



Washington DC Summit Extraordinary Success

Washington, DC (**May 14, 2018**). The Society of American Indian Dentists - 2018 Washington DC Inaugural Spring Summit can be officially recorded as an extraordinary success. The Capital Hill event, marks the launch of *Pathways to Platforms for Oral Health Progress*, an agenda of alliances set forth by Dr. Winifred J. Booker, the 6th President of the Society of American Indian Dentists (SAID).

The May 10th and 11th Summit was held at the historic American Dental Association House. From the impressive list of presenters, to the *Pathways to Platforms for Oral Health Progress* keepsake placemats, to the robust presentation by Oklahoma Senator, Anastasia Pittman, the outcome is one of triumph. "Politically Correct Navigating & Negotiating," the nucleus of the Senator's invaluable discussion is now an improved skill set for all in attendance.

Dr. Booker stated, "The SAID is indeed fortunate to have the Summit's Inaugural Presentation given by this keen and compassionate stateswoman, and Vice Chair of The National Caucus of Native American Legislators (NCNAL). Senator Anastasia A. Pittman is a natural galvanizer making the event all the more productive and special. The action items proposed will undoubtedly support measures to help advance the *Pathways to Platforms for Oral Health Progress* agenda."

The event was flawlessly moderated by Mr. E. Keith Colston, Administrative Director for the Maryland Commission on Indian Affairs. Colston opened the meeting with the introduction of Dr. George Blue Spruce, Founder & President Emeritus of the SAID. The videotaped prayer by Dr. Blue Spruce in the Tewa dialect of his Pueblo Ohkay-Owingeh tribe set the tone. Other past presidents on the agenda included Dr. Ruth Bol, Dr. Drew Preston and Dr. David Smith.

Executive Director of the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI), Ms. Jacqueline Pata offered remarks on behalf of their organization. The desire to improve health care for AI/AN communities is clearly the common thread between the NCAI and the SAID.

Ms. Denise Desiderio of Akin Gump, LLP, was excellent in her delivery of, "Strategies for Engagement." Key points made by Desiderio can help to codify next steps the SAID will consider to keep moving the oral health progress needle.

Dr. Jane Grover, American Dental Association, Dr. Ivan Lugo, Hispanic Dental Association and Dr. Leslie E. Grant, National Dental Association, and The Children's Oral Health Institute were in attendance. Each spoke about their organizations and shared important insights throughout the Summit.

The meeting was closed with remarks by Student Dr. Jacob Collins. Collins, a student member of the SAID and rising sophomore at the University of Michigan, School of Dentistry, thanked everyone for attending the Inaugural Spring Summit. He expressed gratitude for the wealth of information shared by all of the outstanding presenters and guests.

For more information about The Society of American Indian Dentists Inaugural Spring Summit and the 28th Annual Conference visit www.thesaidonline.org.