

# AMERICAN INDIAN CULTURAL CENTER & MUSEUM

A project of the Native American Cultural & Educational Authority

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact: Shoshana Wasserman

Phone: (405) 239.5503

Email: [shoshanaw@aiccm.org](mailto:shoshanaw@aiccm.org)

## **NACEA Announces Leadership Team to Accelerate Completion of The American Indian Cultural Center and Museum**

OKLAHOMA CITY, OK (November 23, 2011) – In a move to accelerate opening of The American Indian Cultural Center and Museum, the Native American Cultural & Educational Authority (NACEA) has named Blake Wade as its Executive Director and Gena Timberman as Director of The American Indian Cultural Center and Museum. Wade will be the chief executive officer of the NACEA. Timberman has served as NACEA Executive Director, and now will lead exhibit and program development for The American Indian Cultural Center and Museum, along with tribal relations, communications and cultural tourism.

The NACEA is the state agency charged with building The American Indian Cultural Center and Museum at the intersection of I-35 and I-40 along the Oklahoma River in Oklahoma City, which has now passed the halfway point of construction. Bill Anoatubby, NACEA Chairman, says, “It is essential that exhibit and programming content for The American Indian Cultural Center and Museum be advanced to keep pace with construction, which requires the full-time focus of a leader solely dedicated to this task. We are fortunate that the best person for this job was already on our staff, and we are most appreciative of Timberman’s willingness to assume this role.”

Anoatubby also says, “Blake Wade is uniquely qualified to serve as NACEA Executive Director because of his experience leading Oklahoma’s Centennial Commemoration and also his service as Executive Director of the Oklahoma Historical Society. His willingness to assume this important position is a vote of confidence for The American Indian Cultural Center and Museum.” Anoatubby continued, “We have assembled a truly extraordinary team to lead us to completion and opening of The American Indian Cultural Center and Museum.”

Wade served as Director of the Oklahoma Capitol Complex and Centennial Commemoration Commission where he organized and led Oklahoma’s Centennial Commemoration, which included funding and completion of the State Capitol Dome. He previously served as Executive Director of the Oklahoma Historical Society. Blake Wade says, “I look forward to leading the Native American Cultural and Educational Authority. The American Indian Cultural Center and Museum is a project long overdue, and I’m committed to doing everything I can to get this project open for the State of Oklahoma.”

Timberman adds, “To successfully open as a world class tourism destination, we must immediately advance development of exhibit content and programming for The American Indian Cultural Center and Museum, which has long been my passion. I am thrilled to assume this responsibility and look forward to working closely with Blake Wade to make The American Indian Cultural Center and Museum a reality for all Oklahomans and for worldwide visitors.”