



The ANA Messenger

Commissioner’s Insight

Greetings Relatives,

We recently announced all of our new grantees! Congratulations to the 39 new projects that will be using Administration for Native American (ANA) funding to promote social and economic development, Native language preservation and maintenance, Native youth empowerment, and environmental resource enhancement in their communities.

Our busy summer has turned into a busy autumn. In October, ANA worked with its partners at the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the White House Initiative on American Indian and Alaska Native Education to host the annual Native Languages Summit. This year’s summit focused on the resilience and persistence of Native language preservation and also recognized the Native language champions no longer with us.

In November, we will be part of ACF’s Tribal Consultation and annual Native American Grantee Meeting. Both events will be held here in DC allowing more of our staff to interact with ANA grantees. In honor of Native American Heritage Month, ANA and all of HHS will celebrate the theme of, “Partnering across Nations and Generations: Supporting Healthy, Sustainable, and Thriving Native Communities.” There will be several internal events for HHS and ACF that highlight topics, such as the importance of intergenerational work, ACF offices’ work for/with Native Americans, and partnerships between HHS and other departments.

However, the focus of today’s newsletter is Economic Development. We have several stories of successful or developing projects from past and current grantees for you to enjoy. New Mexico Community Capital’s Native Entrepreneur in Residence project has grown beyond their wildest dreams, becoming a resource for Native business owners and prospective business owners throughout the region and the country. The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe is starting their Creating Akwesasne Tourism Businesses and Jobs project with a marketing bang and the building of the largest Akwesasne fancy basket.

The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs used their ANA funding to build hope and better outcomes through a comprehensive asset building project. ONABEN worked with several American Indian and Native Hawaiian populations to expand upon local markets and teach potential business owners how to operate within them.

ANA has also brought on several new contract-staff members. Angel, Delvin, Priya, Rashaun, and Terry came to us during our busiest months and hit the ground running. We are grateful to have them come onboard.

We look forward to seeing all of our grantees in November and hope all our readers enjoy this edition of the Messenger. Don’t forget to check [ANA’s website](#) to learn about the latest news and events. Follow us on twitter [@ACFHHS](#) with #ANAgov.

Stacey Ecoffey,
Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Native American Affairs & Acting Commissioner, Administration for Native Americans.



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Grantee Highlight: Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe



Figure 1(Left to Right) LaToya Rourke, Gail McDonald, and Penny Peters

The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe is carrying out a [Creating Akwesasne Tourism and Jobs](#) project to benefit community members and inform those outside of the tribe. The focus on cultural tourism creates a sense of “one Akwesasne” across several jurisdictions within the tribe’s territory and formalizes what aspects of culture and tradition are shared with the public.

Grantee Highlight: New Mexico Community Capital



Figure 2 (Left to Right) Jaclyn Roessel of Grownup Navajo, Kaliika Davis of Salon Tallou, Henry Jake Foreman of Karuna Colectiva, and Warren Montoya of Rezonate Art

The New Mexico Community Capital’s [Native Entrepreneur in Residence Program](#) is focused on growing the economies and business diversity of Native communities. While the focus is on tribes within New Mexico, the project is surpassing all expectations and attracting students from coast to coast.

Past Grantee Highlight: Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs



Between 2012 and 2016, the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs brought asset building skills and a sense of hope to their community through the [Warm Springs Community Action Team \(WSCAT\)](#) project. Reservation residents worked towards acquiring assets such as a home, vehicle, education, or starting up a business. WSCAT was so successful it has expanded beyond the original grant funding and timeline.



ONABEN worked with three American Indian and Native Hawaiian communities between 2013 and 2016 to foster self-employment. The members of these rural communities were able to learn how to [work within their markets and build up the capacity](#) of the local economy. As a result, a diverse group of entrepreneurs are running businesses.

Getting to Know Us: Angel Washington *Project Assistant (Contractor)*



Can you tell us about your background and what lead you to work for ANA?

I am a full-blood enrolled member of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation of Oklahoma and of Bear Clan descent with over 20 years in the administrative field. I previously worked on contracts with Native organizations in the field of tribal child care where, as a Resource Specialist, I developed and implemented a resource library for tribal grantees. While working at the National American Indian Housing Council I provided technical assistance, customer service, and administered the scholarship program for over 260 tribes. This experience has given me extensive knowledge on the needs of Native communities and inspires me to provide the best service available and enjoyment working for improvements in the quality of life for other Natives.

I know you just started with ANA, but what do you enjoy most about your job thus far?

Right off the bat, it's the people. They are so smart, talented, inspiring, and have heart! I am so happy to be working with a diverse group of individuals who are committed, engaged, team-oriented, and have empathy for issues facing Natives as-a-whole. They have been very helpful and have responded to me with openness, kindness, a sense of humor, and much needed information. Talking with Natives and helping them through the ANA T&TA Help Desk is very fulfilling and enjoyable. The work is demanding, but exciting as well and I will continue to learn and be inspired by ANA's efforts to empower Native communities while working in my dream job!

What are some of your interests or hobbies? What do you most like to do in your free time?

I like spending weekends with my son Mark and my brother Buster and their kids in Stafford, Virginia. I was selected to the United States Women's National Soccer Team, unfortunately, before there were any women's Olympics or World Cup tournaments. I gave up fast-pitch softball to pursue soccer full-time. This experience has taught me hard work, discipline, quick thinking, competitiveness, and team work. Anytime, I can go and see sporting events or watch on TV is an exciting time to spend with friends and family. I also enjoy OU Football, NFL, Softball, and Hockey. I like to cook and have friends over for BBQs throughout the year.

The ANA Messenger
Getting to Know Us: Delvin Schmunk
Project Consultant (Contractor)



Can you tell us about your background and what lead you to work for ANA?

I'm originally from Minnesota (member of the Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians) and recently retired from the United States Air Force. I wanted to stay in the DC area and work on Native American interests.

I know you just started with ANA, but what do you enjoy most about your job thus far?

I enjoy learning about the many ways we help others in "Indian Country."

What are some of your interests or hobbies? What do you most like to do in your free time?

I enjoy spending time with family, traveling, reading, walking the dog, playing computer games, and watching movies. I also spend some of my free time training for a yearly marathon and/or at least running 1,000+ miles a year.

Getting to Know Us: Sivapiriya "Priya" Sivagnanam
Data Manager (Contractor)



Can you tell us about your background and what lead you to work for ANA?

I graduated from one of the good management schools in India. I am passionate about data visualization and have worked for several companies in this field. I had pleasant, challenging, and positive learning experiences in these environments. Each of the teams I worked in achieved great results. I am thankful to Tribal Tech for providing me with such an excellent opportunity to work with ANA, and I believe my skillset has led me to this beautiful, healthy, and positive working environment to support Native Americans.

I know you just started with ANA, but what do you enjoy most about your job thus far?

I am very proud to be part of ANA and a work environment which is a healthy, friendly, and promotes learning. I am excited to learn about Native Americans and their culture, and I am delighted to be part of the journey which will bring more benefits to Native Americans.

What are some of your interests or hobbies? What do you most like to do in your free time?

My hobbies are shopping, art work, watching movies and dramas. During my free time I like taking my kids to the park and swimming. I love playing Shuttle with my daughter and ball with my son.

The ANA Messenger
Getting to Know Us: Rashaun Smith
IT Specialist (Contractor)



Can you tell us about your background and what lead you to work for ANA?

I have a background in IT Support/ System & Network administration. I have a Bachelor's degree in Science from Purdue University. I get pride out of serving what I feel are overlooked/underserved communities.

I know you just started with ANA, but what do you enjoy most about your job thus far?

I love all of the great people I get to work with. In my opinion, it makes work easy when you have so many helpful positive people that have the same objective of serving these communities.

What are some of your interests or hobbies? What do you most like to do in your free time?

I love sports and culture, so I enjoy exploring the amazing museums of the Smithsonian and going to countless sporting events (Chicago sports fan). I also love to travel and explore new/different things.

Getting to Know Us: Teresa Rose
Project Assistant (Contractor)



Can you tell us about your background and what lead you to work for ANA?

My background is very diverse. I was born into a multicultural American Indian family and I grew up in the California Bay Area. I am Oklahoma Choctaw and Swiss through my mom and Irish through my father. My first love is the traditional arts surrounding American Indian clothing and beadwork. I focused on achieving a Fashion Design Degree and have been honored with a variety of recognitions and awards for Traditional American Indian and Contemporary Clothing throughout my career.

I eventually moved to the east coast to work with the American Indian Heritage Foundation in Arlington, VA as the National Events and Special Program Coordinator which included amazing opportunities to contribute to American Indian communities throughout the United States. I ventured into the retail world and ended up in Executive Management for more than a decade. I began my most recent job search looking for an organization that would have the diversity, unique programming and the ability to make significant contributions for American Indians nationwide. This search quickly led me to Tribal Tech which then led me to the Administration for Native Americans.

I know you just started with ANA, but what do you enjoy most about your job thus far?

I am very new only having started in August 2017 but what I enjoy most about my job so far is the engagement or the entire ANA team. Everyone I have met so far really enjoys this office and the partnership between divisions. I really look forward to learning more.

What are some of your interests or hobbies? What do you most like to do in your free time?

I am very blessed as my life is always pretty busy. I am a mom with three adult children, 2 sons and a daughter, so trying to keep up with all that goes on in their lives takes quite a bit of my time. Beyond the kids, my house has always been full with horses, dogs, and cats. I live in Haymarket right on the edge of deep country living. If I'm home I'm usually in the yard or in my studio working on a project.

I am also the current President of the American Indian Society of Washington DC so my weekends are full with events and traveling to cultural events and powwows on behalf of the organization.