

Native American Heritage Month

2017

STANDING TOGETHER



Society of American Indian Government Employees



The Society of American Indian Government Employees 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 that honor the unique Federal-Tribal relationship;

And to provide a national forum for issues and topics affecting American Indian and Alaska Native government employees.

About the Artist:

Lavelle Mahle is a Hopi artist, painter, and Kachina carver, as well as an earring and gourd crafter. Lavelle was raised in Polacca and Keams Canyon, Arizona, and he started drawing in elementary school. In his early years, Lavelle used art to remember his culture and learned to respect his talents by recognizing what he could and could not draw. Lavelle attended Hopi Jr. and Sr. High School, graduating in 1994. Over the years, Lavelle won numerous awards for his art—including taking 1st place in painting, 1st place in diverse art, and 3rd place in wood carving at the Fifth Annual Hopi All Native Arts and Cultural Festival—and designed logos for various programs and entities. For Lavelle, art allows him to relax his mind, appreciate his culture, and remember his youth. When he is not painting, carving, or crafting, Lavelle spends time with his family and works at the Hopi Cultural Center in Human Resources and as a kitchen manager.