



Today, October 18<sup>th</sup>, I addressed Professor Paul DeBole's talented and insightful class of American Government students at Lasell University. I was grateful for the chance to share my experiences including the unique statutory responsibilities as Chairman and the important policy objectives in the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act's mission. Professor DeBole's discussion on Indian gaming was particularly timely, given it was 34 years ago this week when the IGRA became law.

Our discussion covered a wide range of topics related to Indian gaming and the federal-tribal relationship. In addition to discussing Indian gaming's regulatory framework, we discussed a regulator's role and the appropriate limits of his or her responsibilities given the weight of statutory direction. A healthy relationship with industry necessitates regulators carry out goals and policies as law makers have articulated.

Class dialogue touched on emerging issues from a gaming regulator's perspective, like attention to critical event response - growing in importance given long-standing statutory expectations. We also discussed the central role a gaming facility can play in a community, and how preparedness provides a path forward to mitigate both an operation's risk and to protect industry-wide reputation.

I was impressed with the class's attention to what makes parts of Indian Country unique such as tribal relationships with colonial governments and how each tribe's history means a "one size fits all" public policy solution will not always be the best approach to achieve a fair federal Indian policy.

For the next generation of regulatory policy makers, higher education opportunities are a valuable tool for advancing public objectives in important industries like Indian gaming. I saw that today in the students' desires to prepare, to seek out diverse professional experiences, and to maintain their core values.

Thank you again Professor DeBole and your American Government students at Lasell University.

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Visit [www.NIGC.gov](http://www.NIGC.gov) to learn more about the NIGC 3 For 35 Project— a year-long project emphasizing the importance of conversations among the tribal gaming regulatory community about workforce preparedness.

