Room 5) on Wednesday, April 23, from 2 until 5 p.m. The program is organized by the Sycuan Institute on Tribal Gaming/San Diego State University in partnership with the National Indian Gaming Association’s Spirit of Sovereignty Foundation. It will be followed by a reception hosted by the Sycuan Band of the Kumeyaay Nation from 5 until 7 p.m.

The symposium is being held in conjunction with “Indian Gaming ’08,” the 17th annual meeting and trade show of the National Indian Gaming Association (NIGA), which will take place at the San Diego Convention Center on April 20-23.

“IGRA After 20 Years: Rebuilding Indian Communities” will be the first to explore the first 20 years of tribal government gaming under IGRA, and will examine the ways that American Indian tribal governments are exercising their tribal sovereignty through expenditures of tribal revenues on governmental capacity building and economic diversification. The purpose of the symposium will be to highlight patterns of economic development and tribal government strengthening made possible by the access to predictable revenue streams made possible by Indian gaming.

Three panels (to be announced) of tribal leaders and representatives, policy makers and academics will discuss the implications of gaming for both tribal communities and their neighbors, to explore new ways to leverage gaming expertise, and to re-frame tribal sovereignty in the public eye.

“Since the passage of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act 20 years ago, Indian gaming has grown into a \$26 billion industry,” said NIGA Chairman Ernie Stevens, Jr., a member of the Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin. “This symposium is an opportunity to review the history of IGRA with a wider public audience and discuss its implications for the future well being of our tribal nations.”

For agenda updates and descriptions of workshops, and sponsorship opportunities, visit the NIGA Web site at www.indiangaming.org.

The National Indian Gaming Association is a non-profit trade association comprised of 184 American Indian Nations and other non-voting associate members. The common commitment and purpose of NIGA is to advance the lives of Indian people – economically, socially and politically. NIGA operates as a clearinghouse and educational, legislative and public policy resource for tribes, policymakers and the public on Indian gaming issues and tribal community development.

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