

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 was a Federal employee for 30 years working at the Department of the Army, Department of Agriculture, Department of the Interior, Environmental Protection Agency, and recently retired from 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 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 proud that she grew up as a "BIA Brat" living on 5 different Indian Reservations and attending Bureau funded schools.

Tehassi Hill

Chairman Hill is the newly elected Chairman for Oneida nation, having previously served two terms (2008-2011 and 2014-2017) as Councilman for the Oneida Business Committee. His focus during these terms was working diligently with the Legislative Operating Committee and the Legislative Reference Office on several laws and amendments which were passed during his tenure. An active member in his community, Chairman Hill looks forward to working with tribal members, surrounding communities and nationally to ensure Oneida is successful in its future endeavors. His guiding principles moving forward are focused on a long term vision of sustainability, with a focus on sovereignty, the Oneida language and culture and traditions. Chairman Hill was born and raised on the Oneida reservation and graduated from the Oneida Nation High school -- class of 1999. He completed two years credited classes at the University of Green Bay studying Business Administration and operated a successful industrial, commercial, residential painting business for six years. Chairman Hill and his wife have eight children and reside in Oneida. On his leisure days he likes to spend time hunting and fishing and encouraging his family to be active and engaged in the community.



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 program. 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.



Keith M. Harper

Retired Ambassador Keith M. Harper is a citizen of the Cherokee Nation and served as the US Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations Human Rights Council in Geneva, Switzerland, from 2014-2017. He rejoined the law firm of Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton in February 2017 following his service. Ambassador Harper became the inaugural Senior Non-Resident Fellow on National Security at the George Washington University Elliott School of International Affairs in March 2017. He focuses on his practice on Native American affairs, litigation, and international clients from the private as well as the public sector. Throughout his career, he has represented tribes and individual Indians. Since inception of the case, Ambassador Harper represented the plaintiff class of 500,000 individual Indians and served as class counsel in

the landmark Indian trust funds lawsuit, Cobell v. Salazar. Ultimately, the case settled for \$3.4 billion in 2009, which represents the largest settlement of a lawsuit against the United States in history.

Wayne L. Ducheneaux II

Wayne is an enrolled member of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe. He grew up on his parents' cattle ranch on the Cheyenne River Indian Reservation. His work for his Tribe included running the Cheyenne River Motel, a tribal enterprise, serving two years as Tribal Administrative Officer, and serving the people of Cheyenne River as a District 4 Council Representative. He was selected for a two-year term as Vice-Chairman of the Tribe from 2012-2014. He is an alumnus of the Native Nation Rebuilders program from Cohort 3. Wayne started his employment with the Native Governance Center in January of 2016 as Executive Director.



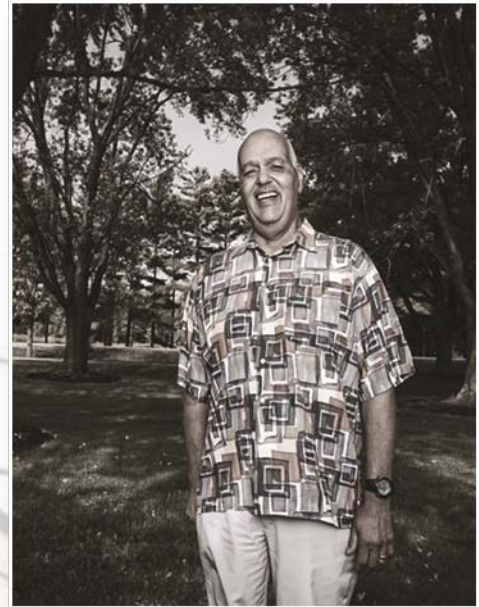
Zina Sutch

As Deputy Associate Director for the Office of Personnel Management, Outreach, Diversity, and Inclusion, Dr. Sutch leads the effort to develop government-wide policies and guidance to assist Federal agencies build diverse, inclusive, and engaged workforces and organizational cultures. Other experience within the OPM includes the position of Director of the Office of Diversity and Inclusion. Before joining the Office of Personnel Management, she was Director of the US Department of Agriculture's Office of the Executive Secretariat, where she had oversight of all correspondence for Secretary Vilsack. Dr. Sutch served as the USDA Director of Diversity, Recruitment, and Work Life, in the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Administration.

She led the Department in the development and implementation of programs and policies that help foster a modern, diverse, and inclusive workforce. She oversaw accountability efforts for the Secretary's Cultural Transformation initiative, analyzing data across categories that include diversity, hiring reform, training, and leadership, while focusing on employee engagement. Dr. Sutch started her education career as a classroom teacher. Dr. Sutch has a doctorate degree from the College of Education at the University of Maryland at College Park, and a master's degree from the Graduate School of Education and Human Development at the George Washington University. She has two daughters and currently lives in Falls Church, Virginia.

Norbert S. Hill

Norbert S. Hill is an enrolled citizen of the Oneida Nation of Wisconsin and has recently retired as Area Director of Education and Training for the Nation. Mr. Hill's previous appointment was Vice President of the College of Menominee Nation for the Green Bay campus. Mr. Hill served as the executive director of the American Indian Graduate Center in New Mexico, a nonprofit organization providing funding for American Indians and Alaska Natives to pursue graduate and professional degrees. Previous positions include the executive director of the American Indian Science and Engineering Society, Assistant Dean of students at the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay, and director of the American Indian Educational Opportunity Program at the University of Colorado, Boulder. He founded Winds of Change and the American Indian Graduate magazines, publications of the American Science and Engineering Society (AISES) and American Indian Government Council (AIGC) respectively. Mr. Hill holds two honorary doctorate degrees from Clarkson University (1996) and Cumberland College (1994). He resides on the Oneida reservation with his wife.



Jerry Gidner

Jerry Gidner, a member of the Sault Ste. Marie Chippewa Tribe, is the Principal Deputy Special Trustee and serves as Acting Special Trustee for American Indians. Mr. Gidner brings a wealth of relevant experience to his role as Acting Special Trustee. He has served throughout the Department in a variety of capacities: Director of BIA, Deputy Bureau Director for Indian Services, Chief of Staff to the Assistant Secretary - Indian Affairs, Deputy Associate Bureau Director for Post-Secondary Education at the Bureau of Indian Education, and Deputy Chief Learning Officer. His most recent assignment was with the Office of Natural Resources Revenue as Senior Program Advisor.

Mr. Gidner applies his own unique view of management style to his leadership of OST. What he dubs "People-Centered Leadership" focuses on empowering one's staff to

performance excellence through support, trust, and respect. He firmly believes that treating staff in this manner leads to happier, more productive, and more dedicated employees, and this method is already showing excellent results throughout OST.

Mr. Gidner holds a law degree and a Master's degree in Natural Resources Policy and Management from the University of Michigan and an MBA from American University. He received his Bachelor's degree in Zoology from Michigan State University. In his spare time, Mr. Gidner is a published writer.

Jefferson Keel

Jefferson Keel serves as the 22nd President of the National Congress of American Indians, the oldest, largest and most representative American Indian and Alaska Native tribal government organization in the country. As a proud Native American, President Keel is firmly committed to the service of Indian Country. Serving his fifth term as the Lt Governor of the Chickasaw nation of Oklahoma he is keenly aware of the roles and responsibilities expected of tribal leaders and earnestly believes in the policy of “helping our people through honorable public service.”

President Keel also represents Indian Country on numerous national boards and committees including serving on the Board of Advisors for the Center for Native American Youth, created by former Senator Dorgan at the Aspen Institute. In addition, he was appointed as one of nine commissioners to serve on Tribal Law and Order Commission established under the Tribal Law and Order Act in 2010.

President Keel is a retired US Army officer with over 20 years active duty service. He served three years in Vietnam, and received numerous awards and decorations for heroism, including two Purple Hearts and the Bronze star with “V” for valor. He is a former Airborne Ranger, infantry platoon sergeant, platoon leader, and served as instructor in the elite US Army Rangers. President Keel earned his Bachelor’s degree from East Central University and Master’s degree from Troy State University. He is a Master Mason and a member of the East Central University Board of Directors. He is active in his church and community. President Keel and his wife, Carol, have three children and eight grandchildren.



Karen Diver

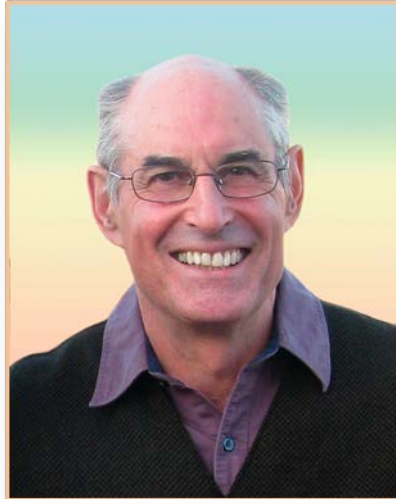
Karen Diver is currently serving as the inaugural Faculty Fellow for Inclusive Excellence for Native American Affairs at the College of St. Scholastica in Duluth, Minnesota. She was an appointee of President Obama as the Special Assistant to the President for Native American Affairs. As part of the Domestic Policy Council, she assisted with inter-agency efforts, policy and regulatory changes to benefit 567 Native American tribes. Karen served in this position from November 2015 until the end of the administration in 2017.



Karen served as Chairwoman of the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa from 2007-2015. This elected position serves as chair of the tribal government and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the reservation’s corporate boards. The Fond du Lac Reservation is the second largest employer in northern

Minnesota with over 2,200 employees. She served as Vice President of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, comprised of six member bands and chaired its finance corporation. Karen has extensive board experience including the Minnesota Council of Nonprofits Board of Directors and the Women’s Foundation of Minnesota with two terms as chair of both boards. Karen was a founding member of the American Indian Community Housing Organization, the Duluth Community Action Program and the Duluth Human Rights Commission. She was an appointee of President Obama to the State, Local and

Tribal Leaders Task force on Climate Change Preparedness and Resiliency, and co-chaired the Natural Resources Committee. She has a Bachelor's degree in Economics from the University of Minnesota, Duluth, and as a 2002 Bush Leadership Fellow, she received a Master's degree in Public Administration from the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.



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 (ACLU). 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 lectures extensively on issues relating to tribal rights and tribal sovereignty.

Dean Seneca

Dean Seneca is currently the Director of the Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Epidemiology Center, a program of the Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council, Incorporated, in Lac Du Flambeau, Wisconsin. The mission of the Epidemiology Center is to serve as an advocate for the advancement and promotion of tribal communities in their efforts to improve health by assisting with data needs through partnership, development, community-based research, education, and technical assistance.

Mr. Seneca previously worked for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention where he served as Senior Health Scientist in the Partnership Support Unity with the Office for State, Tribal, Local and Territorial Support. Mr. Seneca began his career at the Center for Disease Control in 1998-1999, within the Office of Minority Health as the lead for all public health activities regarding American Indian/Alaska Native populations.

During his time at the Center for Disease Control, he often participated in serving a diversity of public health needs globally. In 2010, he completed a three-month assignment in Ethiopia, Africa as part of the World Health Organization polio program. In 2012, he completed an eight-day mission to Kabul, Afghanistan to combat the emerging threats of polio and potential transmission to other countries. In



2015, he completed a six-week assignment dealing with fighting Ebola in Sierra Leone, Africa. In 2016, he completed a 70-day detail as part of a Zika virus response team.

Mr. Seneca is the former Director of the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry's Office of Tribal Affairs addressing complex environmental health issues pertaining to American Indian/Alaska Native populations. Mr. Seneca received both of his Master's degrees from the University of Hawaii at Manoa.



Ernest L. Stevens, Jr.

Stevens is currently in his eighth two-year term as the Chairman, National Indian Gaming Association, which is a position elected by the member tribes of the National Indian Gaming Association. As Chairman of NIGA, Stevens represents the Indian gaming industry. In this role, he has worked to educate Congress, the media and the public about the positive impacts of Indian gaming on tribal and nearby communities. Stevens is also responsible for shaping policy initiatives that have the potential to impact the industry. Stevens has led the Association and worked to protect Tribal Sovereignty and strengthen the Indian gaming industry. During his tenure, Indian gaming revenues have risen from \$11 billion in 2000 to nearly \$30 billion in 2016.

From 1993 to 1999 Stevens served as an elected councilman for the Oneida Nation in Wisconsin. He is a former First Vice-President of the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI). As a respected leader in Indian Country, Stevens also serves as a long-standing board member on the National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development (NCAID), the Nike N7 Foundation Board, the Executive Board of the Center for Native American Youth (CNAY) and the Native American Advisory Board for the Boys & Girls Club of America (BGCA).

Chairman Stevens received an Associate's degree from Haskell Indian Nations University in 1983. Stevens also earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice from Mount Scenario College in Ladysmith, Wisconsin (1986.) Chairman Stevens is an enrolled member of the Oneida Nation in Wisconsin. He and his wife Cheryl have been married for 35 years. Together they have 5 children and 15 grandchildren.

The 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 assist government agencies in the development and delivery of initiatives and programs which honor the unique Federal-Tribal relationship;

To educate Federal agencies in the history and obligations of the Federal Indian Trust responsibility and to assist them in its implementation;

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