



Society of American Indian Government Employees (SAIGE) Annual Report for 2016

The Society of American Indian Government Employees (SAIGE) had a busy year thanks to the hard work of our Officers, Board of Directors, and volunteers who helped with the planning of our yearly national training program. Below is our list of Officers and Board of Directors:

SAIGE Board of Directors:

Fredericka Joseph – Chair	Kathleen Bergeron	Jay Spaan
Bryan Sappier – Vice Chair	Teresa Estoril	Brenda Takes Horse
Lori Windle – Secretary	Danny Garceau	Veronica Vasquez
Sue Morris – Treasurer	Phil Hamel	Herb Webb
	Duane Matt	

SAIGE Yearly Training Program:

SAIGE held its 13th Annual National Training Program (NTP) at the Hard Rock Hotel in Catoosa, Oklahoma. The theme for this year's NTP was: "Serving Our Nations." A few highlighted plenary speakers included: Karen Diver, Special Assistant to the President for Native Affairs, Khallilah Harris, Senior Advisor in the office of the Director for OPM, Wallace Coffey, former Chairman of the Comanche Nation, Cara Cowan Watts, Chief Executive Officer and majority owner of Tulsa Pier Drilling. We were fortunate to host tribal leaders, Bill John Baker, Cherokee, Geoffrey Standing Bear, Osage and John Floyd, Muscogee Creek. LaDonna Harris, stateswoman and advocate in civil rights was a luncheon speaker. We also saw a special presentation by Matika Wilbur, photographer. It was a very successful NTP thanks to efforts of Sue Morris and Jay Spaan, our 2016 Co-Chairs and the planning committee!

Annual SAIGE Achievement Awards:

Robin Hairston, Edwards Air Force Base, California, and Phil Hamel, Bureau of Prisons, Ray Brook, New York were our 2016 Award Winners. Lifetime Member Marcellus Proctor of NASA received a special "Spirit of SAIGE" Award for his personal support of the Youth Track

Warrior Society:

The SAIGE Warrior Society serves an important function within SAIGE. Currently there are 50 members made up of both veterans and currently serving military members representing all branches of service. The priority focused on planning the NTP Veterans Track and Military Meritorious Awards program. Mary Culley, Warrior Society member and Veterans Affairs employee served an instrumental role in the planning of the Veterans Track. The training provided a combination of presenters on veteran and military issues along with the awards program luncheon for the military meritorious award winners. The top 15 nominations were recognized along with the 2016 award winners: MSG James Dean Badwound South Dakota ARNG, SSgt. Thereasa M. Barker-Figueroa USAF, CPT Anna C. Cichocki Connecticut ANG, TSgt. Ragina A. James USAF, CPT Warren C. Queton Oklahoma ARNG and MCPO Timothy W. Vickers, Special Agent Defense Intelligence Agency. The Veteran's Track and luncheon was free and open to all veterans, military members and family members. The SAIGE Youth joined the Veterans Track participants

for the award and luncheon program. There were several information tables on special veteran programs, organizations, and Warrior Society hat sales. If you want to learn more about the Warrior Society, please contact Director Danny Garceau at danny.garceau@saige.org.

Youth Program:

Every year SAIGE offers scholarships for youth 18 to 25 to attend the Annual National Training Program. Students must be attending an accredited school and interested in government careers. Scholarships consist of the full cost of the program registration, travel, lodging, and per diem for meals. We continued to enjoy good participation from Ancestral Lands Program students as well. In 2016 SAIGE hosted 30 students. Students participate in leadership training, team building activities and hear from Indian Country's best inspirational speakers. They also attend the larger program allowing them to network and learn about different Federal careers. The Central Intelligence Agency held an all-day workshop on leadership for them. Alex Tremble, from the National Park Service and author of the bestselling book, "The GPS Guide to Success," provided a presentation focused on mentoring. Former youth participant and student leader, Wes Wilson, now employed by Indian Health Service, conducted a workshop on Domestic Violence. Keith Secola, acclaimed songwriter and musician did creative workshops with the youth and later performed with them at the Award Ceremony.

Other Activity and Outreach:

SAIGE has continued to be a part of the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC). A number of our Board of Directors attended several events traveling locally and with their region to represent SAIGE and to make people aware of who we are. Board members attended annual American Indian Science and Engineering Society Conference and National Congress of American Indians Convention staffing an outreach booth to educate attendees about SAIGE and promote our National Training Program.

Chapters:

The Utah SAIGE Chapter held several projects during the year. One of the projects was titled, "Native American Caucus Day." The Title VII Program Director of the Ogden School District and SAIGE Chapter President chaperoned a group of high school students to the UT State Capitol to learn about native American issues within the state. Students were given lunch and a tour of the capitol.

Elections:

Elections were held in December, and there were six Board of Directors candidates and one treasurer candidate. The Election committee consists of two SAIGE Directors and the Vice Chair who oversaw the election. Elections follow the Election Standard Operating Procedures in order to ensure everything is done properly. Candidates were notified of their status after the vote count was completed, and new board members were to be installed at the January 2017 meeting. One candidate had to withdraw, leaving a two year position. The candidate with the next highest vote count was offered and accepted this position.



**Chair, Board of Directors
Society of American Indian Government Employees**