

To: Alan Goodman
President, American Anthropological Association

From: Norma González
Chair, Anthropology Education Committee

RE: AEC 2005 End of Year Report

Even though the Anthropology and Education Committee was organized as a standing Committee in 2004, the AEC was not able to have a face-to-face meeting until the AAA Annual Meetings in 2005. In the interim, we have held numerous telephone conferences and have communicated via our AEC listserv. We have concentrated our efforts in terms of the charge that we have been given and have been successful in several areas.

At this time, we report the following activities:

CHARGE:

- To work with other educational organizations, such as the National Council for Social Studies (NACC) and the National Council for the Teaching of Science (NCTS) to enhance the public understanding of anthropology.

ACTION:

In May 2005, the Executive Board of AAA approved the request from AEC that AAA extend a reciprocal agreement to NCSS inviting NCSS members in good standing to attend the annual meeting of AAA at the AAA member rate. Because these two conferences typically meet during the same time period, and some years in the same city, both AAA and NCSS members will mutually benefit from this arrangement. (COPY OF LETTER IS ATTACHED)

CHARGE:

- To identify, develop, and promote effective methods for the teaching of anthropology in K-12, community college, undergraduate, graduate, adult education and museum programs.
- To use AAA meetings, the AAA website, Section newsletters, and other media to diffuse information about anthropology curricula and teaching methods.

ACTIONS:

1. AEC member Rosemary Henze collaborated with Carol Mukhopadhyay and Yolanda Moses, both members of the advisory group for the AAA Museum project, to write a book that will make anthropological perspectives on race accessible to secondary teachers and their students. Tentatively titled "'It isn't real, but it is: A teachers' sourcebook of anthropological perspectives on race.'" The book will be published by Rowman and Littlefield Education in 2006.
2. AEC sponsored a AAA invited session at the 2005 meetings on "Teaching Standards in Anthropology: a Conversation" This session was to initiate a dialogue in the field as to the viability and desirability of setting forth teaching standards for anthropology at both k-12 and post-secondary levels. A follow-up to the session will be an article submitted to AN summarizing positions taken by panel members and

asking for input from the general membership. AEC will then evaluate and recommend a course of action to the AAA EB.

3. AEC endorsed and encouraged the development of “Anthroquest: An online Cultural Journey through Time and Space.” (POWERPOINT SUMMARY IS ATTACHED).

CHARGE:

- To promote the relevance of anthropology as a tool for understanding and improving schools and schooling.

ACTION:

AEC sponsored a second AAA invited session at the 2005 meetings on “No Child Left Behind: Anthropologists join the debate on a controversial national policy.” This session was very well attended and promoted the relevance of anthropologists and anthropology in analyzing this aspect of national educational policy.

CHARGE:

- To coordinate education-related initiatives of the AAA, its Sections and its Committees.

ACTION:

AEC has designed a tri-fold brochure to be distributed at the 2006 AAA meetings. This brochure gives more visibility to the AEC, invites input from all AAA members, and encourages involvement in issues related to education. (TRIFOLD ATTACHED).

CHARGE:

- To identify sources of sustainable funding for the support of education initiatives such as an Educational Outreach Center (and other forms of support for educational outreach), mentoring programs, anthropologist-in-residence programs, and other activities endorsed by the AEC.

ACTION:

AEC voted to initiate an exploratory phase for a pilot program of an Anthropologist-in-Residence within the institutions that the committee represents. Committee members will seek out opportunities to align Departments of Anthropology, Colleges of Education, and local school districts and will report of their progress at the annual meetings in 2006.