



**National Training Program**  
**June 21-23, 2022 on Zoom**  
**[SAIGETRAINING.ORG](https://saigettraining.org)**



**Celebrating 20 Years**  
of Respect, Culture, and Education  
*Society of American Indian Government Employees*



## Welcome from the SAIGE Chair

### Greetings!

On behalf of the Society of American Indian Government Employees (SAIGE) Board of Directors and our members it is my sincere honor to welcome you to our 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Annual National Training Program (NTP).

It's hard to believe that it's been 20 years since a small group of SAIGE members, Lori Windle (our first Chair), Carl Etsitty, Shana Greenberg Barehand and myself met in Crystal City, Virginia one evening after work to complete the incorporation paperwork in the state of Virginia. From the first initial meeting that began with a large group of dedicated employees who met through a barrage of email traffic until the paperwork was completed that SAIGE began our journey. A few years later we began hosting NTPs. At our first NTP held in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, there were seventy-five employees who attended, along with a young lady who stood up and asked why SAIGE couldn't build a youth component that the SAIGE Youth Program was born! A few years later Danny Garceau, a retired Command Sergeant Major and Past Chair, brought the Warrior Program to the board where it was voted and passed. This program has grown each year and holds a full day of training during our annual NTP. This program developed a Meritorious Service Award that is given each year to ten veteran awardees from all branches of the military services, agencies and organizations who support and contribute to the promotion of American Indians and Alaska Natives.

We continue to evolve and have announced a new program focused on Professional development for our Junior level employees entitled: "Advancing to Career Heights: Developing Future Leaders Program." This program will be a year long, beginning at our 2022 NTP and meeting quarterly for two hours each time. The program ends in May, 2023, just before we meet in Tulsa, Oklahoma for our training.

I want to thank our Planning Committee for all their hard work and in particular Lori Windle and Georgeie Reynolds, our awesome Co-Chairs for this year's training event. We are excited to host Senior level speakers for our plenary sessions as well as subject matter experts for our working sessions. A few of the speakers are: Bryan Newland, Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs at the Department of Interior; Charles Sams III, Director, National Park Service; Heather Dawn Thompson, Director, Office of Tribal Relations for USDA; Dee Alexander, Census Bureau; Stacy Leeds from the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law, Arizona State University; Stephen Pevar, Yale Law School, and for our opening ceremony D.J. Vanas from Native Discovery who was the motivational speaker for our first NTP. He will be sharing his Inspiring the Warrior Spirit message with us.

We sincerely hope that you enjoy our training this year. We are excited to have so many outstanding speakers for "Celebrating 20 Years of Respect, Culture and Education." SAIGE is always looking for members to join SAIGE and help us continue to grow and stay relevant to today's workforce. SAIGE has outstanding and dedicated Directors on staff who volunteer to commit their time and contacts in supporting this one-of-a-kind national affinity organization.

Again, it is my honor and privilege to welcome you and thank you for selecting us for your training this year. Please take back to your workplace what you learn this week and we invite you to join us next June 20<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2023, at the River Spirit Resort in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Chair, Board of Directors  
Society of American Indian Government Employees





Congratulates SAIGE on an outstanding  
2022 National Training Program and  
your 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of advocacy and  
service for so many!



**Celebrating 20 Years**  
of Respect, Culture, and Education

*Society of American Indian Government Employees*

**National Training Program June 21-23, 2022 on Zoom**



## Celebrating 20 Years of Respect, Culture and Education

**ALL TIMES ARE MOUNTAIN TIME ZONE**

**Speakers may be subject to change**

**Tuesday, June 21, 2022**

Time	Topic-Speaker
9:00 - 9:05 AM	WELCOME –SAIGE Board of Directors Chair, Fredericka Joseph
9:05- 9:20	Virtual Posting of the colors, CIVA; Honoring song, prayer, Tilford Brown
9:20- 9:25	Warrior Society overview – Danny Garceau, Director, SAIGE Warrior Society
9:25 - 9:30	Technical overview - Williamson Creative Agency
9:30- 10:00	Charles Sams, III, Director, National Park Service
10:00- 10:30	<i>Inspiring the Warrior Spirit</i> , D.J. Vanas, Native Discovery
10:30- 10:45	BREAK
10:45- 11:30	<i>Everything You Need to Know About Presidential Executive Orders around Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (DEIA): 101-</i> Cynthia Dunn, EDI Director, TE/GE, Internal Revenue Service (EEO, Diversity & Inclusion)
11:30- 12:30 PM	LUNCH
12:30- 1:15	<i>Understanding first steps in advancing your Career</i> , Elaine Robles; U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (Professional Development)
1:15- 1:30	BREAK
1:30- 2:15	<i>Four Recent Supreme Court Decisions Affecting Tribal Sovereignty</i> , Stephen Pevar, Yale Law School (Federal Indian Law/Indian Country)
2:15- 2:30	BREAK
2:30- 3:15	<i>Working with Tribes on Natural Resources Damage Assessment and Restoration</i> , Lisa Williams, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Cultural/Natural Resources)
3:15- 3:30	Wrap-up, Announcements for Wednesday
6:00- 8:00	Optional Evening event: 35-minute Video- <i>For Our People, Stories of Tribal Self-Governance &amp; Sovereignty</i> , Zoom social event, music



## Celebrating 20 Years of Respect, Culture and Education

**ALL TIMES ARE MOUNTAIN TIME ZONE**

**Wednesday, June 22, 2022**

Time	Topic- Speaker
9:00- 9:05 AM	WELCOME – Jay Spaan, SAIGE Vice-Chair; Prayer song, Tilford Brown
9:05- 9:10	Technical overview (Williamson Creative)
9:10- 9:20	Introduction of SAIGE Board of Directors – Fredericka Joseph
9:20- 9:30	Youth Program Overview – JoAnn Brant, SAIGE Youth Director
9:30- 10:00	Bryan Newland, Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs, U.S. Department of the Interior
10:00- 10:30	Heather Dawn Thompson, Director, Office of Tribal Relations, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Tribal Food Sovereignty
10:30- 10:45	BREAK
10:45- 11:30	<i>Seven Grandfather Teachings</i> , James Vukelich Kaagegaabaw (Cultural/Natural Resources)
11:30- 12:30 PM	LUNCH
12:30- 1:15	<i>Accessing American Indian and Alaska Native Statistics</i> , Dee Alexander, Eric Coyle, U.S. Census Bureau (EEO/Diversity and Inclusion)
1:15- 1:30	BREAK
1:30- 2:15	<i>Implications for Tribes of the McGirt Supreme Court Decision</i> , Stacy Leeds; Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law, Arizona State University (Indian Law/Indian Country)
2:15- 2:30	BREAK
2:30- 3:15	<i>Best Laid Plans: Unpredictable Destinations for American Indian and Alaska Native Professionals</i> , Jared Hautamaki, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (Professional Development)
3:15 3:30	Wrap-up, Announcements for Thursday
6:00 8:00	Optional Evening Event: Military Awards and Partnership Recognition night, Musical entertainment



# Celebrating 20 Years of Respect, Culture and Education

## SAIGE 2022 National Training Program

### Plenary Speakers

Charles F. “Chuck” Sams III was ceremonially sworn in as the 19th director of the National Park Service on Dec. 16, 2021, by Interior Secretary Deb Haaland. Sams is Cayuse and Walla Walla and is an enrolled member of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation in Northeast Oregon, where he grew up. He also has blood ties to the Cocopah Tribe and Yankton Sioux of Fort Peck. Sams most recently served as Oregon Governor Kate Brown's appointee to the Pacific Northwest Power and Conservation Council (NW Council) where he held a position as a council member from March to December of 2021. Prior to joining the NW Council, he served as executive director for the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation.

For more than 25 years, Sams has worked in tribal and state government, and in the non-profit natural resource and conservation management field, with an emphasis on the responsibility of strong stewardship for land preservation for this and future generations.

Sams is a veteran of the U.S. Navy where he served as an intelligence specialist. He holds a Bachelor of Science in business administration from Concordia University and a Master of Legal Studies in Indigenous Peoples Law from the University of Oklahoma School of Law. He lives with his wife, Lori Lynn (Reinecke) Sams and their youngest daughter in Alexandria, VA.



D.J. Eagle Bear Vanas is a thought leader, celebrated speaker, and best-selling author whose expertise is showing people and organizations how to apply the warrior spirit at work. He is the author of the best-selling book *The Tiny Warrior* which is printed in six countries and the novel *Spirit on the Run*. D.J.'s newest book, *The Warrior Within* is being published by Penguin Random House and will be available summer 2022.

D.J. is an enrolled member of the Ottawa Tribe and a former U.S. Air Force officer. He inspires organizations to strengthen their tribe and practically apply warrior spirit principles to serve at their best, stay resilient and lead with courage. For two decades, he's delivered his dynamic programs in 49 states and overseas to clients such as Walt Disney, NASA, Intel Corporation, the U.S. Army, Subaru, Costco and hundreds of tribal governments and organizations. He's also been invited to speak

at The White House - twice.

He holds a B.S. from the U.S. Air Force Academy and an M.S. from University of Southern California and has served on the Board of Directors on the National Board of Certified Counselors. D.J. is the President and owner of Native Discovery Inc. D.J. is featured on the PBS documentary *The Warrior Tradition*, exploring the warrior spirit traditions across Indian Country, which aired nationwide on Veterans Day. He was also the host of his own PBS special, *Discovering Your Warrior Spirit*, which aired nationally in 2021.



**Bryan Newland**, an enrolled member of the Bay Mills Indian Community, a federally recognized Ojibwe (Chippewa) Tribe in Michigan, is the 14th Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs. He was confirmed by the United States Senate on August 7, 2021, and officially sworn into office on August 25, 2021. A ceremonially swearing in by Interior Secretary Deb Haaland was held on September 8, 2021. The Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs assists the Secretary of the Interior in fulfilling the Department’s trust responsibilities to American Indian and Alaska Native Tribes and individuals. The post was established in the late 1970s under the authority contained in 43 U.S.C. 145. Prior to his current appointment, Mr. Newland had served as the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs since March 29, 2021.

He joined the Department in February 2021 as Senior Advisor to the Secretary after having served as president of the Bay Mills Indian Community since 2017. From 2009

to 2012, he served as counselor and senior policy advisor to Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs Larry Echo Hawk. He was acknowledged by Assistant Secretary Echo Hawk as, among other accomplishments, being “pivotal” in working on the Helping Expedite and Advance Responsible Tribal Home ownership (HEARTH) Act, a major piece of legislation that advances tribal self-determination and sovereignty over Tribal lands.

After leaving Federal service in 2012, Mr. Newland spent four years as chief judge of the Bay Mills Indian Community’s Tribal court. Mr. Newland was raised on the Bay Mills Indian Community reservation and graduated from Brimley High School in 1999. He matriculated at Michigan State University, where he went on to become the first graduate of MSU’s College of Law’s Indian Law Program in 2007. After several years working at one of Michigan’s largest law firms, he joined the Obama Administration in 2009. In 2011, he was among that year’s recipients of the National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development’s “Native American 40 Under 40” award. In addition to spending time with his family, he enjoys hiking and kayaking along the shores of Lake Superior, as well as being a nature photography enthusiast.

**Heather Dawn Thompson** is Director of the Office of Tribal Relations (OTR) reporting to the Secretary of Agriculture. Thompson is a member of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, a Harvard Law School graduate, and an expert in American Indian law, tribal sovereignty, and rural tribal economic development. With Thompson in place, USDA returns OTR directly under the Secretary, restoring the office’s important government-to-government role.

Most recently, Thompson served a member of the American Indian Law Practice Group at Greenberg Traurig, where she worked on federal Indian law and Tribal agriculture. Thompson has a long record of public service, beginning as a Presidential Management Fellow at the Department of Justice. Since then, Thompson has served as a law clerk with the Attorney General’s Office for the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, as Counsel and Policy Advisor to the U.S. Senate’s Democratic Policy Committee, and as an Assistant U.S. Attorney for South Dakota’s Indian Country Section, where she prosecuted cases involving violence against women and children.



In the private sector, Thompson was previously a partner at Dentons, where she was one of only a handful of Native American partners at an “AmLaw 100” law firm. Additionally, she has served as the Director of Government Affairs for the National Congress of American Indians, President of the South Dakota Indian Country Bar Association, and President of the National Native American Bar Association. Thompson holds a Juris Doctor cum laude from Harvard Law School, as well as a master’s degree in public policy from the University of Florida, and a bachelor’s degree in International Studies from Carnegie Mellon University.



## Celebrating 20 Years of Respect, Culture and Education

### Session Presenters



Dee Alexander is currently detailed from the Department of Commerce and serves as the Department's Tribal Affairs coordinator in the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs and has extensive background experience in working with American Indian and Alaska Native tribal governments. The highlight of Alexander's career was serving two years as the Department of Commerce's Senior Advisor on Native American Affairs. This role included her as the Secretary's lead in coordinating all Department of Commerce's federal programs, and economic development initiatives to American Indian and Alaska Natives.

Dee has a Degree in Travel and Tourism and has earned a Master's Certificate in Project Management from George Washington University. Dee is a member of the Cheyenne-Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma and lives with daughter Kelli in Bowie, Maryland.

Eric Coyle serves as an Intergovernmental Affairs Specialist-Tribal Liaison for the U.S. Census Bureau within the Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs. He is responsible for building and maintaining relationships with a variety of stakeholders, which include but are not limited to American Indian and Alaska Native (AIAN) and Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander (NHPI) populations. Mr. Coyle's primary responsibilities are to plan, coordinate, and implement outreach to AIAN and NHPI stakeholders, among many others. He conducts presentations every month to a variety of organizations, local governments, tribal nations, etc.

Prior to joining the U.S. Census Bureau, Mr. Coyle served as the Primary Training Officer for the Installation Operation Center, U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii, where he was responsible for implementing the U.S. Pacific Command's Emergency Action Program.







**Cynthia D. Dunn** joined the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), Tax Exempt and Government Entities (TE/GE) division, Office of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) in Washington, DC as the EDI Director on July 25, 2004. She is currently the longest-serving EEO/EDI Director within the IRS.

Prior to joining the IRS, Cynthia served as the Special Emphasis Program Manager (SEPM) for the Export-Import Bank of the United States. Cynthia started her Federal government career in 1980 as a GS-01 Clerk Typist in the Stay-in-School Program. She began her career in the field of EEO and Diversity in 1992.

Cynthia attended the University of Maryland-College Park and the European Division in Nuernberg, West Germany. She is a life member of the Society of American Indian Government Employees (SAIGE). She assisted in creating IRS' first SAIGE Chapter in Utah in which she is also a member.

She is affiliated with the Crow and Blackfeet Tribes. Cynthia is a proud recipient of the 2019 "Spirit" award given by SAIGE. She is also the recipient of the 2018 "Woman of the Year" award given by National Image, Inc. and the 2018 "Champion for Diversity" award given by Federally Employed Women (FEW). Cynthia resides in Waldorf, MD. She has two sons and five grandchildren.

**Jared Hautamaki** Jared Hautamaki began his career in public service in 1994 as a Legislative Assistant to Congressman John Conyers, Jr. He then worked at the Native American Rights Fund prior to joining the Environmental Protection Agency in 2008. He served there as an attorney in Superfund civil enforcement before taking a leave of absence to attend McGill University for a Master of Laws program in International Aviation and Outer Space law. After this he returned to EPA where he has worked in emergency response, as a Special Assistant in the Office of the Administrator, and on the Biomedical and Environmental Effects Working Group for NASA's Interagency Nuclear Safety Review Panel for the Mars 2020 mission.



He currently is part of EPA's American Indian Environmental Office (AIEO) where he serves as a Policy Advisor, as well as the Chair of the Treaty and Reserved Rights Work Group for the White House Council on Native American Affairs. He served a four-year term as an appellate judge for his tribe (2016-2020), the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, and runs an 80-acre tree farm in Michigan's Upper Peninsula while working weekends at Home Depot. He serves on the Montgomery County, MD Racial Equity and Social Justice Advisory Committee and is in his thirteenth year on the Board of Directors for the Native American Bar Association of Washington DC.



**Stacy Leeds** serves as Foundation Professor of Law and Leadership at the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law, Arizona State University. She is a scholar of Indigenous law and policy and an experienced leader in law, higher education, economic development, and conflict resolution.

The first Indigenous woman to lead a law school, Leeds served as law dean (2011-2018) and then inaugural Vice Chancellor for Economic Development (2017-2020) at University of Arkansas. She previously served as a professor and administrator at University of Kansas and University of North Dakota, and as a William H. Hastie Fellow at University of Wisconsin.

Leeds is well-known for extensive national and local public service. She is a former Cherokee Nation Supreme Court Justice and was recently appointed

by United States Secretary of Interior Deb Haaland to serve as a founding board member on the Foundation for America's Public Lands, a congressionally chartered non-profit.

She is an elected member of the American Law Institute, an American Bar Foundation Fellow, and a recipient of the American Bar Association's Spirit of Excellence Award. Leeds holds law degrees from University of Wisconsin (LL.M.) and University of Tulsa (J.D.), a business degree from University of Tennessee (M.B.A.), and an undergraduate degree in history from Washington University in St. Louis (B.A.).

A former athlete and life-long sports enthusiast, Leeds was inducted into the Muskogee Athletic Hall of Fame in her hometown in Oklahoma. She played varsity basketball and tennis at Wash U. In 2016, she completed a 950-mile journey as a Cherokee Nation Remember the Removal cyclist. She splits her time between Tahlequah, Cherokee Nation and downtown Phoenix, Arizona. She is a co-host of TsalagiThinkTank (a community of Cherokee scholars) and the host of IndigenousWell - a blog about health, wellness (and sometimes, politics).

**Stephen Pevar** is a graduate of Princeton University (1968) and the University of Virginia School of Law (1971).

From 1971 through 1974, Mr. Pevar was a Legal Aid attorney on the Rosebud Sioux Indian Reservation. After Rosebud, Mr. Pevar worked for 45 years as a National Staff Attorney with the American Civil Liberties Union. He retired from the ACLU in March 2022.

Mr. Pevar has litigated some 200 federal cases involving civil and constitutional rights. His areas of specialty include Indian and tribal rights, prisoners' rights, and free speech of public employees. Mr. Pevar has filed federal civil rights cases in ten different states, argued more than thirty appeals in U.S. Courts of Appeals, and argued one case in the U.S. Supreme Court.

Mr. Pevar is the author of *The Rights of Indians and Tribes* (Oxford 2012), and he lectures extensively on the subject of Indian and tribal rights. For the past 25 years, in addition to working for the ACLU, Mr. Pevar has taught Federal Indian Law, first at the University of Denver School of Law, then at NYU Law School, and now at Yale Law School.





**Elaine Robles** is a Human Capital Analyst in the Diversity and Employee Services Division in Washington, D.C., cultivating an inclusive and collaborative workforce by working on Diversity initiatives for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Office of Mission Support.

With over 20 years of federal service, the majority of which has been at the EPA, she has worked to connect students and recent graduates with federal internships and career opportunities, focusing on engaging BIPOC communities to consider environmental careers and internships through partnering with the region. Her work on establishing relationships with Colleges, Universities, and professional organizations has resulted in several training sessions and webinars.

Additionally, she was instrumental in the creation of the first official Mentoring Program for the Society of American Indian Government Employees organization and its Student Leaders council.

In addition to having assisted in the successful roll out of the first EPA Green Intern cohort, her current project involves establishing a programmatic pipeline of internships for Indigenous students, resulting in the preparation of applicants for permanent employment opportunities within the Environmental Protection Agency.

**Lisa Williams** is the lead specialist in contaminants and natural resource damage assessments for the Michigan Ecological Service Field Office of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Since starting with the Service in 1993, much of her work has centered around the Great Lakes and freshwater river systems contaminated by PCBs and other persistent contaminants, but she has also worked on significant oil spills and a variety of contaminant issues related to National Wildlife Refuges, threatened and endangered species, and migratory birds. She regularly works with tribal environmental specialists on natural resource damage assessments and restoration projects. Lisa earned her BA from Bradley University in biology and chemistry and her MS and PhD in Fisheries & Wildlife / Environmental Toxicology from Michigan State University. She received the Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry North America's 2014 Government Service Award and received a National Science Leadership Award from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.



**James Vukelich (Kaagegaabaw)**, a descendent of Turtle Mountain, is an international speaker, author & the creator of *Ojibwe Word of the Day*. His mission is to inspire people to live the good life by sharing ancient wisdom to influence modern solutions through an indigenous perspective.

James is recognized as a leading voice on the interconnectedness of language & culture. His keen insights were developed through speaking with and recording elders and native language speakers (many of whom have since passed on) in Canada, Michigan, and Minnesota as part of the Ojibwe Language Dictionary Project. For over twenty years, James has moved seamlessly through diverse settings locally and internationally. In addition to keynote speeches for academic, philanthropic, business and community organizations, he facilitates

community roundtable groups, and conducts spiritual ceremonies in his local community. He has consulted with school districts, colleges, historical societies, and government agencies to develop and teach language and cultural programs. He has also been featured on numerous podcasts, radio & television programs in addition to publications.





## **Celebrating 20 Years of Respect, Culture and Education**

### **Session Descriptions in order**

#### ***Inspiring the Warrior Spirit***

**D.J. Vanas**

We all want to be brave. We all want to deliver when it matters... and in this session, you'll be inspired to do both. We've endured unprecedented uncertainty and change – and with it comes fearful doubt which can affect our focus, wellness, and the way we serve others. In this session, D.J. shares a unique, powerful perspective from Native American culture on what the warrior role is (and isn't) about and how we can emulate the principles of that role to stay strong, clear and moving forward -- and understand that the role of warriors can make us warriors in our roles! He is a former Air Force officer and enrolled member of the Ottawa Tribe, featured on the PBS film *The Warrior Tradition*, and host of his own PBS special *Discovering Your Warrior Spirit* which aired in 2021. He will share with you, in a straightforward and entertaining way, how to navigate change with confidence and clarity, continue serving well, maintain perspective, health (and a sense of humor) even in the face of turbulent times.

#### ***Everything You Need to Know About Presidential Executive Orders around Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (DEIA): 101***

**Cynthia Dunn**

The speaker will provide a thorough overview of Executive Order (EO) 14035 – Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility in the Federal Workforce. The presentation will also include an overview of other DEIA-related executive orders issued since President Biden took office.

#### ***Understanding First Steps in Advancing your Career***

**Elaine Robles**

This workshop will provide an overview of how to prepare your government resume, understanding how to navigate the career search through USAJobs site and in preparing for your interview. This is the inaugural session of SAIGE's new Professional Development Pilot series.

### ***Four Recent Supreme Court Decisions Affecting Tribal Sovereignty***

**Stephen Pevar**

During the past five years, the U.S. Supreme Court has issued significant rulings impacting tribal sovereignty. This session will discuss the four most important of those rulings. These cases dealt with fishing rights, hunting rights, reservation diminishment, and tribal jurisdiction over non-Indians. The presentation will use power points to help explain these decisions. There will be time at the end for Questions & Answers.

### ***Working with Tribes on Natural Resources Damage Assessment and Restoration***

**Dr. Lisa Williams**

In this session, Dr. Lisa Williams of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will provide an overview of Natural Resources Damage Assessment and Restoration (NRDAR). She will then illustrate the principles and the process of NRDAR using two tribal case studies: one pursued following the 2010 oil spill into the Kalamazoo River in Michigan and one NRDAR case for a river system contaminated with hazardous substances over many decades. Both cases include tribes acting as Trustees for natural resources under the authorities provided by federal law.

### ***Seven Grandfather Teachings***

**James Vukelich (Kaagegaabaw)**

This talk will present the traditional teachings of the Anishinaabeg as a means of developing interconnectedness and interdependence. The seven grandfather teachings, the sacred law of the Anishinaabeg, show us how to lead Mino-bimaadiziwin 'the good life' a life of without contradiction or conflict, a life of peace and balance. This presentation will break up ancient words and teachings morphologically and etymologically so that participants learn how the language defines and outlines how to live a good life.

Participants will learn about the concept of Mino-bimaadiziwin 'The Good Life.' Participants will come away with a greater understanding of the Chi-dibaakonigewin 'Sacred Law' of the Anishinaabeg 'Ojibwe'. Participants will learn how the culture and teachings are deeply embedded in the language. Participants will learn a model to introduce concepts of interdependence and interconnection to native and non-native students and educators.

### ***Accessing American Indian and Alaska Native Statistics***

**Dee Alexander, Eric Coyle**

During this session, you will learn how the Census Bureau classifies, collects, and publishes demographic and socioeconomic data for the American Indian and Alaska Native population. Attendees will learn how to access and use Census Bureau data products from the Decennial Census, the American Community Survey, and the Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics program.

### ***Implications for Tribes of the McGirt Supreme Court Decision***

**Stacy Leeds**

This presentation will discuss the McGirt v. Oklahoma Supreme Court decision and what it means for tribal-state-federal relationships in Oklahoma and nationally.

### ***Best Laid Plans: Unpredictable Destinations for American Indian and Alaska Native Professionals***

**Jared Hautamaki**

Speaker will discuss his career path from studying theatre performance as an undergrad, to working on Capitol Hill, then as an enforcement attorney at EPA, attending McGill University's LLM program in International Aviation and Outer Space law, and being appointed a tribal appellate judge for the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians and starting a tree farm in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. During his career he has been involved in Native election issues, opposing Native mascots, and serving on diversity committees and commissions in the American Bar Association and currently serving as an appointed member of the Montgomery County, MD Racial Equity and Social Justice Advisory Committee and on the Board of Directors of the Native American Bar Association of Washington DC. There will be time at the end for Questions & Answers.



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## Celebrating 20 Years of Respect, Culture and Education

### Student Agenda

ALL TIMES ARE MOUNTAIN TIME ZONE

#### Tuesday, June 21, 2022

Time	Topic-Speaker
9:00 - 9:05 AM	WELCOME –SAIGE Board of Directors Chair, Fredericka Joseph
9:05- 9:20	Virtual Posting of the colors, CIVA; Honoring song, prayer – Tilford Brown
9:20- 9:25	Warrior Society overview – Danny Garceau, Director, SAIGE Warrior Society
9:25 - 9:30	Technical overview - Williamson Creative Agency
9:30- 10:00	<i>Charles Sams III, Director, National Park Service, Department of the Interior (Invited)</i>
10:00- 10:45	Roundtable Career Discussion
10:45- 11:00	BREAK
11:00- 11:30	The Warrior Within- D.J. Vanas, Native Discovery Inc.
11:30- 12:30 PM	Career and Exhibitor Fair
12:30- 1:15	Lunch
1:15- 2:15	Career Opportunities in EPA's Emergency Response Program Kim Churchill -SPCC Coordinator-Planner Jon Gulch-On scene Coordinator Jackie Cole- On Scene Coordinator Tricia Edwards- On Scene Coordinator
2:15- 2:30	BREAK
2:30- 3:15	SAIGE Student Alumni Panel and Discussion Rosemary Reano, Santa Domingo Tribal Programs, Employment & Training Coordinator Jared Wahkinney, Dispatcher at Mount Rainer National Park Julian Guerrero, Director, Office of Indian Education (OIE),US Department of Education Stephanie Collier, Contractor Administrator II, Megellan Midstream Partners, LP
3:15- 3:30	Closing words and reflections, End of Day 1
6:00- 8:00	Optional Evening event: 35-minute Video- <i>For Our People, Stories of Tribal Self-Governance &amp; Sovereignty</i> , Zoom social event, music



## Celebrating 20 Years of Respect, Culture and Education

### Student Agenda

ALL TIMES ARE MOUNTAIN TIME ZONE

Wednesday, June 22, 2022

Time	Topic- Speaker
9:00- 9:05 AM	WELCOME – Jay Spaan, SAIGE Vice-Chair; Prayer song – Tilford Brown
9:05- 9:10	Technical overview (Williamson Creative)
9:10- 9:20	Introduction of SAIGE Board of Directors – Fredericka Joseph
9:20- 9:30	Youth Program Overview – JoAnn Brant, SAIGE Youth Director
9:30- 10:00	<i>Bryan Newland, Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs, U.S. Department of the Interior</i>
10:00- 10:30	<i>Heather Dawn Thompson, Director, Office of Tribal Relations, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Tribal Food Sovereignty (Invited)</i>
10:30- 10:45	BREAK
10:45- 11:30	<i>Seven Grandfather Teachings, James Vukelich Kaagegaabaw (Cultural/Natural Resources)</i>
11:30- 12:30	Career and Exhibitor Fair
12:30- 1:00	Lunch
1:00- 1:45	Bazile Panek – Member, Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians
1:45- 2:00	Break
2:00- 3:30	SAIGE Student Alumni Career Presentations- Rosemary Reano, Jared Wahkinney, Julian Guerrero, Stephanie Collier
3:30- 3:45	Closing words and reflections, End of 2022 Youth Track.
6:00 8:00	Optional Evening Event: Military Awards and Partnership Recognition night, Musical entertainment

*Thank you for attending!*



## Celebrating 20 Years of Respect, Culture and Education

### Student Program Speakers

Kim Churchill is a Contingency Planner and Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure Coordinator with EPA Region 5 and serves as the Planning Subcommittee Chair for Regional Response Team 5 (RRT5). Prior to this role, she was an On-Scene Coordinator for over three years and has been working professionally in the environmental field in various capacities for over a decade. Her education includes a Master's Degree in Geophysical Engineering from Montana Tech and a Bachelor's Degree in Geology from Lake Superior State University. She has presented at various conferences and workshops and participated in numerous exercises and responses related to oil spills, hazardous substance releases, and emergency response.



Jackie Cole has been with EPA Region 5 as a Federal On-Scene Coordinator for three years and is based out of the Cleveland, OH office. Prior to joining the Agency, she worked as an environmental scientist and aquatic biologist, specializing in environmental remediation and response. She is a graduate of the Ohio State University ('15) with a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science, water science specialization. In her free time, she enjoys running, hiking, traveling, reading, and spending time with her family and Shiba Inu, Norman.

Stephanie Collier is a Contract Administrator II for Magellan Midstream Partners, LP. She manages commercial contracts between vendors daily to ensure the planning, negotiation, and execution of the contracts are efficient. Stephanie graduated from the University of Oklahoma with a double bachelor's degree in International Security Studies and Native American Studies. She received her master's from the University of



Oklahoma College of Law in Legal Studies with an emphasis in Indigenous Peoples Law. Stephanie is a fluent Spanish speaker who has great interest in the indigenous communities. Outside the office, Stephanie is an Arts & Entertainment leader in the community with the Tulsa Young Professionals (TYPROS), a 501(c)(3) organization. She is a passionate speaker who aims to empower professional development and social gatherings throughout her community.

**Tricia Edwards** has worked for USEPA's Emergency Response Branch as an On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) since 2008. As an OSC, her duties include assisting and coordinating with federal, state, and local agencies during emergency responses and time-critical removals, such as pipeline releases, floods, abandoned plating shops and asbestos responses. Most recently she responded to the Electro-Plating Services Site (the "green ooze" on I-696) and the Flat Rock Emergency where approximately 1,200 residences were asked to voluntarily evacuate their homes. As an OSC, Tricia has also responded to national disasters including Hurricane Maria, the Kalamazoo Oil Spill, the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill, and the Illinois Floods.



Tricia was previously employed in the private sector as an environmental cleanup contractor for 12 years. She started her career in 1996 at a hazardous waste treatment facility and industrial services company where she was responsible for oversight of remedial projects, lab packing, drum sampling, and emergency response. In 2001, Tricia accepted a position with another company where she was responsible for environment compliance (SPCC, NPDES, RCRA, etc.) at over fifty different production facilities across the country for over five years.

Tricia graduated from the University of Michigan with a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science and from Wayne State University with a Master of Science focusing on Hazardous Waste Management.



**Julian Guerrero Jr.** currently serves as the Director of the Office of Indian Education (OIE) at the U.S. Department of Education. Prior to joining the Department, Mr. Guerrero served at the state level as former Executive Director of American Indian Education at the Oklahoma State Department of Education. In that role, he was responsible for the oversight of Oklahoma's statewide tribal consultation policies and procedures affecting over 200 school districts throughout the state. An enrolled citizen of the Comanche Nation and affiliated with the Kiowa Nation, Mr. Guerrero facilitated K-12 partnerships in Oklahoma among 39 tribal nations to further educational outcomes for over 131,000 American Indian students prior to his current role.

Mr. Guerrero brings a wealth of knowledge on topics regarding how to build and sustain meaningful partnerships with tribal communities.

His portfolio includes tribal gaming regulatory management, state K-12 education policy, and local nonprofit administration. Mr. Guerrero has previously served on various national, state, and local advisory boards such as the National Indian Education Association (NIEA), Oklahoma City YMCA Youth and Government (YAG) program, and Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of Oklahoma (CBFOK). Mr. Guerrero's vision for the future of Indian Country revolves around uniting Tribal Nations through strong, equitable, and accessible public education.

**Jon Gulch** has been an On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)-Emergency Response Branch in Grosse Ile, then Ann Arbor, Michigan since August of 2002. Since he started in the field in 1997, he has responded to countless emergency responses, overseen dozens of EPA Superfund Removal Actions, and responded to several Oil Pollution Act releases in both Michigan and Ohio. In addition, Jon has responded to several national events, including Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans, LA; Findlay/Ottawa Floods in Ohio; Indiana Floods; 2005 MLB All-Star Game in Detroit; the 2006 NFL Super Bowl in Detroit, MI; the 2008 Republican National Convention in Minneapolis, MN; and the 2015 EPA Hurricane Irma/Maria Response in St. Thomas, USVI where he served as the EPA Incident Commander. Currently, Jon serves as the EPA-Region 5 Oil OSC where duties include: development of the EPA-Region 5 Inland Area Plan; review and exercising of Facility Response Plan (FRP) facilities; review and inspection of Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure (SPCC) facilities; and mentoring of OSCs on oil regulations and procedures.

Prior to joining EPA, Jon worked for the City of Toledo-Division of Environmental Services where he helped to establish its emergency response program, in addition to responding to local emergency responses and serving as the Department of Public Utilities security/terrorism advisor immediately after 9/11. Jon has a bachelor's degree in Environmental Science from Bowling Green State University and has completed the coursework required for a Master's Degree in Public Administration at the University of Toledo.

**Bazile Panek** was born and raised on the Red Cliff reservation and is a proud member of the Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa. Bazile is heavily involved with his culture, regularly attending ceremonies and cultural events.

Bazile recently graduated from Northern Michigan University (NMU) with a Bachelor of Science degree in Native American Studies with minors in Sustainability and Entrepreneurship. At NMU, Bazile was the President of the Native American Student Association and served as the Student Representative on the President's Committee on Diversity, as well as on the Center for Native American Studies' Curriculum Committee. Bazile has also served on various ad hoc committees, and educated many people about Native American culture, language, and history. Bazile was instrumental in advocating for the official recognition of Indigenous Peoples' Day by Northern Michigan University.



At home, Bazile is a board member on the Red Cliff Business Development Corporation. He is now employed by the Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission as the Tribal Climate Adaptation Menu Coordinator. Within this position, he will be collaborating with tribal communities to develop methods for which tribes can adapt to climate change in ways that respect cultural values and practices.

Bazile's philosophy for life is to "honor my ancestors and those who came before me, honor my people here today, and become an honorable ancestor for future generations."





**Rosemary Reano** is a member of Santo Domingo Pueblo, where she was raised, and is also part San Felipe Pueblo, NM. She is a mother of two, a daughter, sister, aunt to thirteen nieces and nephews and nine grand nieces and nephews, with one on the way. She has been with Santo Domingo Pueblo Tribal Programs for seven years and is currently the Employment & Training Coordinator. She is currently a part-time student, pursuing her Bachelor of Arts in Native American Studies with a concentration in Leadership and Building Native Nations, and a Minor in Psychology from the University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM. She is currently serving as a secretary for the New Mexico Native American Workforce Partners and the secretary for the Western Regional 166/477 Executive Committee.

**Jared Wahkinney** is a Public Dispatcher for Mount Rainier National Park. He is from Lawton, OK and a member of the Comanche Nation. Jared began working with the National Park Service in 2018 in projects like Mountains to Main Street and as an intern for Grand Teton National Park in 2019. Outside of work, Jared enjoys photography and spending time with his wife, 2-year-old daughter, and dog.





# Thank you!



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## Celebrating 20 Years of Respect, Culture and Education Recognition and Awards Program

ALL TIMES ARE MOUNTAIN TIME ZONE

**Wednesday, June 22, 2022**

Time	Topic-Speaker
6:00 - 6:05 PM	WELCOME Society of American Indian Government Employees Board of Directors Chair, Fredericka Joseph
6:05 - 6:10	Virtual Posting of the colors, CIVA; Honoring song – Tilford Brown
6:10 - 6:15	Overview of the evening program and the SAIGE Military Meritorious Service Award – Danny Garceau, Director, SAIGE Warrior Society
6:15 - 6:20	Recognition of our SAIGE NTP Partners – Danny Garceau
6:20 - 7:20	Presentation of the SAIGE Military Meritorious Service Awards
7:20 - 7:50	Entertainment by Don Chapman, Premier Acoustic Performer and SAIGE Lifetime Member
7:50 -	Closing Comments – Danny Garceau Travel Song – Tilford Brown

## A Dear Friend Walks On



Clarence H. Joseph went on his final march, destination Fiddlers Green. He was a proud soldier, retired Army. He was a lifetime member of SAIGE and member of the SAIGE Warrior Society, serving on the SAIGE Honor Guard. He was a devoted father and husband, standing 50 years by the side of Fredericka, 18 of those as she served on the SAIGE board. For the last eight years he has been SAIGE's First Gentleman.

Most importantly, he had a big heart and befriended everyone he came close to. He always had a smile and offered a helping hand. He was an optimist, a shining light, and he believed in getting things done. Clarence was always working at our SAIGE events, sometimes behind the table, sometimes behind the scenes, but always doing something to help others. We are blessed to have had Clarence in our lives and the footprints he left will be with us forever. He will never be forgotten and will be carried in our hearts forever.



*Clarence H. Joseph: 1949-2022*



# THE WARRIOR WITHIN

A transformational guide to getting yourself right in order to accomplish the work you were meant to do, from speaker D.J. Vanas, former U.S. Air Force officer, and member of the Ottawa tribe.



Drawing inspiration from Native American philosophy and tradition, **The Warrior Within** outlines a new model for personal power in the face of overwhelming chaos.

Vanas shows how to apply these principles to transform how you show up both for yourself and for those around you. More than an empowerment manual, **The Warrior Within** is a call to accomplish the world-changing work you were meant for by tapping into the power of the warrior spirit.

***The Warrior Within is being released on August 2nd by Penguin Random House Books.***

[penguinrandomhouse.com/books/696069/the-warrior-within-by-dj-vanas/](https://penguinrandomhouse.com/books/696069/the-warrior-within-by-dj-vanas/)



## Celebrating 20 Years of Respect, Culture and Education

### 2022 Veterans' Program

ALL TIMES ARE MOUNTAIN TIME ZONE

Thursday, June 23, 2022

Time	Topic-Speaker
10:00- 10:15	Virtual Posting of Colors, CIVA Prayer, Tilford Brown Welcome Remarks, Danny Garceau, Director, SAIGE Warrior Society
10:15- 10:45	TBA
10:45- 11:00	BREAK
11:00- 11:30	<i>Mr. Clarence Johnson</i> - Keynote Speaker - Special Assistant to the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Diversity and Leadership (Invited)
11:30- 12:00	<i>Mr. Gregorio Kishketon</i> - Center for Minority Veterans (Invited)
12:00- 12:30	LUNCH
12:30- 13:00	<i>Ms. Julia Kelly</i> - Center for Women Veterans
13:00- 13:30	<i>Mr. Don Chapman</i> - Government Contracting
13:30- 13:45	BREAK
13:45- 14:15	<i>Mr. Michael Lally</i> - Executive Director - Air Force Security Assistance Squadron (AFSAT) Mission and Veteran opportunities across the globe
14:15- 14:45	<i>Ed Blauvelt</i> - Closing comments
14:45- 1500	Wrap up/Closing Travel Song, Tilford Brown

*Thank you for attending – We hope to see you in Tulsa, OK in 2023!*

## Veterans' Program Speakers



Clarence A. Johnson, a member of the Senior Executive Service, is Director, Diversity Management Operations Center, Defense Human Resources Activity, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness (USD(P&R)), Washington, D.C. He is responsible for operationalizing diversity management and equal opportunity policies and programs affecting 1.4M active-duty military personnel; 1.3M Reserve Component (RC) personnel; and over 900,000 civilians within the Department of Defense (DoD). He provides supervision and direction of the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute (DEOMI), the premiere DoD school in equal opportunity and equal employment opportunity (EEO) training, education and research; and the Investigations Resolutions Directorate, which investigates DoD EEO complaints. Additionally, Mr. Johnson directs DoD Diversity and Inclusion efforts, including

diversity outreach and the Workforce Recruitment Program for College Students and Recent Graduates with Disabilities, and he provides executive support for the Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services.

Mr. Johnson joined the Senior Executive Service in February 2003, as Principal Director and Director, Civilian EEO (Policy), Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (Equal Opportunity). His duties in that office were transformed when he was made Director, Office of Diversity Management and Equal Opportunity (Policy), USD(P&R), a position he held until September 2018.

Prior to becoming a civil servant, Mr. Johnson was a United States Air Force officer. As an active duty colonel, he served as Director, Military Equal Opportunity (Policy) in the Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Equal Opportunity. He provided policy guidance to the military components regarding policies and programs which prescribe, promote, coordinate, and enforce equal opportunity and treatment of active duty and RC military personnel; oversaw policy implementation and evaluated/monitored the performance of DoD component programs; and provided oversight for DEOMI. His decorations include the Defense Superior Service Medal (one Oak Leaf Cluster), the Legion of Merit, and the Defense Meritorious Service Medal (three oak leaf clusters).

Mr. Johnson holds a Master's Degree in Human Resource Management from Webster University, Missouri, and a Bachelor's Degree in Biology from Tuskegee Institute, Alabama. Mr. Johnson is also a graduate of Air Command and Staff College, the Air War College, the National Security Management Course (National Defense University) and the Georgetown University Strategic Diversity and Inclusion Management Certificate Program.

He and his wife, Gloria, reside in Clinton, Maryland. They have three children and four grandchildren.



Mr. Gregorio Kishketon is a resident of Chevy Chase, Maryland and serves as a Staff Advisor to the Secretary of the VA as the Native American/Alaska Native Liaison to the Secretary of the VA OSVA and CMV - Center for Minority Veterans at the US Department of Veterans Affairs Central Office - Washington, DC.

Mr. Kishketon previously worked in Washington DC for the VA in the Office of the Undersecretary for Health and Health Informatics, in addition the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Memorial Affairs, subsequently at the Dept. of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs/Indian Education as the Contracting Officer and Program Analyst for the Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs (BIE). Mr. Kishketon recently received an award from the Dept. of Justice for "Improvement for IT for VA".



Mr. Kishketon served in the United States Marine Corps Honorably Discharged. He is a graduate of the University of Oklahoma, The University of Texas, Oklahoma City Community College (Hall of Fame 2018) and The Dept. of Defense Contracting Officers School – Boston, MA. Mr. Kishketon received in 2015 the VA/DAV employee of the year/National Commanders Award. Mr. Kishketon has worked 24 years in the Federal Government, 5 years with the Non-Profit, and 13 years in the private sector as an Assistant Director and subsequently a director with Med-Net in Dallas, Texas.

Gregorio Kishketon is a Tribal Elder with the Water Clan – Kickapoo Tribe of Oklahoma. He also serves on the Board of Trustees for Saint Augustine University in Raleigh, North Carolina. In addition, Board of Directors for Alumni Affairs at Oklahoma City Community College. He also serves on a board of corrections for SPCOR out of Albuquerque and Phoenix.



Julia Kelly "Baassáannee Xiassaa" (One Who is Always in Front)" is of the Ties The Bundle / Piegan Clans of the Apsáalooke (Crow) Nation, from Pryor, Montana.

She entered the US Army July 31, 1981, as an Ammunition Specialist, PVT/E1. She retired October 31, 2010 as a Command Sergeant Major with over 28 years of service. She has two combat tours to Iraq and had many assignments in leadership positions, culminating with her last military career assignment as the Command Sergeant Major for the 299th Brigade Support Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division.

Julia joined the VA in April 2021 as a Senior Program Analysts. She was assigned as the Operations Manager and American Indian/Alaskan Native Liaison for the Center for Women Veterans, under the Office of the Secretary.

Julia volunteers much of her time helping Native Women Veterans/Veterans across the United States with organizations that serve Veterans. She has five children, 10 grandchildren, two great grandchildren and many others who call her mom.

**Don Côqayohômûwôk Chapman** serves as SVP of Federal Operations for Cayuse Holdings owned by the Confederated Tribes of Umatilla (CTUIR) as well as Managing Director for Cayuse Technologies – CTUIR’s first 8a contracting company and Responsible Manager for Wallowa Strategies. Since joining this tribal holding company January 2019, Don is directly responsible for both winning and serving as executive leader over for \$150mm in new federal classified contracts from the Dept of State, DHS CISA, DHA, and US Army. Chapman is responsible for all capture, teaming, operations, contract management, program management, P&L, hiring, and compliance.



On October 5, 2009, Don was appointed by US Department of Commerce Secretary Gary Locke as the first ever Senior Policy Advisor on Native American Affairs at the U.S. Department of Commerce where he served until October 3, 2012. At Commerce, Chapman was charged with implementing Secretary Locke’s ambitious agenda to directly improve the economic profile of Indian Country through economic development and policy implementation as well as development and implementation of the Dept of Commerce Tribal Consultation Policy across the portfolio of the Commerce agencies.

After his departure from the 1st Obama Administration, Chapman served as subject matter expert on three contracts with the ECR/Udall Foundation supporting White House OSTP National Ocean Council in strategic areas of tribal outreach, engagement, coordination, and participation in the Regional Planning Body process, Coastal Marine Spatial Planning, and the facilitation and outreach to Tribes on the National Ocean Policy and Implementation Plan. He has also served as an instructor for ECR’s “Collaboration with Tribal Nations and Tribal Consultation” courses. He also spent three years with Kikiktargruk Inupiat Corporation as SVP and subsidiary president.

Don Côqayohômûwôk Chapman is member of the Mohegan Tribe of Connecticut. Don is an accomplished musician who tours frequently and is a Lifetime member of SAIGE. After more than 25 years being based in the mid-Atlantic region Don now resides in the beautiful Ventana Canyon of Tucson, AZ.



Michael E. Lally, is the Executive Director, Air Force Security Assistance Training (AFSAT), HQ Air Education and Training Command, Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph, Texas. As the Executive Director, Mr. Lally provides direction and oversight for 280+ civilian, military, and contract personnel implementing programs for USAF-sponsored flight and technical training, professional military education, and advanced academic degrees for over 12,000 international students from 157 countries annually. Mr. Lally advocates for the budgetary and manning requirements of the organization, exercising executive-level management of an annual budget of \$600 million and overseeing foreign military sales contracts with an open value of more than \$11 billion. He is the principal advisor to the Director of International Training and Education,

Headquarters Air Educational and Training Command and the Commander, Air Force Security Assistance Training on Department of Defense and Air Force international training and education policies and programs associated with security assistance, security cooperation, and building partnerships.

Mr. Lally retired from USAF active duty after 23 years of service. While on active duty, Mr. Lally served in leadership and staff positions at the squadron, wing, and headquarters level. He is a Command Pilot with more than 4,800 flying hours in mobility and training aircraft. Prior to his current assignment, Mr. Lally served as Director, Mission Support, Air Force Security Assistance Training.



### 2022 SAIGE Military Meritorious Service Award Winners

The Society of American Indian Government Employees is please to announce the 2022 SAIGE Military Meritorious Service Award winners. This year several nominations for the SAIGE Military Meritorious Service Award were received from many of the components of the DoD and other government agencies. Each nomination received was deserving of recognition, however only ten could be selected. An award committee scored and ranked each nomination packet with the top ten being selected to receive the award. Listed below in alphabetic order are the 2022 SAIGE Meritorious Service Award winners.

Adams II, Gary R., City of Phoenix Police Department, USN, USMC and USA veteran  
Brinkley, Matthew P., Commander, USCG  
Edwardson, Robert, USCG, retired USCG veteran  
Hudson, Sissy, US Corps of Engineers  
Lockman II, Randolp R., SFC, WI ARNG  
Mergenthaler, David L. Jr., GS12 USCG, retired USCG veteran  
Peshlakai, Otis M., SSgt, USMC  
Sturdivant, Melissa, GS9, USDA, USA veteran  
Thompson III, Douglas W., 1LT, USA  
Wright, Jody, LTC, USA

The purpose of the SAIGE Military Meritorious Award is to recognize individuals who wear or have worn the uniform and made contributions above and beyond the mission, along with contributing to the promotion of American Indian / Alaskan Native culture. The 2022 recipients will be honored at the SAIGE virtual National Training Program (NTP) on Wednesday 22 June 2022 during the Recognition and Appreciation event.

SAIGE provides a forum on the issues, challenges and opportunities of American Indians and Alaska Natives in the government workforce and fosters a professional network among AI/AN government employees. SAIGE hosts an outstanding Annual National Training Program, open to all, focused on professional development, leadership and topics related to the complex Federal Indian Trust Responsibility. Integral to this, SAIGE provides specialized training sessions for Veterans and Youth. For more information on this year's National Training Program, "Celebrating 20 Years of Respect, Culture and Education", please visit the web page [www.saigettraining.org](http://www.saigettraining.org). The Society of American Indian Government Employees (SAIGE) is a national non-profit organization that advocates for American Indian and Alaska Native people in the government workforce. For more information about SAIGE please visit our web page [www.saige.org](http://www.saige.org).

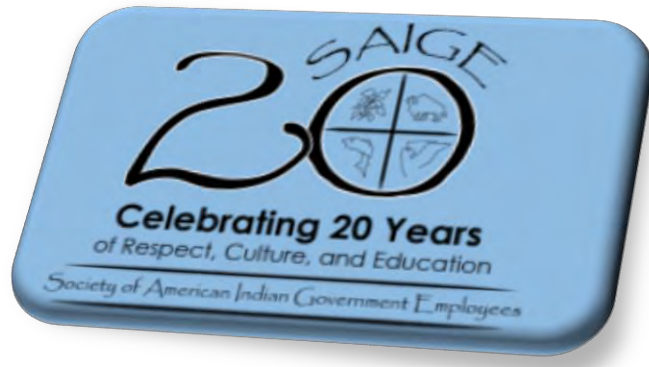
Sincerely,

Danny J. Garceau  
Director of Warrior Society, Board of Directors  
Society of American Indian Government Employees



# CONGRATULATIONS!

## SAIGE Virtual National Training Program



**Federal Asian Pacific American Council**  
**FAPAC**  
**37th National Leadership Training Program**

**May 10-12, 2022**



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FAPAC website: [www.fapac.org](http://www.fapac.org)



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Society of American Indian Government Employees

**National Training Program June 21-23, 2022 on Zoom**

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