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## **NATIONAL NABI TOURNAMENT HEADING SOUTH**

*128-Team Tournament will be moving to Maricopa and the Ak-Chin Indian Community*

**Maricopa, Ariz. –** The **14<sup>th</sup> Annual Native American Basketball Invitational (NABI)**, presented by the Ak-Chin Indian Community, Nike N7 and Seminole Tribe of Florida, will be leaving Phoenix and moving south to the Ak-Chin Indian Community and the town of Maricopa, Ariz.

“We have had a successful run in the City of Phoenix, but now, after 14 years, it makes sense to move the tournament where our biggest support comes from, the Ak-Chin Indian Community,” says GinaMarie Scarpa, NABI Foundation Co-founder & CEO. “The Community has been our largest supporter since our inception in 2003. To bring the economic impact to the area is something that is important to us. Also, to have all NABI gyms within close proximity adds to the safety measures of the teams not having to travel miles to get to gyms all over the Phoenix metro area. A great added bonus, the athletes can spend their off time at the Ak-Chin Ultra Star Multi-tainment Center. The Center has movies, bowling, laser tag and plenty of places for the athletes to eat and enjoy NABI week.”

**From June 26<sup>th</sup> through July 2nd**, more than 1,200 Native high school age athletes, representing teams from across the US and Canada, will compete in the largest all Native high school basketball tournament in the world.

“The Ak-Chin Indian Community has been a proud supporter of the NABI tournament since its founding in 2003,” said Robert Miguel, chairman of the Ak-Chin Indian Community. “We are thrilled that the teams will be playing this year in Maricopa and look forward to showing off all our Community has to offer.”

NABI was founded by Mark West, vice president of player programs for the Phoenix Suns, and GinaMarie Scarpa, former executive director of the AC Green Youth Foundation, named for the NBA “Iron Man” AC Green.

This summer’s tournament will feature more than 300 games, played over five days and will include a College and Career Fair, “Team Meet & Greet” Party and Educational Seminars. **The NABI Gold Division Championship** games will continue to be played at Talking Stick Resort Arena in downtown

Phoenix, the home of the Phoenix Suns and Phoenix Mercury. This year the Championship games will be played on Saturday, July 2.

For more information about the NABI Invitational, game schedules and gym locations log on to the NABI official website [www.nabifoundation.org](http://www.nabifoundation.org) or contact [info@nabifoundation.org](mailto:info@nabifoundation.org)

Supporting sponsors of NABI include: Talking Stick Resort Arena, Phoenix Suns, Phoenix Mercury, JP Business Solutions and BEARD.

### **About NABI Foundation**

The NABI Foundation is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization created to inspire Native American athletes to use sports as a tool to secure higher educational opportunities. Since its inception, NABI has served over ten thousand youth through programs such as NABI Basketball Invitational, NABI Baseball & Softball Invitational and the NABI Physical Education Program/YPEP. For more information, visit [www.NABIFoundation.org](http://www.NABIFoundation.org)  
NABI Foundation, Tax ID# 43-1967299

### **About Ak-Chin Indian Community**

The Ak-Chin Indian Community is nestled into the Santa Cruz Valley of Southern Arizona. The Community lies 35 miles south of Phoenix in the northwestern part of Pinal County. Ak-Chin is an O'odham word translated to mean "mouth of the wash" or "place where the wash loses itself in the sand or ground." Ak-Chin has an enrollment of more than 1,022 tribal members and a land base of just over 22,000 acres. The Ak-Chin Indian Community has a variety of business enterprises including Harrah's Ak-Chin, Ak-Chin Southern Dunes Golf Club, Vekol Market, UltraStar Multi-tainment Center and Santa Cruz Commerce Center. For more information, visit [www.ak-chin.nsn.us/](http://www.ak-chin.nsn.us/).