

Statement of Interest – Board Membership

Society for American Indian Government Employees (SAIGE)

November 29, 2018

Dear Review and Selection Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to be considered for service to SAIGE on the Board of Directors to help further SAIGE mission and the pursuit of excellence in public service. As government agencies and public servants, it is important to ensure that we are promoting and advancing the opportunities for meaningful engagement. Without such in place, we cannot continue to evolve as public servants and to have a unified voice or help to further review barriers that may hinder the positive outcomes that we would like.

I do not have Native American heritage or affiliation with any Tribal Nation, but I have worked on the County level in Wisconsin serving on state-wide boards as representation for 13 counties and 6 Tribes' advocating for community-based services and programs for elderly and disabled persons. I served on a committee with the Phoenix Indian Medical Center to help review cultural and language sensitivity issues with admissions and reception activities related to mental health. I have also served on the Maricopa Association of Governments for specialized transportation services while directing community-based programs for an Arizona community that by an Act of Congress is still considered rural, despite being surrounded by Phoenix and adjacent communities. The community was primarily Native American and Hispanic, so being aware of 3 different cultures and languages, was of great importance.

I worked for the State Department of Housing in Arizona as a Community Development Program Specialist and Environmental Officer and while working primarily with cities, towns and counties, there were times when program service areas had combined benefit for Tribal and non-Tribal areas.

I have volunteered on the Ironwood, Michigan Jaycees and in my homeowner association as a board member.

I am hopeful the interest and skills that I have may be those that you are looking for. I have only been a member of SAIGE for about 1 year but enjoy the SAIGE goals of professional development to help strengthen public administration on all levels for native persons as well as for the public agencies that employ and/or work with sovereign nations.

I know that you have many outstanding candidates to choose from and I appreciate the time you have taken to review my biographical statement and statement of interest.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in green ink that reads "Sarah D. Olson". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Sarah D. Olson
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