

June 8, 2009

Fax

Washington, DC – Rep. Ben Ray Luján has been named an ex-officio member of the Institute of American Indian Arts (IAIA) Board of Trustees. The IAIA is located in Santa Fe and aims to empower creativity and leadership in Native arts and cultures through higher education, lifelong learning and outreach. Rep. Luján replaces Congressman Dale E. Kildee of Michigan on the board.

“I would like to express my gratitude for my appointment as an ex-officio member of the Institute of American Indian Arts board of trustees,” said Rep. Luján. “To be able to follow Representative Kildee in service to IAIA is an honor and the leadership he exhibited during his tenure on the board is a legacy I will work hard to continue.”

The Institute of American Indian Arts (IAIA), also known as the Institute of American Indian and Alaska Native Culture and Arts Development, was Congressionally chartered in 1986. It was originally funded by the Bureau of Indian Affairs and opened in October of 1962 on the campus of the Indian School in Santa Fe, NM. The Institute offers four-year degrees in Studio Arts, Visual Communication, Creative Writing and Museum Studies. It is located in one of the most diverse concentrations of Native peoples in North America, in the heart one of the nation’s oldest multi-cultural communities and in one of the largest art markets in the country.

By serving Native students from across the country, the IAIA allows for a unique cultural

exchange within the student learning environment. In any given year, there may be up to 112 different tribes represented within the student body. The Institute also participates in outreach programs to the 19 New Mexico Pueblos. Because of their close proximity to the campus, students experience the rich cultures and traditions of the Pueblos first-hand.

For more information about the Institute of American Indian Arts, visit <http://www.iaia.edu/index.php>