

General Session Speakers



Fredericka Joseph

Fredericka Joseph is an enrolled member of the Kaw Nation of Oklahoma. Her family belongs to the Night Clan and her Indian name is Evening Star. She also has Cherokee lineage from her mother's side. Freddie has been a Federal employee for over 29 years working at the Department of the Army, Department of Agriculture, Department of the Interior, Environmental Protection Agency, and currently at the Department of the Interior Headquarters in Washington, DC. She has served in a variety of positions but her current role is her true passion, serving as a Youth Coordinator helping native youth to locate employment during the summer and all year round. She has a degree in Human Services, and is a Lifetime and Founding Board Member of SAIGE. She has served as the Chair of the SAIGE Board of Directors since January of 2014.

Fredericka has served as a Special Emphasis Program Manager both within a program component and at the National level. She has also performed as an EEO Counselor, Mediator, Team Leader, Trainer, Facilitator, and other assorted duties. Fredericka has received several

Meritorious Service Awards over her career along with numerous Certificates of Appreciation and was awarded an Army coin for her diligent work with the Army in the performance of her duties as the Acting Family Advocacy Program Manager. Fredericka is passionate about her work and loves what she does. Fredericka is proud that she grew up as a "BIA Brat" living on 5 different Indian Reservations and attending Bureau funded schools.

JoAnn Brant

At the US Environmental Protection Agency JoAnn works in the Office of Human Resources under the Human Capital Planning Division in recruitment and outreach. She is the Presidential Management Fellows Coordinator for the agency. She works with students for placement in internships and volunteer positions. In June 2014, JoAnn received the Suzanne E. Olive Award for Exemplary Leadership in National EEO-Non-Managerial for her efforts in creating innovative approaches, building constructive relationships, and successfully managing employment outreach. She has also received the Bronze Medal for Commendable Service for exemplary performance in support of EPA's outreach to the American Indian and Alaska Native community. As part of her outreach efforts to Native American students JoAnn coordinates the Youth Program for the Society of American Indian Government Employees (SAIGE) annual training conference. The SAIGE Youth Program encourages Native American youth to realize their potential to provide leadership in their community, and ultimately, to seek careers in the government. JoAnn received her Bachelor of Science degree in Occupational Therapy from University of Buffalo. She owned her own business for seven years which provided the Native American health clinics and hospitals with medical supplies and equipment. She is an enrolled member of the Oneida Thames Indian Nation from the Bear Clan.





Don Cōqayohōmuwōk Chapman

Don Cōqayohōmuwōk Chapman serves as Senior Vice President of Kikiktagruk Inupiat Corp and President of Midnight Sun Technologies. Since his departure from the 1st Obama Administration as Sr. Policy Advisor on Native American Affairs at the US Dept. of Commerce, Chapman has served under contract to the US Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution/Udall Foundation as the tribal liaison and coordinator for the White House National Ocean Council. Don sits on multiple boards including the Battelle Memorial Institute, Duke University Environmental Leadership, the National Maritime Law Enforcement Academy, and Phoenix Multisport. He is a member of the Mohegan Tribe of Connecticut and a musician/performer sharing the stage with America, Firefall, Pure Prairie League, Poco, and many other Native & popular artists.

Anthony Rodman

Anthony “Morgan” Rodman serves as a first Executive Director of the White House Council on Native American Affairs. Morgan leads the development of a wide range of inter-agency initiatives to promote and sustain prosperous and resilient tribal communities in accordance with Executive Order 13647. Prior, he worked over two years with the Land Buy-Back Program for Tribal Nations as Senior Advisor-Tribal Relations. As Senior Advisor, Morgan worked directly with tribal governments across Indian Country on the program’s implementation, frequently traveling to tribal nations to work in-person with tribal leaders, staff, and landowners. Prior to his work with the Buy-Back program, he was with the Office of the Special Trustee for American Indians, where he supported implementation of the Cobell Settlement and the settlement of \$1 billion in tribal trust litigation between the federal government and tribes. Morgan received his Bachelor of Arts in English Literature from Harvard University and his Juris Doctor from the University of Arizona - College of Law, where he also received his certificate in Indigenous Peoples Law and Policy. He is a citizen of the Cherokee Nation and Osage Nation in Oklahoma.



William Bear Shield

Rosebud Sioux Tribal Councilman William Bear Shield began his public service, in an official capacity, to the membership of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe when he was elected as a council representative in 1991. Bear Shield went on to serve several terms. After a hiatus, Bear Shield was again chosen to serve the Rosebud Sioux Tribe as a council representative in 2011. It was during this term that he realized his passion for health care and the dire state of health care available to residents of the Rosebud Reservation. It was in recognition of this burgeoning passion that his colleagues nominated him to serve on the Rosebud Sioux Tribe Health Board, and he was soon after elected Chairman of the Board. Councilman Bear Shield went on to fiercely advocate for improved quality of health care for Native Americans. His advocacy efforts expanded past his involvement on the local health board, and he soon became active in the Great Plains Tribal Chairman Health Board and the United Tribal Health Board. Bear Shield also

exercises his advocacy and diplomacy skills as a member of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Secretary’s Tribal Advisory Committee and the IHS Direct Service Tribes Advisory Committee. Following the shutdown (placement on diversion



status) of Emergency Services at the Rosebud Hospital on December 5, 2015, Bear Shield took action and lead efforts to ensure the reopening of the Rosebud Service Unit Emergency Room. Bear Shield provided testimony at a Senate Committee Indian Affairs Oversight Hearings. The Rosebud Service Unit Emergency Room reopened on July 15, 2016. Mr. Bear Shield looks forward to continuing to collaborate with tribal leaders, federal agency personnel, and Congress to ensure that Native American Health Care remains a priority.



Patricia Michaels

Patricia Michaels is a world-renowned Fashion and Textile designer from the beautiful Taos Pueblo. She was runner-up in Season 11 of Project Runway and has received many wonderful awards including the Arts & Design Award from the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian. She was recently a keynote speaker at the Bill & Melinda Gates Scholar Foundation amongst many other accolades. She is regularly invited to lecture at colleges, events, and shows for her work as a Native CEO of her company, PM Waterlilly.

Her exciting life in the industry of fashion takes her around the world to places like New Zealand, Africa, Canada, Europe and at least twice a year to New York, NY for fashion week, and more. Most recently Patricia was one of ten selected to represent the USA at the "World Fashion Week, Paris 2017 Expo" at the Louvre Museum in the Tuileries Gardens. Her new home collection will be launched Aug. 2017 with, "Akin Homes". She resides in Taos Pueblo with her cottage industry to help keep her Pueblo culture alive and to encourage the youth. This is and has always been her biggest driving force alongside her two beautiful children Gabriel and Margeaux and the rest of her family.

Eric Descheenie

Eric graduated in 2003 from Arizona State University with a bachelor's degree in Sociology, and a minor in Religious Studies. Unlike many, he speaks of his minor as it's through mind numbing study in Religious Studies scholarship is where he gained knowledge that shapes much of his advocacy and leadership today. Almost immediately upon graduation, Eric's professional path began in Arizona Governor Napolitano's administration where he held posts in the Governor's Office of Equal Opportunity and Arizona Department of Housing where he served as Tribal Liaison to the 22 tribes of Arizona.

Thereafter, Eric accepted appointment with the Navajo Nation and transitioned to Navajo land, located in northeastern Arizona. As an advocate for rural life and Indian Country, Eric held key appointments with top Navajo Nation legislative and executive offices, local governance, Navajo County administration, and grassroots non-profits. While in the Navajo Nation Office of the President and Vice President, with the blessing of Navajo and Ute grassroots leadership, Eric and the Hopi Tribe Vice Chairman launched the creation of the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition July 2015. The Coalition consists of five tribes, including the Hopi Tribe, Navajo Nation, Uintah and Ouray Ute Tribe, Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, and Pueblo of Zuni. In December 2016, with wide-spread support, the Coalition achieved a U.S. Presidential Proclamation by President Obama establishing a 1.3 million acre Bears Ears National Monument located in southeastern Utah. Presently, Eric serves in the Arizona House of Representatives, District 7, which encompasses the largest legislative district in Arizona stretching from the Grand Canyon to Four Corners and from Winslow, Arizona to the beautiful lands of San Carlos Apache. Eric is Navajo from Chinle, Arizona. He is Ma'ii deeshgiizhini (Coyote Pass People Clan), born for Kiyaa'aanii (Towering House Clan). His grandfathers are Bit'ahnii (Folded Arms People Clan) and his paternal grandfathers are Honágháahnii (One Who Walks Around Clan). During what spare time he has, he enjoys long distance running, advocating for indigenous traditional knowledge, and serving on community based boards. Presently, Eric sits on the Arizona Town Hall Board of Directors.





Maria Dadgar

Maria Dadgar is an enrolled member of the Piscataway Tribe of Accokeek, Maryland. Maria has worked in the fields of Higher Education, Non-Profit Executive Management and tribal economic development for more than 18 years. Throughout her career, Maria has been involved in advocating for public policies and legislation on behalf of tribal nations regarding economic development, Health Policy and American Indian Education. Currently, Maria holds the position as Executive Director of the Inter Tribal Council of Arizona which serves 21 member tribal nations by leveraging state and federal resources on their behalf.

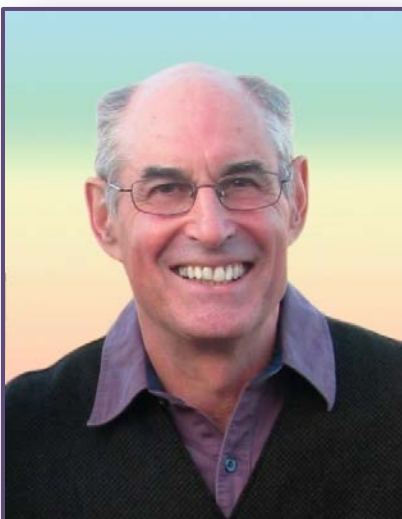
Chris James

Chris James has served as the President and Chief Executive Officer of the National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development since January of 2017. Prior to joining the Center, Chris was an Associate Administrator at the Small Business Administration, worked in Native American Affairs at the Department of the Treasury, and managed the Sequoyah Fund which is an enterprise of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians. Mr. James is originally from Cherokee, North Carolina, home of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians and is of Cherokee descent. From 2011 to 2016, Chris served as Associate Administrator at the Small Business Administration where he was a Senior Executive Service appointee of President Barack Obama overseeing the Office of Field Operations, Office of Intergovernmental Affairs, and the Office of Native American Affairs. His extensive portfolio includes Native American outreach, program management, and tribal consultation.



Stephen Pevar

Stephen Pevar is a graduate of Princeton University (1968) and the University of Virginia School of Law (1971). From 1971 to 1974, Mr. Pevar was a Legal Aid attorney on the Rosebud Sioux Indian Reservation. For the past 40 years, Mr. Pevar has been on the national Legal Staff of the American Civil Liberties Union. Mr. Pevar has litigated some 200 federal cases involving civil rights in eight different federal district courts, three US Courts of Appeals, and one case in the US Supreme Court. His areas of specialty include Indian and tribal rights, prisoners' rights, and free speech of public employees. One of Mr. Pevar's current cases challenges practices of state welfare officials in South Dakota that violate the Indian Child Welfare Act. In addition to his work with the ACLU, Mr. Pevar is the author of "The Rights of Indians and Tribes" (Oxford University Press 2012). Mr. Pevar also teaches American Indian Law as an Adjunct Professor at New York University Law School, and has lectured extensively on issues relating to tribal rights and tribal sovereignty.



Michael Murray

Michael Murray is the Deputy Director of the Office of Diversity and Inclusion at the Office of Personnel Management. In this role, Michael serves as the Senior Advisor to the Director, driving highly successful government-wide workforce initiatives with various diverse communities. Previously, Michael was responsible for steering and designing the government-wide policies and programs of 56 federal agencies throughout the country to increase federal employment of individuals with disabilities. By fostering teamwork and collaboration, Michael led the federal government to successfully exceed historic records for the employment of people with disabilities. Michael was the Chief Operating Officer for the American Association of People with Disabilities, supporting private sector employers in creating innovative and high performing teams. On the state level, Michael advocated for the rights of people with disabilities as the Executive Director of the North Carolina Disability Action Network. His vision for the organization and strength as a grassroots organizer amplified the voice of people with disabilities at the North Carolina General Assembly, producing positive systematic change. Michael also led efforts at Disability Rights North Carolina, a local center for independent living; and as vice-chair of the statewide Independent Living Council. At the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, Michael and his colleagues established "Beyond Academics," now our nation's largest post-secondary education program for people with intellectual disabilities. Michael is fluent in American Sign Language and holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Special Education.



Dan King

Mr. King left the Oneida reservation in 1954, as a result of the relocation era. He moved to Chicago, Illinois with his two older sisters, an older brother and a younger brother. Life in Chicago was difficult and they learned to accept the difficulties. By 1958, his mother was told by the state to quit her good paying job and go on Aid to Dependent Children or risk the state taking us away from her. After a good effort and court hearings, she lost and it was downhill from there. The family ended up in an area on the north side of Chicago called Lakeview and Uptown, which was a ghetto area in 1958. Through the years, they learned how to survive in those conditions. Mr. King got involved in neighborhood gangs and learned the street life. Mr. King got involved with the American Indian Center in Chicago, the first one in the country.

During the 60s, the school he attended was integrated into a high school out of the area. There, he had to fight just about every day. Very few Indians went to high school. Mr. King had three months to graduate but had to make a choice; either attend or possibly get killed in the process. He dropped out. During his school years, he experienced some teachers were prejudiced and made sure you didn't feel included.

In 1968, Mr. King got involved with the New Indian Movement and went to Alcatraz. Mr. King got involved with the American Indian Movement. He joined the Chicago Police Department. He went into the military service, got out, and drifted until he got a job at IBM, working there until 1993 when they started downsizing as they called it. Now Mr. King works for the Oneida Nation and has been back home for the last 23 years. Mr. King was a co-founder of the Native American Center of Southeast Minnesota, co-founder of the Southeast Minnesota Vietnam Veterans, President of the Wisconsin Indian Veterans Association (Oneida Chapter), and co-chair of the National Congress of American Indians veterans committee.