About

Formerly known as the Commission of Indian Affairs, the Governor’s Office on Tribal Relations works to ensure equitable access to state services and may initiate or assist programs on tribal land only on the request of, or with the approval of, a tribal nation.

Pursuant to A.R.S. 41-2051, the Office on Tribal Relations is established to assist state agencies in implementing tribal consultation and outreach activities. Each state agency shall:

1. Develop and implement tribal consultation policies to guide the agency's work and interaction with the tribal nations of this state.
2. To the extent practicable and permitted by law, seek input from appropriate elected or appointed tribal officials before undertaking any action or policy that will, or is reasonably believed to, have the potential to affect a tribal community or its members.
3. To the fullest extent possible and to the best of the agency’s ability, integrate the input generated from tribal consultation into the agency’s decision-making processes to achieve mutually acceptable solutions.
4. Designate a state member to assume responsibility for the agency’s implementation of the tribal consultation policies and to act as the principal point of contact for tribal affairs.
5. On or before October 1 of each year, review the agency’s tribal consultation policies and submit an electronic progress report with performance measures to the office. The office shall make the reports available to tribal leaders and legislators.

In addition, the Office on Tribal Relations has duty to report the discovery of sacred ceremonial objects or objects of cultural patrimony, and assist in the coordination of all activities relating to the education of Native American pupils.

The Office on Tribal Relations will host distinct events to enable state agencies, tribal nations and their community members to address issues on a regular and proactive basis.

- **Indian Nations and Tribes Legislative Day** to celebrate the rich culture and history of Arizona’s Tribes and Nations and also to address issues of mutual interest
- **Arizona Indian Town Hall** to create a process that promotes public consideration builds consensus and supports the implementation of resulting recommendations.

To supplement our outreach efforts, office is available to: provide training on cross-cultural situations; promote increased participation by American Indians in local and state affairs; initiate programs to stimulate economic growth; and, establish an executive committee or other committees, as necessary.

**Governor’s Office on Tribal Relations**

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Phone: 602.542.4426 | Email: gotrinfo@az.gov

Visit our website and sign up for our newsletter at www.gotr.azgovernor.gov
**Wednesday, January 13th, 2021**

Virtual Event - 26th Annual Indian Nations and Tribes Legislative Day

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<td>9:30 - 11:00</td>
<td><strong>Virtual Networking with Exhibiting Organizations</strong></td>
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<td>11:00 - 12:00</td>
<td><strong>Joint Protocol Session hosted by the Arizona Senate</strong></td>
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<td>• Invocation – Amy Spotted Wolf, Miss Indian Arizona</td>
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<td>• Opening Remarks</td>
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<td>- Ms. Karen Fann, Senate President</td>
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<td>- Mr. Rusty Bowers, Speaker of the House</td>
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<td>• Tribal Nations Address</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- President Bernadine Burnette of the Ft. McDowell Yavapai Nation</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Vice Chairman Shan Lewis of the Fort Mojave Indian Tribe</td>
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<td>- Chairman Robert Miguel of the Ak-Chin Indian Community</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:00 - 1:00</td>
<td><strong>Virtual Networking with Exhibiting Organizations</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>12:00 - 1:00</td>
<td><strong>Information Session: AZ Science, Technology Engineering and Math</strong></td>
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<td>Moderator:</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Ms. Katosha Nakai, Nakai Aerospace &amp; Engineering</td>
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<td>Guest Speakers:</td>
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<td>• Jacob Moore – Associate Vice President of Tribal Relations, Arizona State University</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Kathleen Jolivette – Vice President, Attack Helicopter Programs and Senior Mesa Site Executive, Boeing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• John Herrington – Commander, USN (Ret.) and former NASA Astronaut</td>
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Bernadine Burnette, President

A descendent of the late Carlos “Wassaja” Montezuma and the late granddaughter of Margaret Dickens, Bernadine Burnette has led the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation for more than two decades - during which time she has held the position of Secretary, Vice President and, most recently, President (Burnette was re-elected to this office in 2020).

Leveraging her work experience for four decades, her hard work and dedication have resulted in substantial tribal economic growth. This includes opening the new We-Ko-Pa Casino Resort; establishing a definite place in Tribal, County, State and Federal government; and continuing much-needed services and programs for Tribal Members.

Recently named one of the Most Influential Women in Arizona Business, Burnette also currently serves as President of the Inter Tribal Council of Arizona (ITCA) and Vice President of the Inter Tribal Association of Arizona (ITAA), and has held previous positions as President and Vice President of the Arizona Indian Gaming Association and Secretary of the National Indian Gaming Association. Her current and past memberships also include the National Congress of American Indians, the National Tribal Environmental Council, the National Indian Education Association, and the Maricopa Association of Governments Regional Council.

A firm believer that family is the foundation of every community, Burnette is proudly married to Wayland Burnette and has a son, daughter, niece, three grandchildren and many relatives. Her ongoing commitment to the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation is to Work with The People and For the People.
Shan Lewis is a member of the Fort Mojave Indian Tribe. As a veteran of the United States Armed Forces he served his country proud in the United States Army. He is an active member of the Fort Mojave Veterans Association representing in various capacities.

Upon return to the reservation, Mr. Lewis held positions within the Fort Mojave Indian Tribe as a Home School Coordinator for the Tribe’s Education Department and Director of the Public Relations Department.

In 2003, Mr. Lewis was elected to serve as a member on the Fort Mojave Indian Tribal Council. After a year of service, he was elected to fulfill the vacant position as the Vice Chairman. A position that he has held to present date.

The Inter Tribal Association of Arizona (ITAA) was formed in 1953 to address issues that affect Arizona Tribes both collectively and individually. Vice Chairman Lewis represents the Fort Mojave Tribe at ITAA. Through his attendance and representation, he was elected President of ITAA and has served 10 total years in this position. The Presidents’ position is elected by the Arizona tribal leaders. His support from his constituents is reflective in his reappointment and has provided strong leadership within the association. Through his position as President, Mr. Lewis has been called to testify on behalf of the Arizona Tribe’s in front of Congress, which he conducted himself in a professional manner and with great success. He has been instrumental in advocating for all Tribes, and is committed to moving forward advocating for the wellbeing of all Native Americans.
Robert Miguel, Chairman

Robert Miguel, was the first elected Chairman of the Ak-Chin Indian Community under its new Constitution which allowed Members of the Community to officially vote for their Chairman.

Raised by his paternal grandparents, the late Jonas and Mathilda Miguel, Chairman Miguel at an early age was taught the importance of respect, dedication, tradition, culture, diplomacy, and leadership. His grandfather Jonas was Chairman of the Ak-Chin Indian Community in the early 70’s.

An advocate of Education, Health, Water, Economic Development, Elder, and Youth, Chairman Miguel has developed his leadership skills through hard work, dedication and guidance with the support of Ak-Chin elders.

After graduating from Maricopa High School in Maricopa, Arizona in 1986, Chairman Miguel attended Mesa Community College where he enrolled in General Studies courses.

Robert began his employment career in his community as a farm labor, which followed with employment at various departments within the Ak-Chin Indian Community which included; the Ak-Chin Community Center, Preschool, Recreation, and Newspaper. He was a photojournalist for the Ak-Chin O’odham Runner for over 20 years before being elected by his people to serve on its Tribal Council.

Chairman Miguel has represented his community on various committees and boards, in particular; President of the Ak-Chin Preschool Parent Committee, Tribal Gaming Commissioner, Industrial Park Board Vice-Chairman, and Recreation Board Vice-President just to name a few.

Robert has also served and represented Indian Country in other capacities which include; Native American Rights Fund (NARF) Board of Directors, Inter-Tribal Council of Arizona (ITCA) Vice-President and Chairman of the Arizonans for Tribal Government Gaming (ATGG). He currently is a members of the Maricopa Economic Development Association (MEDA) Board of Director.

During his current leadership tenure, Chairman Miguel has participated as an experienced speaker and panelist in local, state and national opportunities such as; Native Nations Conferences, National Indian Gaming Association (NIGA), Global Gaming (G2E), Arizona Indian Gaming Association (AIGA) and Reservation Economic Summit (RES) just to name a few.

In November of 2020, Chairman Miguel was re-elected to a second 4-year term as Chairman of the Ak-Chin Indian Community.

To date, he is currently serving in his fifth year as Chairman. Overall, Robert has served on Tribal Council for 7 years.

Chairman Miguel and his wife Connie have seven children which include; Robert, Jasmine, Yasmin, Jordyn, Joe, Yvonne, and Stella. The Miguel family have instilled a family motto that they currently live by on a daily basis, which is “How Can I Help You.”
Amy Spotted Wolf
Miss Indian Arizona

My name is Amy Lynn Spotted Wolf. I am from the Fresnal Canyon Community in the Baboquivari District on the Tohono O’odham Nation. I am the 23-year-old daughter of Marilyn and Michael Spotted Wolf. My maternal grandparents are the late Francis Ventura Noriego and the late Felix Noriego. My paternal grandparents are Rose Marie Spotted Wolf (Muskogee Creek, Seminole Nation of Oklahoma) and Lloyd Spotted Wolf Sr. (Hidatsa).

I am a senior at the University of Arizona Pursuing a Bachelor’s Degree in Elementary Education, and study under the Indigenous Teacher Education Project (ITEP). I am one of the UArizona College of Education 2020 Erasmus Circle Scholars. I work at the Thrive Center as a Peer Mentor for 1st year Indigenous students at AUrizona. I serve as the Baboquivari District Representative and the Secretary on the Tohono O’odham Nation Youth Council.

This year, my platform is to embrace change to virtually strengthen and learn from our connections as the Indigenous People of Arizona.
Katosha Nakai, Esq.

Katosha Nakai is the founder and owner of Tribal Policy People, LLC, and Government Affairs and Policy Director for Nakai Aerospace & Engineering—where she focuses on work across Indian Country. She represents tribal interests and those doing business with tribes. Additionally, Ms. Nakai is an attorney who leads the Phoenix office of Tucson based Strickland & Strickland, P.C. representing tribal interests primarily in the areas of water, natural resources and environmental law. Additionally, she serves on the Board of Directors for the Center for the Future of Arizona.

Prior to returning to the private sector, Ms. Nakai served eight years with the Central Arizona Project (CAP) which delivers Colorado River Water to central and Southern Arizona. During her time there she was the Manager of Stakeholder Relations & Strategic Development leading CAP’s outreach activities across its diverse stakeholder groups including Municipal & Industrial, Tribal and Agricultural water users and managing strategic planning development, implementation, and tracking. Ms. Nakai has served Governors in both Republican and Democrat administrations, working as a Policy Advisor to Arizona Governor Jan Brewer providing advisement on energy, broadband, and tribal affairs and serving as chair Arizona’s Climate Change Oversight Group, and as a member of Arizona’s Homeland Security Senior Advisory Committee. She also was appointed by former Governor Janet Napolitano as a Commissioner of the Arizona Oil & Gas Conservation Commission.

Before her state service, Ms. Nakai practiced law at a large Phoenix firm and served as a law clerk to the Chief Judge the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, the largest federal appeals court in the country, which hears a majority of the nation’s Indian law cases. Ms. Nakai, earned both her Juris Doctorate and her Indian Law Certificate from the Sandra Day O’Connor College of Law at Arizona State University and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Mass Communications from Oklahoma City University. She is a member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.
Tribal Affairs is a niche discipline with multiple core-competencies.

Who are we?

Tribal Policy People is a consultancy with extensive expertise and national networks that brings serious, committed people together, transforming transactions into collaborative partnerships, creating win/wins across Indian Country.

How can we help?

Tribal Policy People helps you identify which niche you need, so you can navigate anywhere in Indian Country. We are both a direct service provider and frontline recruiter—whatever works best for you. We love finding the right fit and putting people together!
Shan Lewis is a member of the Fort Mojave Indian Tribe. As a veteran of the United States Armed Forces he served his country proud in the United States Army. He is an active member of the Fort Mojave Veterans Association representing in various capacities.

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**MISSION:**

Build and strengthen relationships between ASU and Indian Tribal governments

Promote, support and build American Indian programs throughout ASU

Enable each American Indian student to achieve graduation through relevant student support services

Recruit the next generation of American Indian graduates through higher education awareness

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Kathleen (KJ) Jolivette
Vice President, Attack Helicopter Programs
Senior Mesa Site Executive Defense, Space & Security

Kathleen Jolivette is the vice president of Attack Helicopter Programs for Boeing Defense, Space & Security and the senior site executive in Mesa, AZ. Jolivette leads more than 4,300 Boeing employees supporting the design, production and delivery of the AH-64 Apache and AH-6 Little Bird helicopters for the U.S. Army and allied defense forces around the globe.

Prior to this role, Jolivette was director of United States Army Services for Boeing Global Services. In this position, she was responsible for the profit and loss, program execution and coordinated sales generation activities of services to U.S. Army customers.

Jolivette has also served as the director for V-22 Domestic Programs where she was responsible for the MV-22 and CV-22 programs, including development, production, earned value management, and profit and loss associated with the V-22 for U.S. Air Force and Marine Corps customers. She previously served as chief of staff for the Office of President and CEO and was the director for Investor Relations for Boeing Defense, Space & Security.

Kathleen joined Boeing in 2002 and progressed through several positions of increasing responsibility within the Finance function and across core areas of supplier management, procurement cost analysis, accounting, contracts, estimating/pricing, financial planning and program cost management, and international business development.

Jolivette served eight years in the U.S. Army and earned a Bachelor of Arts in accounting from Lindenwood University and an executive Master of Business Administration from Washington University in St. Louis. She is a member of the Army Aviation Association of America, the Association of the United States Army and the Vertical Flight Society.

In 2019, Jolivette was presented with a Leadership Excellence Award by the National Defense Industrial Association’s Tennessee Valley Chapter. Kathleen’s ability to lead also earned her the American Indian Science and Engineering Society’s (AISES) 2020 Professional of the Year Award.
ONE JOURNEY.  
ALL WALKS  
OF LIFE.

Every person’s story is unique. But when we work together, we can do amazing things. Boeing proudly celebrates people of all backgrounds working together to create the future and is honored to support the 26th Annual Indian Nations and Tribes Legislative Day.
Dr. John Bennet Herrington

Dr. John Bennet Herrington (Chickasaw) is a retired Naval Aviator, test pilot, and astronaut who has traveled the world and interacted with people from many cultures. His experiences have instilled a deep appreciation and respect for the diverse nature of the human race and a desire to engage and understand the perspective of others. It is tremendously important he share his Native American perspective with a broad audience that has not had the opportunity to understand or appreciate the talents Native American students bring to the world. He believes the most effective way is to bring more Native American graduates into the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) professions.

Herrington is considered the first tribally-enrolled Native American astronaut who was a crew member aboard the STS-113 on the Space Shuttle Endeavour. It was in November 2002, nine years before the final flight of the NASA Space Shuttle program.

The mission lasted 14 days where the Endeavour crew and the Expedition Six crew combined to install the new P1 truss to the International Space Station (ISS). The crew performed three spacewalks to outfit and activate the truss, and transfer supplies and equipment between the two spacecraft. Endeavour brought more than 2,500 pounds of material to the ISS.

Dr. Herrington holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Applied Mathematics from the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs, a Master of Science Degree in Aeronautical Engineering from the US Naval Postgraduate School, and Doctor of Philosophy Degree in Education from the University of Idaho.

Herrington’s career is impressive and demonstrates what is possible for Native Americans students if they are provided resources and support in STEM education. He is committed to helping Native American students achieve success in a field they are passionate about. In 2008 he rode a bicycle 4,300 miles across the United States, promoting education to Native American students.

Dr. Herrington is the recipient of numerous awards and has been inducted into the first National Native American Hall of Fame, the International Aviation Hall of Fame, the Oklahoma Hall of Fame, and the Chickasaw Nation Hall of Fame.

John is the father of two daughters and lives in Montana. He enjoys flying with his dog Emme, skiing, cycling, rock climbing, and being a doting grandfather.
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## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE

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## HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

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<tbody>
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## NATURAL RESOURCES

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<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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