



Phillip and Charlotte Titla pose with their daughter Mary Kim, right.

NIEA honors Apache Tribe couple as parents of year

Phillip and Charlotte Titla, members of the San Carlos Apache Tribe in Arizona, were named Indian Parents of the Year at the recent National Indian Education Association Convention in Anchorage.

The 21st Annual NIEA Conference, held earlier this month, drew nearly 1,700 people.

The Titlas recently graduated from Grand Canyon College, along with one of their sons. They have five children, and four of the five have college degrees. The fifth child is expected to earn a degree in two years.

Both Phillip and Charlotte Titla came from very poor families, and

their parents were alcoholics. They were forced to grow up on their own and help raise their brothers and sisters.

Today, the Titlas are active in their community. Phillip has served as a Little League coach. He's acted as a storyteller for cultural activities at school, and he has worked as a teacher and counselor in the public school and an advisor to a high school Apache Club.

Charlotte has served as a community health representative and a member of the tribal council. They are both active church members, and they participate in their tribal ceremonials.