



March 21, 2013

Regarding the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual SAIGE National Training Program, "Guiding Our Destiny with Heritage and Traditions"

To SAIGE Members and Training Program Participants:

The Society of American Indian Government Employees (SAIGE) recognizes that our Federal families are dealing with financial uncertainty under the current sequestration. We realize many are or will be affected through restricted travel and training attendance. Some agencies are also considering furloughs, or already implementing them to defray the cost of business.

We at SAIGE understand these are challenging times for federal, state and tribal government employees and we are working to ensure this year's National Training Program has mission essential information to enhance your working knowledge and further your professional career development. We have extended our early bird and online registration dates to allow everyone ample opportunity to register at a low cost. Our registration website connection should go live within the next week allowing you to register for the Training Program. We will provide you with that link when it is operational.

The Northern Quest Hotel (owned by the Kalispel Tribe) is now taking sleeping room reservations, and since this is a smaller hotel than we normally use, we encourage you to make those reservations early. The lodging per diem rate for this area is only \$87 per night. There is a free hotel shuttle from the airport, which is about two miles away. You may make your reservation online directly in SAIGE's block of rooms by going to:

<http://booking.ihotelier.com/istay/istay.jsp?groupID=976381&hotelID=77064>

Our Group Code is 5525. You may also call the hotel at: 877/871-6772 to make your reservation if you prefer. Be sure to mention the SAIGE Training Program. It is IMPORTANT that you make your reservation prior to May 10 to ensure you get the government rate.

We encourage our members to apply for the SAIGE Annual Training Program Attendance Scholarship that pays for registration, travel to and from the training program location, and lodging for a recipient. This scholarship closes on April 5<sup>th</sup>. Eligibility criteria can be found on our website at [www.saige.org](http://www.saige.org) under "Member Resources/Scholarships."

Additional items to optimize your consideration and participation include:

- Early Bird Registration has been extended to May 3<sup>rd</sup>;
- Online Registration has been extended to May 22<sup>nd</sup>;
- Exhibit booth pricing is \$2,000 to May 3<sup>rd</sup>, on May 4<sup>th</sup> and beyond the price is \$2,500;
- Huge group discounts are in place this year only. If you have a group to register, please contact the SAIGE Treasurer, Jinny Shulenberg at 704/798-0860 or [virginia1215@hughes.net](mailto:virginia1215@hughes.net). Jinny can assist you with the group registration.
  - Groups of 8 to 20 people get \$25.00 off each registration.
  - Groups of 21 to 99 people get \$50.00 off each registration.

- Daily Rate will be \$200 per day in advance; \$225 per day if registering onsite
- Competitive advertising rates for the training program booklet are:
  - \$600/Full page Ad
  - \$450/Half page Ad
  - \$300/Quarter page Ad(deadline is coming up fast but has been extended to March 29<sup>th</sup>)
- Agency Pre-conference Forums are free of charge and will be held on the Monday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> at the beautiful Northern Quest Hotel.

An important aspect to our training is the letter we receive every year from the Office of Personal Management certifying that the SAIGE program is an appropriate expenditure of federal funds for the purpose of employee development and training. This letter is available on our website for download to assist you in obtaining approval to attend the SAIGE Training Program.

These are some of the ways we continue to work to address the budgetary concerns facing our members and partners and we are proud we will be able to offer another robust and expert-level training program. Please consider joining us for the 2013 National Training Program. You can access the draft agenda at [www.saige.org](http://www.saige.org). We thank you in advance for your time and consideration. We look forward to seeing you at the Northern Quest Hotel, Spokane, WA, June 3<sup>rd</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>. If you have questions or would like more information about the SAIGE Training Program, please contact me at [sjohnson08@fs.fed.us](mailto:sjohnson08@fs.fed.us) or Fredericka Joseph, Vice-Chair at [freddiejoseph51@yahoo.com](mailto:freddiejoseph51@yahoo.com).

Sincerely,



Susan Johnson  
SAIGE Chair