



**SHERRY RUPERT**

*President*

*American Indian Alaska Native Tourism Association*

Sherry is the Executive Director of the State of Nevada Indian Commission, appointed by Governor Kenny Guinn September of 2005. On October 10, 2013, Sherry was sworn in by Governor Brian Sandoval as the first American Indian woman to be appointed a member of his cabinet.

Mrs. Rupert is a graduate of the University of Nevada, Reno with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration.

Sherry is the Chairwoman of Nevada's Indian Territory, a marketing arm of the Nevada Commission on Tourism, and was awarded the 2007 and 2008 Excellence in Tourism Award as well as the 2011 Statewide Excellence in Tourism Award from the Nevada Commission on Tourism for her success in promoting and advancing tourism in Indian Country. As the Chairwoman, she has been the lead on Indian Country tourism projects that include development of the first ever permanent American Indian exhibit at the Reno-Tahoe International Airport, the first ever photo library of Nevada's Indian Country, boasting over 20,000 photos; created the Nevada Tribal Tourism Conference, now in its eighth year; conceptualized and created the first self-guided walking tour in the state to use cell phone technology at the Stewart Indian School; and is the lead on preservation, development and the transformation of the historic school into what is to be the Stewart Indian School Living Legacy.

Mrs. Rupert was elected President of the Board of Directors for the American Indian Alaska Native Tourism Association (AIANTA), January 2014. The American Indian Alaska Native Tourism Association is a 501(c)(3) national nonprofit association incorporated in 2002 to advance Indian Country tourism. In her capacity as AIANTA President, Mrs. Rupert has been appointed to the prestigious U.S. Department of Commerce Travel and Tourism Advisory Board (US TTAB). The Board, established in 2003, serves as the advisory body to the Secretary of Commerce and the White House on matters relating to the travel and tourism industry in the United States.

Sherry is an American Indian of Paiute and Washoe heritage. She is also a proud Native Nevadan, born in Carson City and raised on the Washoe Reservation in Gardnerville, Nevada.