



## Sunday, June 28

- 7:30-10:00      **NCAI Executive Board Meeting** *closed to press*  
*Meeting Room 5*
- Pre- Meetings:**
- 9:00-12:00      **PRC Advisory Council Meeting** *closed to press*  
*Meeting Room 4*
- 9:00-12:00      **Native Languages Working Group**  
*Meeting Room 10*  
 Developments on Native languages have taken place on the tribal, state, and federal policy level. Tribes are taking innovative approaches to revitalizing their languages, states are taking action recognizing the importance of Native languages, language immersion legislation is currently pending in Congress, and planning is currently underway for the upcoming Native Languages Summit hosted by federal agencies. So now is the time for a review of the current landscape of Native Languages and discuss next steps. In addition, the Administration for Native Americans (ANA) will be hosting a listening session on its FY`16 Budget Proposal on Language Demonstration Projects (ANA Consultation from 11:00am-12:00pm).
- 9:00-12:00      **Trust Modernization: Tribal Leaders' Briefing on Draft Principles, Strategies, and Advocacy Approach for Short-Term Administrative Proposals**  
*Grand Ballroom H*  
 The Trust Modernization Workgroup, a collection of national and regional tribal organizations, has put together a draft set of principles and corresponding strategies focused on modernizing the trust relationship and trust asset management system. These principles stem from the many previous efforts throughout the past several decades and were developed with the collective input of tribal leadership. In this session, we will discuss the draft principals, their history and development, and focus on the short-term administrative proposals and the approaches to enact them in the remaining months of the current Administration.

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- 9:00-12:00 **Department of Education Tribal Consultation \***  
*Meeting Room 6*  
 This consultation continues the Department's efforts to fulfill President Obama's Nov. 5, 2009 Presidential Memorandum and Executive Order 13175, which directs agencies to engage in regular and meaningful consultation and strengthening of government-to-government relationships with Indian Tribes. In addition to listening to education issues of concern, the Office of Indian Education (OIE) and the White House Initiative on American Indian and Alaska Native Education (WHIAIANE) will provide updates on the President's Generation Indigenous Initiative, the Native Student Environment Initiative, the Native Language Memorandum of Agreement as well as upcoming grant competitions.
- 9:00-12:00 **Department of Housing and Urban Development Consultation \***  
*Meeting Room 14*  
 U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development is holding a tribal consultation on the Coordinated Environmental Review Project. The U.S. Senate Appropriations Committee has directed HUD to coordinate and review the environmental review process for Indian housing development. HUD is seeking input from tribes on environmental review process proposals, and the information collected from this tribal consultation will be utilized to propose changes to the existing processes and coordinate environmental review process. For more information, contact Karen Newton Cole at [Karen.A.NewtonCole@hud.gov](mailto:Karen.A.NewtonCole@hud.gov).
- 9:00-12:00 **2015 Dental Health Aide Therapist Update**  
*Meeting Room 13*  
 There is a solution to the oral health disparities in American Indian communities. In Alaska, for over 10 years Dental Health Aide Therapists (DHATs) have been safely providing mid-level oral health care services to Alaska Natives and they are experiencing significant reductions in dental caries. Many tribal leaders are supporting legislation in their states to bring DHATs into their communities. Learn about the work being done in several states to make DHATs a reality and what you can do in your state to support this work.
- David Jordan, Project Director, Dental Access Project, Community Catalyst  
 Richard D. Monkman, Partner, Sonosky, Chambers, Sachse, Endreson & Perry, LLP
- 9:00-4:30 **TRAINING: Focusing Your Leadership to Advance Your Nation's Priorities**  
*Meeting Room 11*  
 The Rockwood Leadership Institute is excited to offer our second pre-conference daylong session to NCAI members and tribal leaders. This workshop is designed for people who care about their community, and are interested in exploring how to lead in their organizations and groups more effectively. While there is no additional charge for this training, a separate registration is required for this exciting opportunity. Reservations are required and limited spaces are available. Please email Ian Record at [irecord@ncai.org](mailto:irecord@ncai.org) to request a seat.
- 12:00-1:00 **New Member Orientation**  
*Meeting Room 7*  
 All members and officers are invited to this welcome session for new members of NCAI and a briefing on membership, committees, voting, and process. This is an opportunity to learn more about NCAI meeting policy and procedures.
- Robert Holden, Deputy Director, NCAI  
 John Dossett, General Counsel, NCAI  
 Juanita Ahtone, Chair, Resolutions Committee, NCAI  
 Yvonne Oberly, Chair, Rules and Credentials, NCAI

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- 1:00-4:00      **Registration/Rules & Credentials Open**  
*Grand Lobby – Street Entrance*
- 1:00-4:00      **Bureau of Indian Education – School Reform Update \***  
*Meeting Room 6*  
Monty Roessel (BIE Director) and other BIE staff will provide an update to tribal leaders and other education stakeholders regarding the Department of the Interior’s efforts to transform the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE).
- 1:00-4:00      **Trust Modernization: Conversation with the Office of the Special Trustee and Land Buy-Back Program on the Future of Indian Trust Asset Management**  
*Grand Ballroom H*  
The second half of the Trust Modernization meeting will look at the future of Indian trust asset management at the Department of the Interior (DOI) through a dialogue with the Office of the Special Trustee (OST). While OST was established over 20 years ago as a temporary office, it has taken the roles of financial management of the United States’ fiduciary trust, appraisals or real property, and provides services to trust beneficiaries, among other duties. Further, the Land Buy-Back program is continuing to make purchase offers and works with OST. With the various legislative and administrative proposals on improving trust asset management and streamlining processes at DOI, this important discussion will focus on a pathway forward to create 21st Century solutions for 21st Century tribes.
- 1:00-4:00      **Task Force on Violence Against Women /VAWA Implementation Workshop**  
*Meeting Room 3*  
The Violence Against Women Taskforce serves as a unified tribal voice opposed to violent crimes perpetrated against Native women. This meeting will focus on updates regarding the implementation of the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013, and will also discuss strategy surrounding continued advocacy efforts including protecting our Alaska Native sisters, international women’s issues and funding.
- 1:00-4:00      **Federal Recognition Task Force**  
*Meeting Room 10*  
The Federal Recognition Task Force was established to address the interests of all tribes, both federally and non-federally recognized, on any recommended changes to policies, procedures, or strategic plans in the federal recognition process. The Task Force will continue work on the current proposals from the Department of the Interior to modify the federal acknowledgment process.
- 1:00-4:00      **Tribal TANF Task Force/Workforce Development Working Group**  
*Meeting Room 14*  
The NCAI Tribal TANF Task Force/Workforce Development Working Group will have a joint convening to collectively strategize pathways toward improving the programs and initiatives that impact the Native workforce. Attendees will discuss legislative and administrative priorities in areas such as 477, Workforce Investment (WIA), and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and hear from various program directors to gain a sense of shared challenges and innovative approaches to promoting flexibility in the design of tribal programming.

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1:00-5:00

**TRAINING: Emergency Management Overview for Tribal Leaders**

*Meeting Room 5*

The Department of Homeland Security Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will deliver a four-hour pilot course designed for tribal leaders seeking to successfully prepare for, respond to, and recover from incidents and disasters. This four-hour course is designed to help tribal leaders understand how effective emergency management can improve the sustainability of their tribal community and better protect tribal citizens, lands, culture, and sovereignty. Upon completion of the course, participants submitting an application will be mailed an EMI certificate of completion for .4 CEUs. Course topics include: (1) the benefits of emergency management in tribal communities; (2) the components of an effective emergency management program; and, (3) the role of a Tribal Emergency Manager. Space is limited to 25 participants. Please RSVP to Robert Holden at [rholden@ncai.org](mailto:rholden@ncai.org).

Bill Sulinckas, Regional Tribal Liaison, FEMA Region 5

Heather Duschell, Regional Tribal Liaison, FEMA Region 9

1:30-4:00

**NCAI Policy Research Center Partner's Roundtable: Data Matters**

*Meeting Room 4*

Each year, the NCAI Policy Research Center creates a space for its research and advocacy partners to share and coordinate information to advance policy research in Indian Country. Together, we will explore key data trends that can shift policy and community narratives to advance tribal sovereignty, promote community wellness, and highlight models of community-engaged research. Our goal is to emerge with a set of collective priorities for the year.

Facilitator:

Malia Villegas, NCAI Policy Research Center

Presenters:

Sam Schulhofer-Wohl & Richard Todd, Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis

Dr. Nanibaa' Garrison, Vanderbilt University/ Diné

Dr. Michelle Sarche, Centers for American Indian and Alaska Native Health, Tribal Early Childhood Research Center, Dr. Jessica Barnes-Najor, Michigan State University, Tribal Early Childhood Research Center, & Jacki Haight, Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe Head Start Program

Lisa Abramson, Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan Home Visiting Program

4:00-5:00

**NCAI Committee and Subcommittee Chairs Meeting with Resolutions Committee**

*Meeting Room 7*

NCAI requests all committee and subcommittee chairs attend this important meeting.

4:00-6:00

**NCAI Youth Meet & Greet**

*Meeting Room 15*

Youth are invited to come get to know Native youth from across Indian Country, and learn what they are doing to positively impact their tribal communities!

6:00-8:00

**Welcome Reception**

*Crowne Plaza Hotel*

Join us to kick off the welcome to the 2015 Mid Year Conference! Come enjoy great food, great company and the Big & Tasty Blues Band representing the Oneida Nation of Wisconsin!

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# Monday, June 29

7:30-5:00     **Resolutions Office Open**  
*Meeting Room 9*

**Registration/ Rules & Credentials Open**  
*Kellogg Lobby – Street Entrance*

8:30-4:00     **Elder’s Lounge Open**  
*Meeting Room 8*

10:00-6:30    **Marketplace Open**  
*Exhibit Hall A*

8:30-12:00    **First General Assembly**  
*Grand Ballroom ABEF*

8:30            **Call to Order**  
Brian Cladoosby, President, NCAI

**Presentation of the Colors and Honor Song**

8:38            **Invocation**  
Lee Obizaan Staples, Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe

**Welcome from Local Host**

Norman Deschamp, Chairman, Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa  
Melanie Benjamin, Chief Executive, Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe  
Kevin Leecy, Chairman, Bois Forte Band of Chippewa  
Charlie Vig, Chairman, Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community  
Erma Vizenor, Chairwoman, White Earth Nation  
Chris Coleman, Mayor, St. Paul

9:00            **Welcome**  
Mark Dayton, Governor, Minnesota

9:05            **Welcome**  
Susan Allen, Minnesota State House of Representatives

9:10            **Welcome from Minneapolis**  
Betsy Hodges, Mayor, Minneapolis (*video*)

**Introduction to video**

John Stiles, Chief of Staff

9:20            **Welcome**  
Betty McCollum, US Representative, Minnesota

9:30            **Rules of the Convention**  
Yvonne Oberly, Chair, NCAI Rules & Credentials Committee

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**Resolutions Process Report**

Juanita Ahtone, Chair, NCAI Resolutions Committee

- 9:45 **President's Report**  
Brian Cladoosby, President, NCAI
- 10:00 **Executive Director's Report**  
Jacqueline Johnson Pata, Executive Director, NCAI
- 10:15 **White House Update**  
Megan Smith, United States Chief Technology Officer and Special Assistant to the President
- 10:30 **Department of the Interior Update**  
Kevin Washburn, Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior
- 11:00 **Assembly of First Nations Update**  
Grand Chief Edward John, Akile Ch'oh
- 11:15 **Congressional Update**  
Raul Grijalva, US Representative, Arizona
- 11:30 **Congressional Update**  
Al Franken, US Senate, Minnesota
- 12:00 **Lunch Recess**  
*See other events for additional options.*  
*Concessions available in the Marketplace in Exhibit Hall A.*
- 12:00-1:00 **Native American Caucus/Town Hall Discussion**  
*Meeting Room 3*  
Native American Caucus Town Hall. This meeting hosted by Congresswoman Betty McCollum, Co-Chair of the Native American Caucus, will focus on "Building a Stronger Indian Country" by discussing the federal responsibility toward tribal infrastructure in areas such as education, transportation, telecommunications, and housing. Congressman Raul Grijalva, Ranking Member, House Natural Resources and Member of the Native American Caucus will also join this town hall meeting where tribal leaders can engage in a dialogue around policies affecting tribes. To RSVP for this event, please e-mail [d-desiderio@ncai.org](mailto:d-desiderio@ncai.org).

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**Protecting Our Natural and Cultural Resources**

*Meeting Room 3*

Preservation of our environments and sacred places is essential to sustain our cultures, traditions, lifestyles, communities, foods, and economies. The effects of climate change, unconstrained economic development, and lack of ability to engage in tribally-determined management and development further threatens our ways of life. We as tribes are proven effective natural resources managers, so we must have a strong voice and role. This session will look at current issues affecting our environment, natural resources, and sacred places to strategize on how we can change policy through pending legislative and administrative efforts.

Chairman Terry Rambler, San Carlos Apache Tribe

Treasure Aaron Hines, Board of Trustees, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation

**ICWA and Juvenile Justice: Empowering Tribes in the Fight for our Children**

*Meeting Room 6*

Tribes have the power to fashion their justice systems to specifically address the individual needs of their tribal youth populations. In this panel, we will discuss what tribes can do to improve their systems to respond better to state ICWA proceedings, how the foster care system employed by non-compliant courts is failing our youth, and what tribes should take into consideration when drafting juvenile justice codes tailored to their unique youth populations.

Moderator:

Sarah Kastelic, Executive Director, National Indian Child Welfare Association

Panelists:

Kathryn E. Fort, Professor, Michigan State University College of Law

Allie Greenleaf Maldonado, Chief Judge, Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians

Addie Rolnick, Professor, William S. Boyd School of Law

Jack Trope, Senior Director, Indian Child Welfare, Casey Family Programs

Attorney General Advisory Committee on American Indian/Alaska Native Children Exposed to Violence

**Safeguarding our Communities: Addressing Human Trafficking in Indian Country**

*Meeting Room 13*

This session is dedicated to promoting greater awareness among tribal leaders of human trafficking in Indian Country. Panelists will offer general information on how to recognize trafficking, as well as highlight legal and advocacy efforts to stop trafficking and provide services to survivors. There will be ample time for tribal leaders to ask questions, dialogue, and brainstorm about strategies to identify and address trafficking in their communities.

Moderator:

Dr. Alexandra 'Sandi' Pierce, President & Senior Consultant, Otahyonih Research & Evaluation

Panelists:

Brendan Johnson, Robins Kaplan, LLP, Former U.S. Attorney for the District of South Dakota

Linda Eagle Speaker, Elder in Residence, Minnesota Indian Women's Resource Center

Chairman Mark Fox, Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara Nation

Christine Stark, Contributing Author, "Garden of Truth: The Prostitution and Trafficking of Native Women in Minnesota"

## **What Tribes Are Doing to Support Youth**

*Meeting Room 14*

Want to know more about what other tribes are doing to support their youth? Have some examples of what your tribe is doing? Come to this interactive session led by our Native youth leaders and leave with ideas of how tribes, organizations, and individuals can support our youth.

## **International Advocacy to Protect Tribal Sovereignty**

*Meeting Room 12*

Panelists will provide updates on recent advances and ongoing challenges in implementing the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the development of an American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples at the Organization of American States. Updates will include work related to implementing the Outcome Document of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, the recent Universal Periodic Review of the U.S., and ways in which tribal governments can engage on these topics. The breakout session will also highlight recent developments on the issue of international repatriation.

Moderator:

Heather Whiteman Runs Him, Staff Attorney, Native American Rights Fund

Panelists:

Grand Chief Edward John, Akile Ch'oh

Andrea Carmen, Executive Director, International Indian Treaty Council

Karla General, Attorney, Indian Law Resource Center

Frank Ettawageshik, United Tribes of Michigan

Franky Jackson (Sisseton Wahpeton-Oyate), Head of the Dakota NAGPRA Coalition and Working Group on International Repatriation

## **Pursuing Digital Sovereignty: Removing Barriers and Achieving Success**

*Meeting Room 4*

The use of technology and its applications have led to revolutionary advances in nearly every facet of life across the country. However, tribal lands continue to be the most disconnected areas and therefore excluded from utilizing these services. This session will highlight tribes that created their own telecommunications networks to bring mobile wireless and broadcasting services to tribal lands and areas that other providers have refused to serve. There will also be discussion regarding forthcoming public safety and economic opportunities for tribes to access a nationwide public safety broadband network called FirstNet.

Moderator:

Loris Taylor, President & CEO, Native Public Media

Panelists:

Bruce Holdridge, General Manager, Gila River Telecommunications, Inc.

Randell Harris, IT Manager, Quinault Indian Nation & Member, FirstNet Tribal Outreach Committee

Sally Fineday, Wireless Telecommunications Business Manager, Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe

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## **Planning for Success: Next Steps to Further Tribally-Driven Land and Economic Planning**

### *Meeting Room 10*

Tribes have seen significant progress on trust reform over the last five years through settlements of trust litigation, passage of the HEARTH Act, and new leasing regulations. The ultimate goal has always been to promote economic development in Indian country, but tribal planning processes tend to be siloed into grant-driven plans, while tribal leaders emphasize the need for planning that fits the future needs of their communities. This session will focus on HEARTH Act implementation, tribal leasing programs, the Land Buy-Back Program, the need for integrated planning for economic development and jobs, education, agriculture and natural resources, and the development of healthy communities.

Cynthia J. Morales, Realty Specialist, HEARTH Act Coordinator and Liaison  
Bureau of Indian Affairs Division of Real Estate Services  
W. Ron Allen, Chair, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe  
John McClanahan, Director, Buy Back Program

## **Workforce Development: Building the Human Capacity to Rebuild Tribal Nations**

### *Meeting Room 5*

A growing number of tribal nations are designing innovative approaches to cultivate the abilities of their citizens to successfully pursue careers that those nations have determined are essential to creating the futures they seek. Roundtable participants will share some of these approaches and explore how tribal nations can forge strategic partnerships with academic institutions and other organizations and align federally funded programs like Public Law 102-477 and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) to achieve their overarching community development and nation-building priorities.

Roundtable participants:

Dr. David Gipp, Chancellor, United Tribes Technical College  
Cindy Hoaglen, Director, TANF Program, Round Valley Indian Tribes  
Christopher Muñoz, Director of Human Resources, Tigua, Inc., Ysleta del Sur Pueblo  
Arlene Templer, Director, Department of Human Resource Development, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes  
Jerome "Brooks" Big John, Tribal Council Member, Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa

## **Disasters Express: Resources for Tribal Community Emergencies**

### *Meeting Room 11*

Begins with a two-hour "Tribal Communities Emergencies and Disasters Express," and follows with discussion on tribal emergency management training and resources related to Stafford Act tribal authority. Several federal programs are available to assist tribal nations for response and recovery to disasters. Department of Homeland Security Federal Emergency Management Agency officials will provide an overview of its practices, processes, and how to access assistance. Topics include the federal emergency and disaster declaration process, and requesting assistance; assistance available absent an emergency declaration or major disaster; preliminary damage estimate process; completing project worksheets; federal guidelines for delegations of authority; cost share matching requirements; public and individual assistance; and how the appeal processes works.

Facilitators:

Steve Golubic, Former Director of Tribal Affairs, Department of Homeland Security  
Robert Holden, Deputy Director, NCAI

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4:15-6:15

**SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS**

*closed to press*

*Subcommittees can meet as full committees if they so choose.*

Disabilities/Elders – *Meeting Room 8*

Economic Development, Finance, & Employment – *Meeting Room 14*

Education – *Grand Ballroom H*

Energy & Mineral Policy – *Grand Ballroom C* \*Meeting as a Full Committee

Environmental Protection & Land Use – *Grand Ballroom C* \*Meeting as a Full Committee

Health – *Meeting Room 5*

Housing – *Meeting Room 13*

Human, Religious & Cultural Concerns – *Meeting Room 6*

Indian Child & Family Welfare – *Grand Ballroom D*

Jurisdiction & Tribal Government – *Meeting Room 3*

Taxation – *Meeting Room 7*

Technology & Telecommunications – *Meeting Room 4*

Transportation & Infrastructure – *Meeting Room 12*

Tribal Gaming – *Brand Ballroom G*

Trust Lands, Natural Resources, & Agriculture – *Grand Ballroom C* \*Meeting as a Full Committee

Veterans – *Meeting Room 10*

6:30-8:00

**NDN Talks: 'I' is for Indian**

*Meeting Room 5*

Join us for our first-ever NDN Talks! Select thought leaders from across Indian Country will share their insights on the future of tribal sovereignty during this inspiring and provocative evening reception. How will we celebrate and support our Native cultures and communities over the next generations?

Moderator:

Mark Trahant, Charles R. Johnson Professor of Journalism, College of Arts & Sciences, University of North Dakota

Presenters:

Ray Halbritter, Representative, Oneida Nation

Richard Luarkie, Former Governor, Pueblo of Laguna

Jon Greendeer, President, Ho-Chunk Nation

Jacqueline Johnson Pata, Executive Director, NCAI

6:30-8:00

**Technology Task Force Meeting**

*Meeting Room 4*

The NCAI's Technology Task Force will convene to discuss the ongoing work in the fields of technology and communications issues in Indian Country. The Task Force will meet to discuss technology initiatives that could benefit tribal education, healthcare, governance, and public safety. Conference attendees are encouraged to attend this meeting.

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6:30-8:30pm **Listening Session on Homelessness in Indian Country \***

*Meeting Room 13*

The United States Interagency Council on Homelessness, in coordination with the Departments of the Interior, Housing and Urban Development, Health and Human Services, and other member agencies, is committed to preventing and ending homelessness among Native Americans. To help guide this ongoing work, we are interested in receiving tribal input on: 1) What are the specific needs and circumstances of Native Americans who experience homelessness? 2) What strategies are working to prevent homelessness or to help people who become homeless? 3) What actions at the tribal, state, or Federal-level can be taken to address Native American homelessness? For more information, contact Kathryn Isom-Clause at [kathryn\\_isom-clause@ios.doi.gov](mailto:kathryn_isom-clause@ios.doi.gov).

6:30-9:00 **United League of Indigenous Nations**

*Meeting Room 3*

The United League of Indigenous Nations Treaty was developed by NCAI's Special Committee on Indigenous Nation Relationships in 2007. The Treaty establishes an international political and economic alliance to advance the common interests of indigenous nations on several issues, including: climate change, trade and commerce, cultural properties, and human rights. This meeting will consist of a signing ceremony for tribes interested in endorsing the treaty and a forum for discussion and presentation on important issues affecting indigenous peoples.

7:00-8:30 **NCAI Native Vote – Native Candidate Training**

*Meeting Room 6*

The optimum candidates to represent the best interests of Native peoples on Native issues are Native citizens. While many among us are well qualified, the necessary skills to seek office may need to be honed. Candidate training can transform your campaign effort into more effective management for fundraising, forum speaking, constituent outreach, and understanding and utilizing critical election data. NCAI Native Vote encourages Native peoples to step forward to run for all levels of office and represent your community. Please join us for an excellent training session by a nationally known Native professional.

Facilitator: Peggy Flanagan (White Earth Band of Ojibwe), Executive Director, Children's Defense Fund/Minnesota, Founder of the Wellstone Action Native American Leadership Program.

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## Tuesday, June 30

- 6:45      **Sunrise Ceremony**  
*Rice Park, Outside of the RiverCentre's East Entrance*  
The NCAI Sunrise Ceremony will be held as a part of the observances and ceremonies during the National Days of Prayer to Protect Native American Sacred Places. The public is invited to attend NCAI's respectful observance to honor sacred places, sacred beings and sacred waters, and all those who care for them and protect them from harm.
- 7:15-8:15      **Regional Caucus Meetings** *closed to press*  
Alaska Region – *Meeting Room 14*  
Eastern Oklahoma Region – *Meeting Room 10*  
Great Plains Region – *Meeting Room 11*  
Midwest Region – *Grand Ballroom H*  
Northeast Region – *Meeting Room 4*  
Northwest Region – *Meeting Room 12*  
Pacific Region – *Meeting Room 5*  
Rocky Mountain Region – *Meeting Room 11*  
Southeast Region – *Meeting Room 6*  
Southern Plains Region – *Meeting Room 7*  
Southwest Region – *Meeting Room 13*  
Western Region – *Meeting Room 8*
- 7:15-8:15      **Large Land Base Tribal Nations Task Force**  
*Meeting Room 11 (Meeting with Great Plains and Rocky Mountain Regions)*  
The purpose of the Large Land Base Tribal Nations Task Force is to strengthen the ability of NCAI to advocate for the unique issues of the large land base tribes and to foster unity and cooperation among all tribes to preserve tribal sovereignty, lands, culture, and quality of life for all. The Task Force will govern its own proceedings consistent with this purpose.
- 7:30-5:00      **Resolutions Open**  
*Meeting Room 9*
- Registration/ Rules & Credentials Open**  
*Kellogg Lobby – Street Entrance*
- 8:30-4:00      **Elder's Lounge Open**  
*Meeting Room 8*
- 10:00-6:30      **Marketplace Open**  
*Exhibit Hall A*
- 8:30-12:00      **Second General Assembly**  
*Grand Ballroom ABEF*
- 8:30      **Call to Order**  
*Aaron Payment, Secretary, NCAI*
- Invocation**  
*Leonard Wabasha, Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community*

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## Announcements

- 8:50 **Congressional Update**  
Amy Klobuchar, US Senate, Minnesota
- 9:00 **NCAI's 10th Annual Tribal Leader/Scholar Forum: "Back to Our Futures: Re-searching for Justice"**  
*Malia Villegas, Director, Policy Research Center, NCAI*
- Early Education: Changing the Narrative for Our Children & Families**  
To go back to our futures, we are focusing on our youth and the investments that must be made to protect their cultural identities and intellectual health throughout their earliest experiences in life. Our panelists will share ways in which communities can support Native youth in school contexts and through trauma-informed care. From language immersion to special education programming, the research presented will prompt the question: What are the stories we can and need to tell to support and celebrate the role of Native families in early education?
- Presenters:  
Dr. LaVonne Chenault-Goslin, Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Early Childhood Center/Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation  
Dr. Melissa Walls, Bois Forte and Couchiching First Nation Anishinabe, University of Minnesota  
Rob Grunewald, Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis  
Brooke Ammann, Waadookodaading Ojibwe Language Immersion School/Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians
- Tribal Leader Response**  
Barbara Fabre, White Earth Child Care/Early Childhood Program  
Tyler Owens, Gila River Indian Community
- 11:30 **Tribal Equal Access to Voting Act: Proposed Legislation**  
Sam Hirsch, Deputy Assistant Attorney General, U.S. Department of Justice
- 11:45 **Tribal Leader Discussion**
- 12:00 **Lunch Recess**  
*See other events for additional options.*  
*Concessions available in the Marketplace in Exhibit Hall A.*
- 12:00-1:00 **On the Horizon: Scholarship to Fuel our Futures - Poster Session**  
*Rotunda Lobby/Ballroom Concourse*  
The poster session facilitates informal discussions between presenters and other attendees, and provides an opportunity to share research in a supportive atmosphere. Tribal leaders continually report enjoying this opportunity to engage with many scholars and their research in a condensed period of time.
- 12:00-1:00 **Moc Walk River Walk**  
*Kellogg Lobby – Street Entrance*  
Join us for a one mile walk along the Mississippi River to promote good health and exercise in our Native communities. Feel free to wear your moccasins to join in for raffles, refreshments, and fun! Presented by the Ho-Chunk Nation and Ho-Chunk Gaming-Wisconsin.

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1:30-4:00      **Concurrent Breakout Sessions**

**Connecting Across Distance & Difference: Tribal Citizenship in a New Era**

*Meeting Room 6*

In the interest of creating safe spaces within our communities, this session will challenge participants to think creatively in meeting the needs and enhancing the current realities of tribal citizens beyond all borders in order to foster strong relations. Our presenters will peel back the layers of tribal identity—speaking to the experiences of tribal citizens living off-reservation, in non-Native homes as out-adoptees, and as Two-Spirit persons.

Co-Moderators:

Layha Spoonhunter, Eastern Shoshone, Northern Arapaho and Oglala Lakota  
Sarah Schilling, Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians

Presenters:

Dr. Jennifer Schultz, Native Nations Institute, Stephanie C. Rainie, Native Nations Institute/Ahtna Athabascan, & Rachel Rose Starks, Native Nations Institute/Pueblo of Zuni  
Sandy White Hawk, First Nations Repatriation Institute/Sicangu Lakota  
Harlan Pruden, NorthEast Two-Spirit Society/First Nation Cree & Se-ad-dom Edmo, Lewis & Clark College/Shoshone-Bannock, Nez Perce & Yakama Nations

**Tribal Communities Responding: Shaping an Agenda for Resilience**

*Meeting Room 11*

From the history to the present, it is only right to highlight the resilience of tribal communities and the ways in which we are coming together to build hope and health despite adversity. From across Indian Country, this group of presenters will provide participants with tools to promote cultural strength and mental wellness for youth, women, veterans, and others in the interest of creating trauma-informed tribal communities.

Co-Moderators:

President Jon Greendeer, Ho-Chunk Nation  
Whitney Sawney, Cherokee Nation

Presenters:

Greg Urquhart, Washington State University/Cherokee Nation  
Dr. Catherine Burnette, Tulane University  
Melanie Plucinski, MPH, American Indian Cancer Foundation/Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa  
Dr. Deana Around Him, National Institutes of Health Clinical Center/Cherokee Nation

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## **We Have Always Been Scientists: Future Leaders, Future Environments**

### *Meeting Room 12*

Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) and tribal cultural practices are leading the charge for restoration—specifically in mitigating the effects of climate change, sustaining endangered plant and animals, and enhancing water quality. Participants will meet the minds that are bringing environmental science back to its future and will learn how to replicate and apply their research for the benefit of tribal communities across the nation.

#### Co-Moderators:

Chairman Darrin Old Coyote, Crow Nation  
Vanessa Goodthunder, Lower Sioux Community

#### Presenters:

Tribal EcoAmbassadors: Dr. Courtney Kowalczak, Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College, Dana Richards, Institute of American Indian Arts; Dr. Brian Compton, Northwest Indian College, & Robert Kenning, Salish Kootenai College  
Dr. Samantha Hatfield, Oregon State University/Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indian of Oregon, Cherokee Nation  
Sarang Khalsa, Northwest Indian College  
Dr. Deb LaVeaux, Montana State University  
Erin Smith, Montana State University  
Candy Felicia, Little Big Horn College

## **Tribal-State Relations for the 21st Century**

### *Meeting Room 13*

Beyond the trust relationship between tribes and the federal government is the trust that is emboldened or broken between tribes and the states. Presentations in this session will highlight ways in which to strengthen tribal-state relationships in key arenas such as child welfare, juvenile justice, health and wellness, and transportation—as well as how tribal leaders can initiate these efforts and sustain collaboration for maximum community benefit.

#### Co-Moderators:

Chairman W. Ron Allen, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe  
Cierra Fields, Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma

#### Presenters:

Dr. Jen Rountree, National Indian Child Welfare Association & Jack Trope, Casey Family Programs  
Dr. Gail Dana-Sacco, University of Maine/ Passamaquoddy Tribe  
George McCauley, QUICWA Compliance Collaborative Project, Minneapolis American Indian Center, Brenda (Bree) Bussey, MSW, University of Minnesota-Duluth & Raquel Franklin, Standing Rock Sioux Tribe  
Dr. Kathy Quick & Dr. Guillermo Narváez, University of Minnesota

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## **Data Speaks for Justice**

### *Meeting Room 14*

One of the central functions of the NCAI Policy Research Center is to support tribes in leveraging data to advance the work of sovereignty. The panelists featured in this session will cross a broad range of subjects—sharing trends in health research, financial giving to Indian Country, the classification of tribal identity in datasets, and access to economic capital in ways that will equip communities to tell their own stories and pursue justice for tribal citizens.

#### Co-Moderators:

Heather Curley, Navajo Nation

#### Presenters:

Desi Rodriguez Lonebear, University of Waikato, University of Arizona/ Northern Cheyenne Nation

Richard Todd, Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis

Sharon Day, Indigenous Task Force/ Ojibwe, Pamela Jumper-Thurman, National Center for Community Readiness, Colorado State University/ Western Cherokee & Harlan Pruden, NorthEast Two-Spirit Society/First Nation Cree

Elaine Rasmussen, Native Americans in Philanthropy, Morning Star Gali, Pit River Tribe & Angela Mooney D'Arcy, Sacred Places Institute for Indigenous Peoples/ Juaneño Band of Mission Indians

## **Keeping up with Social Media**

### *Meeting Room 5*

Tribal governments in the 21st century are increasingly engaging in e-governance and using social media to connect with highly mobile tribal citizens. This panel is designed to inform tribal leaders and youth of the benefits of social media--as a tool to enhance education, advocacy, and cultural connectedness--but also of its politics and pitfalls. Social media experts from across Indian Country will share their tips & tricks in this highly engaging session.

#### Facilitator:

Mark Trahan, Charles R. Johnson Professor of Journalism, College of Arts & Sciences at UND

#### Presenters:

Sarah Beccio, Communications Associate, NCAI

Collin Price, Public Relations Officer, Ho-Chunk Nation

## **Building Self-Sufficient Tribal Citizens through Financial Literacy**

### *Meeting Room 3*

Join us as we showcase innovative models that tribal nations can use to help their citizens set financial goals, choose financial products, and build their skills in managing money, credit, and debt. Tribal leaders will discuss how they have integrated such tools in their own communities, sharing lessons learned about what works and what doesn't. Don't miss this opportunity to learn how you can make a profound difference by providing financial education tools and resources customized to your own community's needs.

#### Panelists:

Aaron Payment, Chairman, Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians

Christine McPherson, Executive Director, the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians

Tanya Fiddler, Executive Director, Four Bands Community Fund

Daniel Dodd-Ramirez, Assistant Director, Office of Financial Empowerment at the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau

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## **Marijuana and Tax Policy in Indian Country**

### *Grand Ballroom H*

Following the legalization of marijuana in several Western states, the Department of Justice issued a Policy Statement Regarding Marijuana Issues in Indian Country. This session will discuss aspects of this important issue, as well as the tax implications of expansion of marijuana industries into Indian Country. This session also seeks to advance the NCAI's progress in furthering tribal tax initiatives, with a focus on the Tribal Tax Advisory Committee, perhaps the expected Right of Way regulations, and our overall goal to promote good tax policy and economic growth on Indian reservations.

#### Moderator:

Arlan Melendez, Chair, Reno Sparks Indian Colony  
John Dossett, General Counsel, NCAI

#### Panelist:

Tim Purdon, Robins Kaplan, former U.S. Attorney for North Dakota  
Alex White Plume, Oglala Sioux farmer and former Tribal Vice President (*invited*)  
Janie Hipp, Director of the Indigenous Food and Agriculture Initiative, Arkansas School of Law, former Advisor for Tribal Relations to Secretary of Agriculture  
Leonard Forsman, Chairman, Suquamish Tribe (*invited*)  
Anthony Reider, Tribal President, Flandreau Santee Sioux  
Christina Masse, Miller Nash Graham & Dunn LLP

## **Tribal Homeland Security and Emergency Management**

### *Meeting Room 10*

This multi-faceted session includes continuum of dialogue about international border crossing issues; proposed international indigenous border crossing summit; development of enhanced tribal IDs; tribal licensing of tribal citizen-owned watercraft; Tribal Homeland Security Grant Program guidelines; and, updates from the Department of Homeland Security Director of Tribal Affairs, and Federal Emergency Management Agency National Tribal Affairs Advisor.

#### Facilitators:

Steve Golubic, Former Department of Homeland Security Director of Tribal Affairs  
Robert Holden, Deputy Director, NCAI

4:15-6:15

### **FULL COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

Economic, Finance & Community Development – *Meeting Room 13*  
Human Resources – *Meeting Room 11*  
Land & Natural Resources – *Meeting Room 12*  
Litigation & Governance – *Meeting Room 14*  
Veterans – *Meeting Room 10*

*closed to press*

5:30-6:15

### **Youth Commission Re-Cap Session**

*Meeting Room 15*

7:00-9:00

### **Cultural Night**

*Crowne Plaza Hotel*

Celebrate the cultures of the Midwest Region with dancing, music, intertribals, and raffle prizes! Drums provided by Swamp Nation and Iron Boy.

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# Wednesday, July 1

7:15-8:15	<b>Regional Caucus Meetings <i>**Optional**</i></b> Alaska Region – <i>Meeting Room 14</i> Eastern Oklahoma Region – <i>Meeting Room 10</i> Great Plains Region – <i>Meeting Room 11</i> Midwest Region – <i>Grand Ballroom H</i> Northeast Region – <i>Meeting Room 4</i> Northwest Region – <i>Meeting Room 12</i> Pacific Region – <i>Meeting Room 5</i> Rocky Mountain Region – <i>Meeting Room 3</i> Southeast Region – <i>Meeting Room 6</i> Southern Plains Region – <i>Meeting Room 7</i> Southwest Region – <i>Meeting Room 13</i> Western Region – <i>Meeting Room 8</i>	<i>closed to press</i>
8:30-12:30	<b>Elder’s Lounge Open</b> <i>Meeting Room 8</i>	
9:00-12:00	<b>Indian Arts and Crafts Open</b> <i>Ballroom Concourse</i>	
9:00-12:00	<b>Native Youth Data</b> <i>Meeting Room 11</i> All youth and those who advocate on their behalf are invited to learn about mapping, infographic, and storyline tools related to food and nutrition policy and develop their own data stories in this interactive session.	
8:30-12:00	<b>Third General Assembly</b> <i>Grand Ballroom ABEF</i>	
8:30	<b>Call to Order</b> Arlan Melendez, Treasurer, NCAI  <b>Invocation</b> Eugene Stillday, Red Lake Nation	
8:50	<b>Supreme Court Project Update</b> John Dossett, General Counsel, NCAI	
9:05	<b>Yukon and Kuskokwim Inter-Tribal Fish Commissions Update</b> Mike Williams, Tribal Council, Akiak Native Community	
9:15	<b>Census Announcement</b> John H. Thompson, Director, US Census Bureau	
9:25	<b>Native Vote: What It Will Take for Indian Country to Win the 2016 Election</b> Mark Trahan, Charles R. Johnson Professor of Journalism, College of Arts & Sciences at UND	

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10:00	<b>Committee Reports</b> Economic, Finance & Community Development Committee Human Resources Committee Litigation & Governance Committee Land & Natural Resources Committee Veterans Committee
12:15	<b>Retire Colors/Closing Prayer</b>
12:30	<b>Adjourn 2015 Mid Year Conference</b>

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## **Other Meetings and Events**

### **Sunday, June 28<sup>th</sup>**

#### **ANA Listening Session on the Community Native Language Coordination Initiative**

*Meeting Room 10*

11:00am-12:00pm

The Administration for Native Americans (ANA) is holding a listening session on the Community Native Language Coordination Initiative proposal in the 2016 Budget. The Initiative will address gaps in community coordination and bring together key drivers of program effectiveness: strong community ties, integrated language/educational services, support services and interventions tailored to the specific community, high performing collaborations, and committed leaders and community champions.

#### **National Indian Child Welfare Association Focus Group: Measuring Strengths in Native Communities**

*Meeting Room 4*

4:00-5:00pm

NICWA is facilitating a focus group with Native data experts like yourself to learn how you view the use of strength-based indicators in Native communities. Mainstream indicators are primarily deficit-based, and often overlook tribal values. We want to hear from you about what strength-based indicators you currently use in your work you're your community. This conversation will focus on how the data story Native children in your community.

NICWA is working closely with NCAI to identify more accurate and relevant data indicators of well-being and resilience among Native children. This project is supported by the Annie E. Casey Foundation. Please join us to share your thoughts and influence how the story of Native youth is told! For questions, please contact NICWA Research Manager Jen Rountree at [jen@nicwa.org](mailto:jen@nicwa.org) or (503) 222-4044 x 144.

### **Monday, June 29<sup>th</sup>**

#### **Aianta Mid West Regional Update**

*Meeting Room 5*

12:00-1:00pm

Updates on the international outreach and the NATIVE act; hosted by Midwest Regional Representative Ernie Stevens III and Aimee Awonohopay.

#### **"My Father's Bones" Table Reading**

*Grand Ballroom ABEF*

12:30-1:30pm

This is a short play about the contest over Jim Thorpe's remains, with his sons and the Sac and Fox Nation on one side of court battle and the Borough of Jim Thorpe, Pennsylvania on the other. Co-Playwrights Suzan Shown Harjo and Mary Kathryn Nagle have enlisted a Twin Cities-based director and cast to present a table reading of the play, which will be followed by remarks by Sac and Fox Principal Chief George Thurman and others from the campaign to Bring Jim Thorpe Home.

#### **National Indian Education Study Focus Group**

*Meeting Room 12*

6:30-8:00pm

Kauffman & Associates, Inc. (KIA) is conducting a focus group to get feedback from participants on the 2011 report of the National Indian Education Study. Focus group participants will review the report and take part in discussions to share their impressions of this document. For more information, please contact Kristen Hudgins, Senior Researcher, Kauffman & Associates, Inc., at [Kristen.hudgins@kauffmaninc.com](mailto:Kristen.hudgins@kauffmaninc.com).

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## **Hogen Adams Reception**

*Rotunda Lobby/Ballroom Concourse*

6:30-8:30pm

Please join Hogen Adams PLLC for a networking reception featuring the Sioux Chef, Sean Sherman. Mingle, sample pre-reservation indigenous cuisine, and enter to win a Sioux Chef gift basket built from an ancient pantry of Lakota and Ojibwe ingredients. For questions, please contact Jessica Intermill at 651-842-9104 or 651-324-2838. Learn more about Hogen Adams PLLC at [hogenadams.com](http://hogenadams.com), and more about the Sioux Chef at [sioux-chef.com](http://sioux-chef.com).

## **Tuesday, June 30<sup>th</sup>**

### **Public Scoping Session: Developing a Versatile Juvenile Code for Indian Country**

*Meeting Room 10*

12:00-1:00pm

A Discussion Draft embodying ideas for updating the Model Indian Juvenile Code has been developed by Professor Ron Whitener, faculty member for the University of Washington Law School's Native American Law Center (UW NALC) and President of the Center of Indigenous Research and Justice, a non-profit corporation affiliated with the UW NALC. This Listening Session at NCAI's 2015 Mid-Year Conference will seek information and input from Tribal Leaders, Tribal Judges, and Juvenile Justice Professionals. The Session will summarize the background, process and future plan of action in completing the development of a "Model Indian Juvenile Code" as required by 25 U.S.C. § 2454. For questions, please contact Natasha Anderson, BIA Office of Justice Services, Tribal Justice Support at 202-513-0367 or [bia\\_tribal\\_courts@bia.gov](mailto:bia_tribal_courts@bia.gov). To download the Discussion Draft, please go to BIA Office of Justice Services' Tribal Justice Support webpage.

### **USDA Technical Assistance Roundtable**

*Meeting Room 3*

6:30-8:00pm

USDA offers a variety of programs that Tribes, Tribal Leaders, and Tribal Citizens are using. From local food programs to housing opportunities to business and infrastructure programs, USDA offers programs that work to cover the needs of rural America, including Indian Country. This event is designed for conference attendees to get answers to questions about USDA programs and technical assistance that can support construction, infrastructure, home ownership, food sovereignty, farmers markets, and more. Bring your priorities and learn how USDA programs can help you make them reality. For more information, please contact Leslie Wheelock, Director of Tribal Relations, USDA at [leslie.wheelock@osec.usda.gov](mailto:leslie.wheelock@osec.usda.gov).

## **Wednesday, July 1st**

### **National Indian Child Welfare Association Focus Group: Measuring Strengths in Native Communities**

*Meeting Room 12*

12:00-1:00pm

NICWA is facilitating a focus group with Native data experts like yourself to learn how you view the use of strength-based indicators in Native communities. Mainstream indicators are primarily deficit-based, and often overlook tribal values. We want to hear from you about what strength-based indicators you currently use in your work/you're your community. This conversation will focus on how the data story Native children in your community.

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