

Native America Reading

NEA-New Mexico proudly introduces its 2012 NEA-NM Read Across America Chairperson, Harlan McKosato. Harlan is the host of his five-day-a-week national call-in show or "electronic talking circle", called Native America Talking. The show airs on fifty-two public and tribal stations across the United States and Canada covering popular topics such as health care, education, natural resources, and the "Book of the Month" with over 500,000 listeners each week.

McKosato traces his tribal roots to the Sac and Fox/Ioway nations in Oklahoma. He has hosted the show since 1997, writes a column for the Santa Fe New Mexican, and has been an adjunct professor of journalism at the Institute of American Indian Arts. In 2002, he was appointed Chair of the Albuquerque Mayor's Commission on Indian Affairs. In 2003, he won the Crosswinds Weekly readers' choice award for "Best Radio Personality in New Mexico. He was honored as the Distinguished Alumnus by the University of Oklahoma's Gaylord College of Journalism in 2005 and, in 2003 anchored the McKosato family on three episodes of TV's The Family Feud.

In his October 2, 2011 column for the New Mexican, he writes about his being asked to

spearhead this year's NEA-NM Read Across America. He writes, "... when I thought about my own upbringing, reading and literacy have been the foundation to all the academic and professional successes that I've been fortunate enough to enjoy

over the years. The joy of reading has been passed on from me to my fourth-grade son. It is quite a thrill to hear him laughing out loud reading Calvin and Hobbes..."

He concludes that column by saying, "...So, let's get our children away from those video games for a while. Let's get them off the Internet long enough to stick a book in their hands, have them open it up and read. I really do believe that a reader today is a leader tomorrow."

Harlan and his son, Nekon, are featured in this year's poster (INSIDE this ISSUE) with the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center as the background. You can listen to

Harlan airing live every weekday at 11 am on KUNM 89.9 in Albuquerque and you can see him on our NEA-NM Read Across America video at www.nea-nm.org.

You can also visit our website and the NEA link for ideas on how you can celebrate March 2nd and EVERY DAY as NEA-NM Read Across America Day. *

