



Society of American Indian
Government Employees

The Talking Leaf

Issue #1

SAIGE Newsletter

November 2009



Danny Garceau, SAIGE Chairman
Photo Credit Jason Edwards

Boozhoo (Welcome) to the very first "Talking Leaf" SAIGE Newsletter.

It has been a dream for several years to publish a newsletter for our SAIGE membership, this month it has become a reality. Many things go on in our SAIGE community throughout the year and the "Talking Leaf" will be a tool to help keep our membership informed.

It is our intent to use the newsletter to help keep our members connected throughout the year to SAIGE business and SAIGE members.

I sent out a letter to the membership in the month of September summarizing our SAIGE board activities since the conference. As you could see we have not been idle. Since then our board has continued to be very busy. For starters, Georgia Madrid has taken the lead and gotten this first newsletter published. Vice Chair Lori Windle has spearheaded the effort to publish a Training Conference Planning SOP to help guide our yearly conference planning committee. Jason Edwards, our 2010 Planning Committee Chair, has put together a strong planning team for this year's conference and has already been holding planning meetings. Treasurer Shana Barehand and I attended the National Congress of American Indians Conference (NCAI) in October and re-introduced SAIGE to NCAI through subcommittee participation and staffing a SAIGE promotional booth. We made new friendships and strengthened old ones. More of Indian Country is now aware of SAIGE because of this participation with NCAI.

At the end of October several SAIGE Board members attended the AISES Conference in Portland and interacted with their membership. They had many visitors at the SAIGE booth on the exhibitor floor.

During the month of November board members will be speaking to organizations promoting SAIGE in participation with many Native American Heritage Month activities. Thank all of you out there who have used this month to promote SAIGE within your own organizations. Remember you can download the SAIGE brochure at our website, www.saige.org.

November is also election month for SAIGE. We have five board positions to fill so please don't forget to vote. Good luck to all of you who have accepted nomination and are willing to serve if elected. Joining the Board of Directors is a fulfilling way to contribute to our organization and make a difference.

As with our organization, the "Talking Leaf" is young and needs your help to grow. I ask that you help make the "Talking Leaf" the newsletter that you look forward to reading, so please provide us with information and suggestions.

Miigwech (Thank You!)
Danny Garceau, SAIGE Chairman

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2009 SAIGE Conference, "Many Nations, One Spirit"

From the opening cultural night featuring the Chumash dancers from Ventura County, to the closing Youth Track skit, the Sixth Annual SAIGE conference in San Diego, CA was a huge success.



Chumash Dancer - Photo Credit: Jason Edwards

The theme "Many Nations, One Spirit" reflected the diversity of individuals that came to the conference to increase and share their knowledge of issues unique to American Indians. Attendees included over 400 federal employees, representatives from Tribal Colleges and governments, and future American Indian leaders and students.

The conference offered three full days of workshops on Indian Country, EEO and Human Resources, Culture and Diversity, Personal and Professional Development, Health and Wellness, and the Environment. There were also agency forums and the opportunity to visit with exhibitors and American Indian vendors.

Speaker highlights included National Congress of American Indians Chairman Joe Garcia, who gave an



Joe Garcia, NCAI Chairman.
Photo Credit: Jason Edwards

inspirational talk on leadership in Indian country; Jim Warne whose talk dispelled many myths about American Indians; and Deborah Sanchez, Superior Court Judge, City of Los Angeles who gave a from the heart talk about her life in a working class neighborhood to becoming the first Native woman elected to the office of Superior Court Judge.

Carol Jorgensen, Director of the American Indian Environmental Program Office, spoke about her life growing up in an Alaskan village to becoming one of a few American Indian SES leaders. Carol recently passed away but her inspirational words remain. As one person commented, "She made me believe with hard work you can get somewhere in life and there are others in the world that will help when you least expect it."

For the first time, SAIGE featured a Veterans Track, which included talks by RADM Samuel J. Cox, USN on *Leading by Example* and workshops on the U.S. Army Wounded Warrior Program, Veteran Hiring Authorities and Navigating Your Career.

The conference is a great opportunity to network as well as learn about American Indian issues. As one attendee said in her evaluations, "This was the first SAIGE conference I've attended and I was pleasantly surprised and impressed by the quality and diversity of session topics and presenters."

Please join us June 14-18, 2009 at the Mohegan Sun for our 2010 conference. Please see flyer on page 4!



GEICO Reps Harry Collins and Daryl Glover at exhibit hall.
Photo credit: Jason Edwards



Youth Track - Students Learn About Federal Career Opportunities

SAIGE sponsored 25 students to attend the 2009 training conference. The students were from a variety of locations and backgrounds. They learned about opportunities within the government sector. Each student attended sessions that were of interest to their major and the youth track agenda. The focus was to develop contacts with a variety of Native government employees, learn about Native culture and meet students who shared similar concerns and obstacles and share ways to overcome these obstacles to meet their goals and achievements to advance in their careers.

Many of the students indicated that they did not know about Federal opportunities and it opened their eyes to think of the government sector as an 'employer of choice.' They learned how to apply for government jobs on USA Jobs and Resume building along with information on internships and financial aid. The motivational and leadership speakers allowed them to learn what can be accomplished with a strong desire to accomplish your personal goals. The students performed a skit that allowed them to work as a group, but most of all developing lasting relationships among the SAIGE Youth Track



Students. For More information on the SAIGE Youth Track, or to reach students listed here for employment opportunities, please contact JoAnn Brant at: Brant.Joann@epa.gov or at youthtrack@saige.org. Photo credit: Jason Edwards

Students Names	College	Major	Tribe
Valeria Atanacio	Chemeketa College	Health Science	The Confederated Tribe of Grand Ronde
Katie Avery	Institute if American Indian Arts	Art	Inpiag
Shermaine Begay	Dine College	Elementary Education	Navajo
Levi Besaw	Salish Kootenai College	Environmental Science	Assiniboine
Maurissa Bigjohn	College of Menominee Nation	Business Administration	Lac du Flambeau Chippewa/Menominee
Niabi Dann	University of Puget Sound	Political Science	Te-Moak Tribe of Western Shoshone
Carleton Gritts	Salish Kootenai College	Forestry	Cherokee
Moses Leavens	University of Great Falls	Chemistry / Biology	Rocky Boy Indian Reservation
Doug Littlehat	College of Menominee Nation	Business Administration	Navajo
Patrick Maracle	University of Minn at Duluth	Art History	Mohawk
Nadia Martinez	Adams State College	Linguistics & International Relations	Santo Domingo Pueblo
Bettina Mitchell	Navajo Technical College	Native Law	Navajo
Bryon Manycattle	Dine College	Social and Behavior Science	Navajo
Craig Meshigaud	Northern Michigan University	Media Production	Hannahville Wampanoag
Victoria Miranda	Howard University	Political Science	Mashpee Wampanoag Nation
Dacia Nunez	Loyola Marymount University	Communications	Chumash
Janessa Ramas	Western Nevada College	Business Management	Washoe Tribe of Oklahoma
Melanie Redeye	Cornell University	Applied Linguistics	Seneca
Glenna Riddle	Oklahoma State University	Psychology Counseling	Kiowa Tribe of Oklahoma
Jayson Sam	Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute	Land Management	Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe
Mylan Tootoosis	Institute of American Indian Arts College	Indigenous Liberal Studies	Plains Cree
Kendoleen Wallker	Arizona State University	Political Science	Navajo
Joseph Okakok	Ilisagvik College	Liberal Studies	Inupiaq

"Walking in Two Worlds: Bridging the Gap Between Native America & Government"

7th Annual SAIGE Training Conference

June 14 - 18, 2010

Mohegan Sun

Hotel & Casino, Uncasville, CT

Dozens of Workshops Designed to meet your training needs.
Topics to include:

Professional Development
Indian Country Issues
EEO & HR
Health & Wellness
Culture & Diversity
Natural Resources Issues

Plus:

Youth Track
and
Cultural Events



Beautiful Tribally Owned Resort
Spacious Rooms and Grounds

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Watch for updates at www.saige.org



GRANTHAM UNIVERSITY FOUR YEAR SCHOLARSHIP DUE BY DECEMBER 5, 2009

SAIGE is now accepting applications for a full 4-year scholarship to Grantham University. The full scholarship, which includes tuition and the cost of required textbooks and software, is worth approximately \$36,000, and may be used to earn an undergraduate or graduate degree at Grantham University. Deadline for applications is December 5, 2009 for the semester beginning in January, 2010.

In 2007, SAIGE member Jinny Shulenberger was awarded the first scholarship to Grantham. Jinny applied for the scholarship because she needed to obtain a degree in order to advance in her federal government career. It is her lifelong goal to become the first Native American manager at her facility. Currently, Jinny is pursuing a bachelor's degree in Business Administration. "With the flexibility of distance learning, I can work full-time and



Jinny Shulenberger. Photo Credit: Lori Windle

earn my degree," she said. "I can go home from work, put on my pajamas, and then do my classes."

Jinny has 22 years of service with the Department of Veterans Affairs in Salisbury, North Carolina. She is married with one daughter, and a 7 year old grandson. Her tribal affiliation is Cherokee/Creek from the mountains of North Carolina.

In addition to going back to school, Jinny works full-time, is a

caregiver for her 94 year old mother, and takes care of her own home with the help of her husband.

For those who are thinking about applying for the 4-year Grantham scholarship, Jinny offers these words of encouragement, "By all means do it - you will love it, and it is never too late to learn or get your degree."

SAIGE recognizes the value of a quality education and is committed to assisting members in reaching their goals. SAIGE will award a full four-year scholarship each year to one individual.

To qualify for this scholarship, the following criteria must be met:

- Be a member of SAIGE in good standing and demonstrate your participation with SAIGE.
- Eligible candidates must have a high school diploma or GED.
- Complete an essay on the topic "Why I Should be Awarded the SAIGE/Grantham Academic Scholarship." This essay should be no longer than two double-spaced pages. It should speak to your goals and your interest in a field of study within the career field of your choice.
- Submit three letters of recommendation.
- Have had a minimum grade point average of 3.0 in college/high school. Must maintain 3.0 GPA while attending Grantham.
- Submit a copy of all recorded grades, high school or college transcript.
- Mail one copy of application form and other documentation to the Chair of the SAIGE Academic Scholarship Committee.

To apply for the scholarship and to review the eligibility requirements, please visit: www.saige.org and click on Partners, then Grantham University.

In addition to the scholarship program, SAIGE members can take advantage of special tuition rate of \$250 per credit hour at Grantham, which includes a Textbook and Software Grant that covers the cost of required textbooks and software. For more information, visit: <http://www.grantham.edu/promo/saige.php>.

For nearly 60 years, Grantham University has been meeting the educational needs of working adult students. Their 100% online degree programs are flexible, portable and designed so you can fit education into your life instead of arranging your life around your education. To learn more about the University and to view a list of degree programs, visit: <http://www.grantham.edu>.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Calendar of Events

November 19, 2009

Denver Federal Executive Board/American Indian Program Council presents its American Indian Heritage Training Seminar in Denver, CO. Website: www.aipc.osmre.gov

November 18-21, 2009

Climate Change Workshop II – Native Peoples Native Homelands, Mystic Lake Casino Hotel, Prior Lake, MN. www.nativepeoplesnativehomelands.org

December 7-11, 2009

Native American Environmental & Cultural Resources Cross –Cultural Immersion Course, Seminole Tribe, Clewiston, FL. www.sad.usac.army.mil/NA/NA%20Training.htm

February 11-13, 2010

AISES (American Indian Science & Engineering Society) Leadership Conference in Albuquerque, NM. Website: www.aises.org.

March 26-29, 2010

AIHEC (American Indian Higher Education Consortium) Spring Student Conference in Phoenix, AZ. Website: www.aihec.org.

Announcements

College Horizons 2010 - Student Applications Available Now – DEADLINE FEBRUARY 1, 2010! College Horizons is excited to kick-off the fall recruitment season and invite current 10th and 11th grade American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian students to apply to the 2010 summer programs! College Horizons is a pre-college program where 90 students work with 60 college admissions officers, college counselors, essay specialists and other educators in a five day “crash course” on the college application process.

This summer, College Horizons will offer 3 programs and will be partnered and hosted by the:

- University of Hawai'i Hilo (Hilo, HI) - June 12-16;
- Lawrence University (Appleton, WI) - June 26-30; and
- University of Puget Sound (Tacoma, WA) - June 26-30. For more information: www.collegehorizons.org.

SAIGE accepting donations to fund the Carol Jorgensen Scholarship.

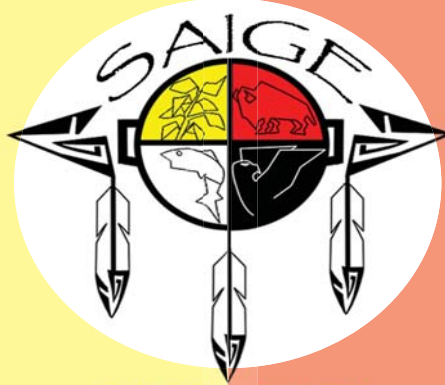


Carol was the Director of the American Indian Environmental Program Office of EPA. In honor of her life and work, SAIGE has started a scholarship in her name for students pursuing degrees in the Environmental Sciences and Natural Resources. Please send your tax-deductible donations of any amount to: SAIGE – Jorgensen Scholarship, P.O. Box 7715, Washington, DC 20044.

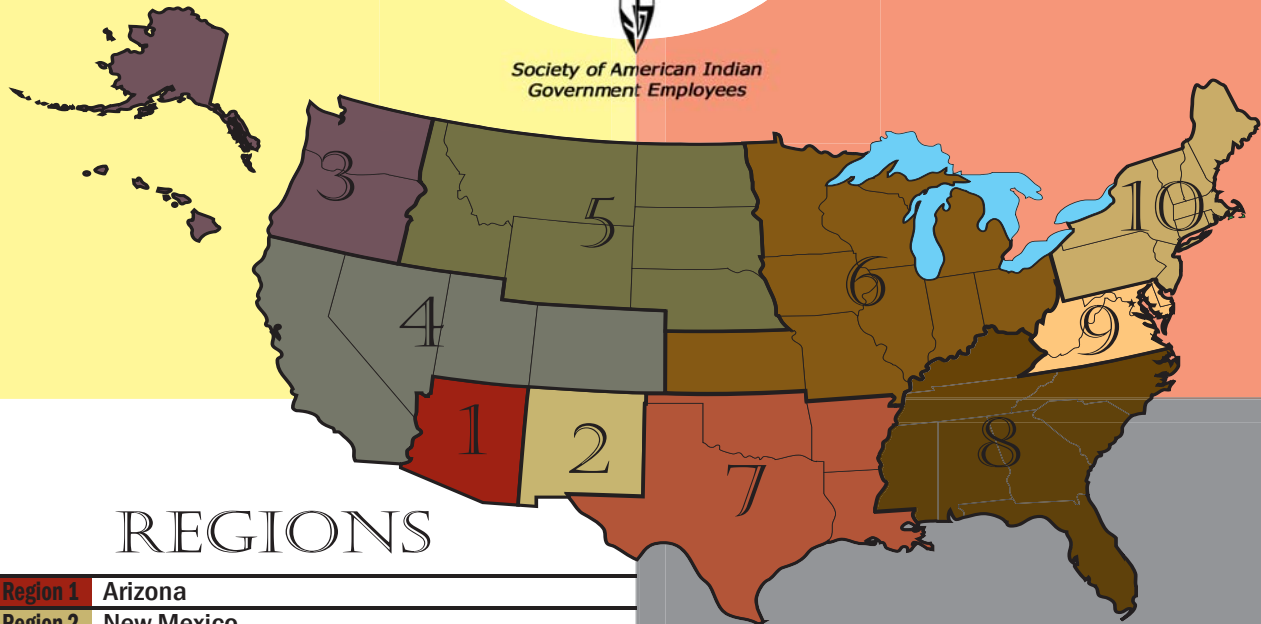


SAIGE MISSION

To promote the recruitment, retention, development and advancement of American Indian and Alaska Native government employees, and work to ensure their equal treatment under the law; to educate federal agencies in the history and obligations of the Federal Indian Trust Responsibility and to assist them in its implementation; to assist government agencies in the development and delivery of initiatives and programs which honor the unique Federal-Tribal relationship; and to provide a national forum for issues and topics affecting American Indian and Alaska Native government employees. For more information on SAIGE, please visit our website at www.saige.org.



Society of American Indian
Government Employees



REGIONS

Region 1	Arizona
Region 2	New Mexico
Region 3	Oregon, Washington, Alaska, Hawaii
Region 4	California, Nevada, Utah, Colorado
Region 5	Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska
Region 6	Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio
Region 7	Oklahoma, Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana
Region 8	Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Mississippi, Florida
Region 9	Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, Washington D.C.
Region 10	Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York, Maine, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts



THE TALKING LEAF NEWSLETTER

The *Talking Leaf* newsletter is a publication of SAIGE. The name Talking Leaf is derived from the Cherokee paper that Sequoyah started. We invite you to submit articles and provide suggestions and comments. Please send to Georgia Madrid at Georgia.madrid@noaa.gov

SAIGE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Contact board at: chair@saige.org

OFFICER POSITIONS

Chair: Danny Garceau (Lake Superior Chippewa ancestry)
danjeau@msn.com

Vice Chair: Lori Windle (White Earth Chippewa)

Secretary: Fredericka Joseph (Kaw Nation)

Treasurer: Shana Barehand (Mono)

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

Cliff Church (Confederated Salish & Kootenai)

Max Collier

Phil Hamel (Mohawk ancestry)

Jinny Shulenberger (Echota Cherokee of Alabama/Creek)

Brenda Takes Horse (Kenaitze)

Veronica Vasquez (Chumash)

Miguel "Luke" Jones (Pamunkey, Chickahominy, Cherokee ancestry)

Georgia Madrid (Taos Pueblo/Navajo)

Shawna Clay (Choctaw)

Duane Matt (Confederated Salish & Kootenai)



SAIGE Board members at 2009 National Conference. Pictured left to right: Luke Jones, Lori Windle, Fredericka Joseph, Shana Barehand, Veronica Vasquez, Danny Garceau, Georgia Madrid, Brenda Takes Horse, Shawna Clay and Phil Hamel.

Photo credit: Jason Edwards.

PLEASE JOIN SAIGE!

Membership is open to federal, tribal, state and municipal employees

Membership Fees:

Full Membership - \$25.00 a year

Student Membership - \$15.00 a year

Lifetime Membership - \$250.00 a year (one time fee)

Corporate Membership - \$1000 per year

www.saige.org for more information.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Society of American Indian Government Employees Membership Application

NAME: _____

Name of government department/agency/corporation in which employed. Include division if applicable.

(if you are a student, enter the name of the school below and place a check mark here _____)

Type of employment: (federal employees only)

Full-time _____ Part-time _____ Seasonal _____
Temporary _____ Student Intern _____ Contract _____

Mailing Address: (either work or home)

Phone numbers: (please indicate work, home or cell)

Email address: _____

Do you have American Indian or Alaska Native ancestry? Yes _____ No _____

Tribal or native community affiliation, if known:

Optional: Are you an enrolled member of that tribe or community? Yes _____ No _____

Include a copy of your tribal enrollment card or CDIB card if you would like your documentation filed.

Membership classification desired: (check one)

Full _____ Student _____ Lifetime _____ Corporate _____

Amount of membership fees enclosed: _____
(attach check or money order made out to SAIGE)

Signature: _____

Send this completed form along with payment to:

**SAIGE Membership Committee
Post Office Box 7715
Washington, D.C. 20044**