

# 2012 ANNUAL REPORT

UNITED SOUTH AND EASTERN TRIBES



*“Because there is strength in Unity”*



## United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

### Nashville, TN Office:

711 Stewarts Ferry Pike, Suite 100  
Nashville, TN 37214  
Phone: 615.872.7900  
Fax: 615.872.7417

### Washington, DC Office:

400 North Capitol Street, Suite 585  
Washington, D.C., 20001  
Phone: 202.624.3550  
Fax: 202.393.5218

December 31, 2012

Greetings:

USET has much to celebrate as this year has been very active and successful. In reviewing 2012 we should be proud of the advancements that we have made together. With every end is a new beginning and much remains to be addressed and accomplished in Indian Country. USET will hold a critical role in advancing the interest of its members and Indian Country. Additionally, steps that we have recently taken to strengthen the infrastructure and capacity of the organization allow us to be more flexible and responsive to the needs and demands of our membership.



Always keeping our mission statement in mind, we must continue to be united. We must stay strong and be vigilant in our united efforts to protect our inherent sovereign rights, not only for our USET member, but Indian Country as a whole. Taking proactive, visionary, aggressive steps to strengthen Tribal Nations to incite positive development for our economies, housing, education, and natural resources must be part of our equation. As you review this annual report, please keep in mind our mission and statement of unity.

We are thankful to each USET Tribal Nation for participating and being members of this strong organization. It is vital to have each member actively participating to meet challenges and explore opportunities for our individual Tribal Nations, our USET region and Indian Country. The Tribal Nations also play a critical role in the success of this organization by sending the best and brightest from their communities to serve in our committees as subject matter experts and advise our USET Board of Directors.

We are proud of the accomplishments made by our collective staff members. They work to meet their programmatic goals and objectives that directly support our mission and statement of unity. They are awarded and honored by outside agencies and organizations that recognize their knowledge, skill, and ability to be highly effective and efficient in their positions and outstanding advocates for USET Tribal Nations and Indian Country.

In this brief review of 2012, I know that you will be pleased with USET's accomplishments and will want to be a part of our success in 2013. Based on our abilities and accomplishments as a Board of Directors, committees, and staff, we have accomplished a great deal to become the inspiration and foundation for a positive future for the USET region and Indian Country.

Sincerely,

Brian Patterson  
USET President

# Mission and History

## The Mission of USET

United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc. is dedicated to enhancing the development of Indian Tribes, to improving the capabilities of Tribal governments, and assisting the member Tribes and their governments in dealing effectively with public policy issues and in serving the broad needs of Indian people.



## Our History

On October 4, 1968, the Eastern Band of Cherokee, the Mississippi Band of Choctaw, the Miccosukee Tribe and the Seminole Tribe of Florida met in Cherokee, North Carolina with the shared idea that some form of unity between the Tribal Nations would facilitate their dealings with the federal government. The result of their vision of "Strength in Unity," was the inter-Tribal council United Southeastern Tribes. Incorporated in 1969, United Southeastern Tribes operated first out of Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia, and then moved to Sarasota, Florida. In 1975 it relocated again to Nashville, Tennessee, where it resides today. The organization changed its name in 1978 to United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc. to better reflect its membership, as federally recognized Tribes from Maine, to Florida, to Texas affiliated themselves with the organization.

Today, United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc. is a non-profit, inter-Tribal organization that collectively represents its members at the regional and national level. USET has grown to include twenty-six federally recognized Tribal Nations, operating through various workgroups and committees and providing a forum for the exchange of ideas and information amongst Tribes, agencies and governments.

### United South & Eastern Tribes, Inc.

711 Stewarts Ferry Pike, Suite 100 • Nashville, TN 37214

615.872.7900 • Fax: 615.872.7417

400 North Capitol Street, Suite 585 • Washington DC 20001

[www.usetinc.org](http://www.usetinc.org)

### USET Officers

**Brian Patterson**, Oneida Nation – *President*

**Randy Noka**, Narragansett Tribe – *Vice President*

**Brenda Lintinger**, Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of LA – *Secretary*

**Kirk Francis**, Penobscot Indian Nation – *Treasurer*

### Executive Director

**Kitcki Carroll**



## The Council Oak

On October 4, 1968, the Eastern Band of Cherokees, the Mississippi Band of Choctaws, the Miccosukee Tribe and the Seminole Tribe of Florida met in Cherokee, North Carolina with the shared idea that some form of unity between the Tribal Nations would facilitate their dealings with the federal government. The result of their vision of “Strength in Unity,” was the inter-Tribal council United Southeastern Tribes. The final documents were signed in a ceremony in Florida at the site of this oak tree. The significance of the use of this “Council Oak” tree is to show symbolically from the little acorns a big tree grew. Those acorns were the vision, the diligent work, and unity that grew into the strong and mighty oak tree of a family of 26 federally recognized American Indian Tribal Nations.

USET was incorporated in 1969 as United Southeastern Tribes and operated out of Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia. It later moved to Sarasota, Florida. In 1975 it would relocate to its current location in Nashville, Tennessee. The organization changed its name in 1978 to United South and Eastern Tribes, Incorporated to better reflect its membership, as federally recognized Tribal Nations from Maine to Florida, and the Carolinas to Texas affiliated themselves with the organization.



*“I am always inspired by the vision and energy the four founding Tribal Nations had when they met more than four decades ago under the Council Oak tree. It was there they defined their founding vision and mission to rebuild their nations, improve the standard of living, and protect their sovereignty with the strength of their unity. This vision is as strong today as it was when those Tribal Nations created the foundation for a unified family of Nations that makes a difference for our future generations. This is not just a mission as an organization; this is our sacred responsibility as a people.”*

–USET President Brian Patterson

# Board of Directors



## **Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas**

Kyle Williams, *Chairman*  
Clint Poncho, *Vice Chairman*

## **Aroostook Band of Micmacs**

Richard Getchell, *Tribal Chief*  
Peggy Caparotta, *Vice Chief*

## **Catawba Indian Nation**

William "Bill" Harris, *Chief*  
Wayne George, *Assistant Chief*

## **Cayuga Nation**

Clint Halftown, *Nation Representative*  
Sharon LeRoy, *Secretary*

## **Chitimacha Tribe of Louisiana**

John Paul Darden, *Chairman*  
Jules Darden, *Vice Chairman*

## **Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana**

Kevin Sickey, *Chairman*  
Wayne Wilson, *Vice Chairman*

## **Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians**

Michell Hicks, *Principal Chief*  
Jim Owle, *Chairman*

## **Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians**

Brenda Commander, *Tribal Chief*  
Linda Raymond, *Tribal Council*

## **Jena Band of Choctaw Indians**

B. Cheryl Smith, *Tribal Chief*  
Ricky Jackson, *Council Member*

## **Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation**

Rodney Butler, *Chairman*  
Marjorie Colebut-Jackson, *Councilor*

## **Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe**

Cedric Cromwell, *Chairman*  
Mark Harding, *Tribal Treasurer*

## **Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida**

Colley Billie, *Chairman*  
Jasper Nelson, *Assistant Chairman*

## **Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians**

Phyliss J. Anderson, *Chief*  
Kevin J. Edwards, *Vice Chief*

## **The Mohegan Tribe of Indians of Connecticut**

Bruce "Two Dogs" Bozsum, *Chairman*  
R. James Gessner, *Vice Chair*

## **Narragansett Indian Tribe**

Matthew Thomas, *Chief Sachem*  
Randy Noka, *Councilman*

## **Oneida Indian Nation**

Ray Halbritter, *Nation Representative*  
Clint Hill, *Nation Liaison*

## **Passamaquoddy Tribe- Indian Township Reservation**

Joseph M. Socobasin, *Tribal Chief*  
Clayton Sockabasin, *Vice Chief*

## **Passamaquoddy Tribe- Pleasant Point Reservation**

Reuben "Clayton" Cleaves, *Tribal Chief*  
Kenneth Poynter, *Vice Chief*

## **Penobscot Indian Nation**

Kirk E. Francis, Sr., *Tribal Chief*  
Brenda Fields,  
*Director of Grants and Contracts*

## **Poarch Band of Creek Indians**

Buford L. Rolin, *Tribal Chairman*  
Robert R. McGhee, *Council Treasurer*

## **Seminole Tribe of Florida**

James Billie, *Chairman*  
Jim Shore, *General Counsel*

## **Seneca Nation of Indians**

Barry Snyder, *President*  
Rodney Pierce, *Treasurer*

## **Shinnecock Indian Nation**

Randall King, *Chairman*  
Frederick C. Bess, *Trustee*

## **St. Regis Mohawk Tribe, New York**

Paul O. Thompson, *Chief*  
Randy Hart, *Chief*  
Ronald W. LaFrance, Jr., *Chief*

## **Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana**

Earl J. Barbry, Sr., *Chairman*  
Marshall Pierite, *Vice Chairman*

## **Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah)**

Cheryl Andrews-Maltais,  
*Tribal Council Chairwoman*  
Richard Randolph, *Vice Chairman*

## Legislative Priorities

USET continues to promote education on legislation and policy in Washington, DC and to its members through various efforts. USET Tribal leadership, staff, and retained legislative and policy analysts and consultants work to create a better understanding of Indian Country, its needs, and issues by developing first hand relationships with states, Congressional members, and the White House. The covenants, alliances,



and partnerships USET has with other Tribal advocates including Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians (ATNI), California Association of Tribal Governments (CATG), National Congress of American Indians (NCAI), National Indian Education Association (NIEA), Native American Finance Officers Association (NAFOA), and National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development (NCAIED) expedite legislation and policy to improve the standard of living in Indian Country. USET continues to work diligently to create change in legislation and policy to strengthen Indian Country.

### Carcieri Fix

USET maintained the Carcieri Fix as one of its top priorities in 2012, and it will remain so in 2013. On several occasions, USET Leadership worked to educate members of Congress about the impacts on Indian Country from the 2009 Carcieri v. Salazar ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court. A Carcieri

Fix is very important to Indian Country because without it, Tribal Nations could face taxations from the county and state, jeopardize Tribal economies, and bring into question all property that has been placed in trust since



1934. Also without a fix, there is ambiguity about Tribal jurisdiction for public safety and law enforcement. Passing the proposed legislation comes at NO COST to the federal taxpayer and will save federal dollars by putting a stop to, potentially decades of, costly litigation.

### Intertribal Tax Initiative - IOTI

Facing new forms of intrusion into tribal sovereign affairs by federal and state taxation efforts, tribal leaders called for united action. USET responded by joining together with other intertribal organizations to mobilize around a shared strategy on tax policy initiatives designed to defend tribal sovereignty, strengthen nation-building and stimulate economic development. That joint effort has become known as the Intertribal Organization Tax Initiative (IOTI).

The persistent, focused and closely coordinated advocacy efforts by the IOTI in 2012 produced positive results in each of the priority tax issues identified by tribal leaders, including exempting tribal cultural/educational program benefits from federal taxation, preventing state taxation of improvements to tribal trust land, and respecting tribal rights to regulate Indian commerce. For details, please see: <http://www.usetinc.org/AboutUSET/USETTaxInitiative.aspx>

### Restrictive Settlement Act (RSA) Initiative

USET has undertaken extensive work on the RSA Initiative, with active consultation and direction from its affected members. At the 2012 Annual Meeting, in a discussion with an Interior official, RSA Tribal leaders touched on (1) short-term and long-term actions necessary to maintain Interior's focus on the RSA Initiative, (2) bringing Assistant Secretary Washburn up-to-speed on this issue, and (3) ongoing cooperation with the US Department of Interior (DOI), Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs (OCLA) for the purpose of requesting input on the application of pending/proposed legislation to the RSA Tribal Nations. Finally, a discussion was initiated concerning developing a DOI Dispute Resolution process that may facilitate state-Tribal collaboration for negotiating new/revised language in the RSA's. Notably, this year, for the first time, DOI-OCLA requested feedback from the RSA Tribal Nations on the application of pending legislation.

# Legislative Priorities

## Violence Against Women Act Reauthorization (Senate Bill 1925)

The reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) has been one of USET's top priorities. USET has been working to educate members of Congress about the importance of including Section 904 and 905 which gives Tribal authorities jurisdiction to prosecute all persons committing acts of sexual and domestic violence against Native people. Regardless of its passage, USET Leadership has taken the position that women are a major part of any culture's future and that Indian Country has always held its Native Women sacred.



## USET remains involved with Secretarial Commission on Indian Trust Administration and Reform (SCITAR)

USET remains heavily involved with SCITAR to provide input and advice regarding its members and their communities. USET has made a point to have representation and presentations at SCITAR's listening sessions and meetings to recommend options to the U.S. Department of Interior on how it may improve the trust administration system, including regulatory and legislative changes or improvements. The Federal government's trust responsibility towards Indian lands and resources is multi-faceted. The trust doctrine's role in defining claims against the United States for taking or badly managing Tribal lands has been the focus of most discussions.

A thorough and comprehensive reform of the current trust system is necessary for Indian Country to achieve complete self-determination into realized full sovereign authority. "We (Tribal Nations) are at a critical time and have a great opportunity for

Tribal leaders to define and determine the future relationship that we Tribal Nations will have with the U.S.," United States Department of Interior Trust Commission Chairwoman Fawn Sharp told USET at its Annual Meeting in Uncasville, Connecticut.

## Stafford Act

USET strongly supports efforts consistent with nation-to-nation relationships to provide Indian Tribal governments with the opportunity for direct access to Federal disaster assistance programs. Accordingly, USET recommended this year that Congress take swift action to pass Senate Bill 2283 (S. 2283) or comparable provisions in other legislative vehicles. The amendments contain provisions that would allow Tribal Nations to compile a plan for responding to the disaster/emergency and filing requests for assistance in a more expedient fashion without depending on state approval. The amendment will allow Tribal Nations to request a declaration for its disaster regardless of a state's application or reluctance. At the date of this publication, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the "Hurricane Sandy Relief Bill" or House Bill 219 (H.R. 219) and House Bill 152 (H.R. 152) to fund Sandy-related response and recovery, according to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

**United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.**

**Nashville, TN Office:**  
711 Stewarts Ferry Place, Suite 100  
Nashville, TN 37214  
Phone: (615) 872-7900  
Fax: (615) 872-7417

**Washington, DC Office:**  
400 North Capitol Street, Suite 585  
Washington, D.C., 20001  
Phone: (202) 624-3550  
Fax: (202) 393-5218

July 2, 2012

The Honorable Joseph Lieberman  
Chairman  
Senate Committee on Homeland Security & Governmental Affairs  
340 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Susan Collins  
Ranking Member  
Senate Committee on Homeland Security & Governmental Affairs  
340 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Lieberman and Ranking Member Collins:

This letter is written on behalf of the United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc. (USET), a non-profit, inter-Tribal organization that collectively represents its twenty six member Tribes on a regional and national level, to offer support for S. 2283 as introduced in the U.S. Senate, which would amend the Stafford Act in recognition of Tribal sovereignty. It is noted that parallel provisions appear in Section 210 of H.R. 2903, the FEMA Reauthorization Act as passed out of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.

Indian Tribal governments have long held that the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (Stafford Act) incorrectly classifies Indian Tribes as "local governments" and deprives Indian Tribal Governments of the right to request emergency or major disaster declarations directly from the President. Instead, Tribes may only obtain Federal disaster assistance if the governor of the state in which they are located seeks and obtains a Stafford Act declaration applicable to that state. Allowing Tribes to make requests directly to the President would greatly increase efficiency and reduce unnecessary bureaucratic delays which cannot be afforded during and after a crisis. The increased efficiency and improved emergency response outcomes that would come from Tribes being able to make direct requests would not only benefit Tribes, but also their surrounding communities which whom they coordinate on emergency response matters.

*"Because there is strength in Unity"*

# Legislative Priorities



## USET Leadership Testifies before Congress

During the past year, USET Leadership has stepped to the microphone to advocate legislation on various issues, subjects and initiatives including protection of sovereignty, health, taxation, domestic violence and sexual assault, sacred sites, protection of cultural and sacred sites, and public safety. USET leaders have made presentations and given testimony to Congressional committees, sub-committees, and federal agency listening sessions.

**USET President and Bear Clan Council Member of the Oneida Indian Nation Brian Patterson** - Submitted written comments to the U.S. Department of Interior for a listening session on Sacred Site Protection.



**Catawba Indian Nation Chief William "Bill" Harris (above left), Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida Chairman Colley Billie (above center), and USET Executive Director Kitcki Carroll (above right)**- Testified before the Interior Subcommittee of the House Appropriations Committee regarding the overall funding for the Bureau of Indian Affairs and for Indian Health Service.

**Mohegan Tribe Chief Lynn Malerba** - Testified before the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs regarding the tax policy priorities for Tribal Nations during an oversight hearing on new tax burdens on Tribal self-determination.



**Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians Principal Chief Michell Hicks** - Testified before the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs regarding the President's FY2013 Budget for Native Programs.



**Poarch Band of Creek Indians Council Member Robert McGhee** - Testified before the House Committee on Natural Resources, Subcommittee on Indian and Alaska Native Affairs regarding the FY2013 Budget Request for Indian Health Service.

**Seneca Nation of Indians President Robert Odawi Porter (2012-2012)** - Testified before the Senate Committee on Finance in a hearing on Tax Reform: What it Could Mean For Tribal Nations and Territories.



# USET in Action 2012

## USET Leadership participates in discussion with United Nations Special Rapporteur James Anaya

The international community has given special attention to the human rights situations of indigenous peoples by the establishment of institutions and bodies that specifically target these peoples' concerns. On May 4th, United Nations Special Rapporteur James Anaya concluded his official visit to the United States with a meeting of Tribal leaders and indigenous rights advocates throughout Indian Country. In the first-ever investigation led by a human rights expert on Indigenous Peoples, Anaya, during his meeting visited with American Indian Leaders including members of USET. He was moved by many stories and sights that he encountered including the need for strengthening the Violence Against Women Act. Anaya reported, "I didn't anticipate the depth of meaning that one gets from hearing directly from victims of domestic violence... Once one sits down and directly hears those stories, it's very powerful and it really does inform the way I look at this issue."



## USET Honors Retiring Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs Larry Echo Hawk

Former Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs for the U.S. Department of the Interior Larry Echo Hawk was honored by USET during its Semi-Annual Meeting in May at the Tunica-Biloxi Reservation in Marksville, Louisiana. Echo Hawk resigned his position on April 27, 2012.



“We have seen this position filled many times. But, rarely have we ever seen that position filled by a person that had the passion and professional capability as Larry Echo Hawk brought to the office and to Indian Country. He visited reservations and met with our people. Even when the government was shut down by a snow storm, he ventured to our Impact Week Meeting to listen and share with our USET Tribal Nations,” USET President Brian Patterson commented on Assistant Secretary Echo Hawk.

“We have seen this position filled many times. But, rarely have we ever seen that position filled by a person that had the passion and professional capability as Larry Echo Hawk brought to the office and to Indian Country. He visited reservations and met with our people. Even when the government was shut down by a snow storm, he ventured to our Impact Week Meeting to listen and share with our USET Tribal Nations,” USET President Brian Patterson commented on Assistant Secretary Echo Hawk.

## USET Endorsed Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs Kevin Washburn

USET Leadership endorsed the appointment and confirmation of former Dean of the University of New Mexico Law School, Kevin K. Washburn, member of the Chickasaw Nation of Oklahoma. Washburn was confirmed by the United States Senate Committee on Indian Affairs in September 2012. USET President Brian Patterson wrote to President Obama and the Senate saying, “United South and Eastern Tribes, Incorporated (USET) has stated its firm support for the confirmation of Mr. Kevin K. Washburn as the next Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs at the United States Department of Interior. USET leadership is reaffirming its belief that Mr. Washburn is a strong advocate that will advance our Nations' rights, inherent sovereignty, and sacred trust issues.”



## USET Board of Directors Re-Elect Officers at 2012 Annual Meeting

United South and Eastern Tribes, Incorporated Board of Directors has re-elected its existing officers. The officers are also known as the Administrative Operations Committee (AOC). Incumbent USET President Brian Patterson (Oneida Indian Nation), Vice President Randy Noka (Narragansett Indian Tribe), Secretary Brenda Lintinger (Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana), and Kirk E. Francis, Sr. (Penobscot Indian Nation) have been reinstated to their respective offices by a vote of acclamation on Tuesday, October 9, 2012 in Uncasville, Connecticut at the USET Annual Meeting.



## Economic Development Committee takes on role to work for Entrepreneurship

For a number of years the Economic Development and Entrepreneurship Committee at USET was known as the Commercial Law, Legislation, and Economic Development Committee. During 2012 this committee has narrowed its scope of work to Economic Development and Entrepreneurship. In order to see this committee through its new beginning, it is co-chaired by Karen Nichols of the Catawba Indian Nation and Jason Lambert of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians.



## USET Establishes a Youth Leadership Council

Part of USET's mission is to promote leadership and the capability of its members. One method is to empower the youth. During the USET Annual Meeting in Uncasville, Connecticut, Resolution 2013:005 was adopted to establish a Youth Leadership Council. The first council will be co-chaired by Choctaw Central High School Senior Taloa Berg (Mississippi Band of Choctaw) and Independence High School (Thompson Station, Tennessee) Junior Nicodemus Bushyhead (Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians). Bushyhead was a sophomore at Cherokee High School in North Carolina.

## USET Creates a Development Department

During the past year, USET created a Development Department. The primary purpose of a non-profit development department within a business is to raise funds for the company's various philanthropic efforts. In addition to fundraising, which includes some grant writing, Public Relations, Marketing, and database management/grant administration has been added to the scope of work for this department. In July, Brandon Stephens was hired as the first Development Director. Brandon is a member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians. In his last capacity with the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians he served as the Deputy Chief of Housing. This department will work on corporate fund raising, strategic planning, creation of an economic development program, grant writing, website design, annual reports, and press releases. In time, this office will develop positions to cover these areas.



## New Faces at USET

In addition to the creation of the Development Director position, USET has hired some new employees during the past year. Jerry Pardilla is USET's new Director of Environmental Resource Management (formerly Environmental Liaison Office). Jerry is a member of the Penobscot Indian Nation. In his role as Director, Jerry oversees the department strategic plans and program activities, and works with staff to assist USET Tribes in the protection, restoration, and preservation of Tribal communities by providing programmatic support and advocacy in natural and cultural resources, environment, agriculture, energy, and emergency management.

USET has also created a Health Policy Analyst position in the Tribal Health Program Support department. Liz Malerba was hired in the spring of 2012 for this position. The position is based in Washington, D.C. Liz works to monitor and provide comments on Indian health policy released by the Obama administration, provide advocacy and analysis on federal legislation affecting the health of USET Tribal Nations including Special Diabetes Program for Indians and the federal budget, inform and prepare USET members for full implementation of the Affordable Care Act, and coordinate with National Indian organizations on issues related to health. Liz is a member of the Mohegan Tribe.



# Tribal Health Program Support (THPS)

## Health Policy and Advocacy

This past year THPS continued to work towards advancing the health status of American Indians by providing guidance to Tribal Nations in areas such as Tribal consultation, policy, legislative processes, budget and local program improvements.



## Affordable Care Act (ACA) Education

During 2012, THPS continued collaboration with other Area Indian Health Boards on developing outreach and education materials for Tribal Nations to use to educate their membership, staff and leaders about the ACA. Materials are designed to be customizable so that individual Tribal Nations can include pictures of local members, health department addresses and messages. All materials developed are being housed on a password protected site, [www.nativeexchange.org](http://www.nativeexchange.org).

Additionally, THPS staff has assisted several Tribal Nations' outreach to States in the development of Tribal/State Consultation Policies. It also conducted five Tribal Council presentations on the ACA and the Indian Health Care Improvement Act reauthorization (IHICIA). THPS also hosted an in-depth training on the ACA to Health Directors which provided Tribal Nations the tools to evaluate potential benefits of health insurance exchange. Lastly, THPS responded to several Federal Register notices regarding the implementation of ACA and continued to monitor the implementation progress.



## Health Information Technology

During 2012, USET continued to serve Indian Country as a NIHB-Regional Extension Center (REC) sub-recipient contractor for electronic medical record (EHR) deployment and its meaningful use (MU). USET is serving as REC lead coordinator to nine Indian Health Service (IHS) Areas, covering a 29 state geographic area, in this EHR and MU effort. As of September 30, 2012, USET is supporting 1,486 priority primary care providers practicing in 168 IHS/Tribal/Urban Indian Health (I/T/U) facilities. The USET REC work supports approximately eight IHS EHR Deployment Team clinical consultants (Pharmacy and Laboratory EHR consultants) and 12 additional technical consultants to provide a comprehensive scope of services for EHR deployment and MU training to I/T/Us.

To date, 91% of the 168 I/T/U facilities have successfully implemented a certified EHR solution and approximately 10% of the 1,486 priority primary care providers are demonstrating Stage-1 MU as defined by CMS EHR Incentive Program.



# Tribal Health Program Support (THPS)

## USET-Vanderbilt University Native American Research Center for Health

During FY2012, the USET-Vanderbilt University (VU) Native American Research Center for Health (NARCH) continued its focus on increasing Tribal-University research partnerships and the number of American Indian scientists. Progress was made through the Center's successful partnership with the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians and VU in implementing the "Using Health Information Technology to Improve Diabetes Management in American Indian Communities" research project. Promising self-management tools are being developed by the Tribal-University team to better address the diabetes problem, and the project continues to be well received by the community and Tribal health care system partners as a whole. USET has also submitted a proposal for the next cycle of NARCH funding.



SCHOOL OF MEDICINE  
VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY

As a result of the USET-VU NARCH partnership, USET and Vanderbilt partnered again to sponsor two USET member Tribal students to participate in a six week extensive scientific research internship, known as the Aspirnaut Program, at Vanderbilt University during the summer of 2012. The Aspirnaut Program is working to encourage young rural students to reach their dreams while giving them resources and real life experiences in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) fields so that they may become doctors, engineers, telecommunication specialists, or math teachers and professors.



## Immunization Program

During 2012, the immunization program successfully collaborated with IHS and Tribal health department immunization coordinators to establish the production of a quarterly immunization newsletter. The purpose of the newsletter is to provide communication regarding immunization evidence-based practices, schedule updates, trainings and conferences, and highlight immunization awards received by colleagues. The immunization program also managed the project for immunization data exchange with facilities and state immunization registries. This is an important project as it ensures a patient's complete immunization history is available to the provider, avoids medical record scattering, prevents over or under immunization, and wasted resources.

## USET Dental Support Center

During 2012, the Dental Support Center (DSC) continued to focus on quality improvement. Through site visits, training, and ongoing support, the DSC Director helped Tribal Nations monitor the quality of both clinical and community programs. In many cases, the DSC Director assisted Tribal dental and administrative staff develop internal methods to monitor and improve the quality of oral health services. In 2012, site visits were conducted at 80% of Tribal Nations with on-site dental care and 68% of the USET members with dental clinics conducted an internal quality

review. The DSC also assisted 18 Tribal Nations with community prevention programs through the mini-award program. This includes a written plan and \$1,500 to support the project. In the next year, the DSC director will work with the dental and administrative staffs to help the clinic staff monitor and improve the quality of oral health services.



# Tribal Health Program Support (THPS)



## USET Diabetes Program

The Special Diabetes Program for Indians (SDPI) collaborative effort with 20 Member Tribal Nations continues to be a strong and interactive endeavor. The FY2013 SDPI application including 20 sub-grantee applications was approved with USET receiving Notice of Grant Award in December. USET technical assistance continues as an integral aspect of this collaborative effort.

A major emphasis area for 2012 was quality improvement of diabetes care. Activities addressing this improvement effort include the following: 1) Collaboration between USET Diabetes Program, USET Data Program, and NAO GPRA Coordinator to improve Diabetes Care and Outcome Audit and the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA) National Performance Measures. Each SDPI application identified areas of improvement for the diabetes audit and the USET/NAO team followed-up with local programs.

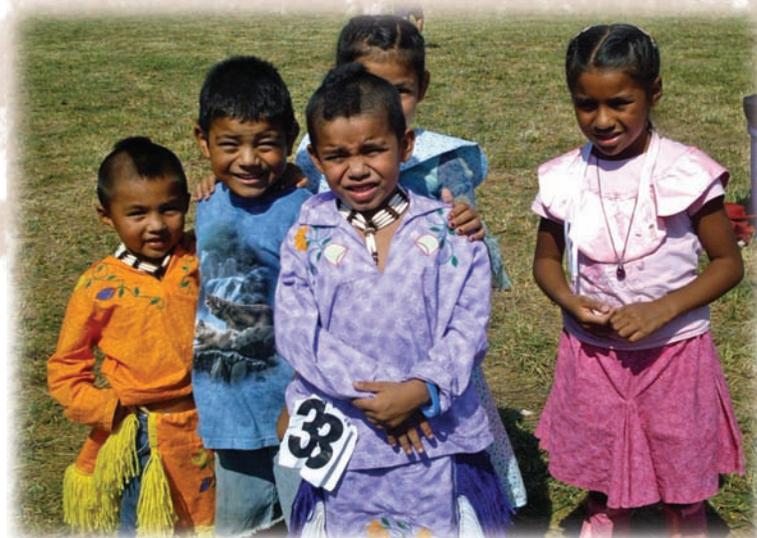
2) The Diabetes Consultant is a member of the NAO Improving Patient Care (IPC) team as of August 2011. 3) The USET Diabetes Program and Tribal Epidemiology Center continue to provide Tribal specific and Area aggregate diabetes reports based on the Annual Diabetes Care and Outcome Audit. In 2012, 21 Tribal Nations participated in producing an Annual Diabetes Care and Outcome Audit, which assesses care and health outcomes in American Indian/Alaska Native with Diabetes based on national standards.

## USET Tribal Epidemiology Center

During FY2012, the Tribal Epidemiology Center (TEC) continued its long term mission to assist USET members with monitoring and communicating community health status, and improve public health infrastructure. Tribal specific Diabetes Reports were produced and distributed, and trainings on how to use report information for program improvement were held. The TEC helped maintain the Tribal specific Immunization Coverage and the Cause of Death Surveillance Systems, by coordinating data collection and reporting, and facilitating Tribal, State, IHS, and USET partnering. The TEC helped establish a new Prescription Drug Misuse Surveillance System, through quarterly data collection and reporting, and facilitating increased Tribal and IHS focus on better capturing the extent of the problem.



With the much appreciated support of the USET members, the TEC also successfully competed for five years of Office of Minority Health funding to develop a web based American Indian/Alaska Native Population Health Data Portal (PHD-Portal).



# Office of Environmental Resource Management (OERM)



## Nationally Approved Drinking Water Certification

The USET Certification Program, with input and approval from the USET Certification Board for Water and Wastewater Treatment Plant Operators and Laboratory Analysts, became the first Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Nationally Approved Tribal Drinking Water Certification Program. This approval allows USET to provide training and testing for Drinking Water Operator Certification. EPA accepted the USET Operator Certification Program Business Plan on February 8, 2012. The program also offers Wastewater, Water Distribution, and Wastewater Collection System Operator Certifications as well as Laboratory Analyst Certification. The USET Certification Board approved a total of 40 new and renewal certifications for Drinking Water, Wastewater, Water Distribution System, Wastewater Collection System, and Laboratory Analysts.

Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI) Water Plant Operator Russell Bigmeat, Jr. is the first to be certified by USET's Operator Certification Program through examination.

## Pesticides Workshop

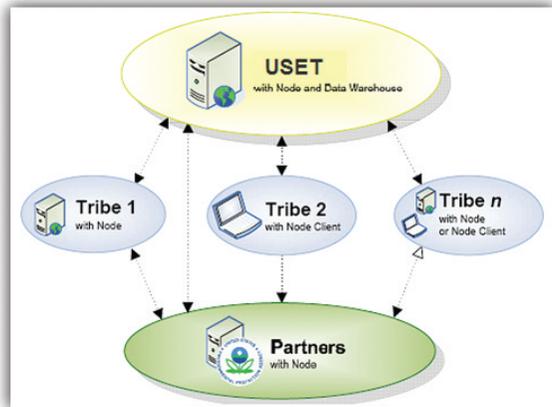
The OERM held a Pesticides Workshop at USET Offices in June. Presentations were made on watershed protection, pesticides labels and how to read them, pesticides regulations, biological controls, hands-on training on pesticide application, consequences, public health and public works issues, Tribal resources, environmental stewardship, green alternatives, and a tabletop exercise which pointed out the competing interests which compel staff to develop a comprehensive plan for pesticide control. EPA praised the depth of the workshop and has given additional funding for USET to conduct another workshop in 2013.



## Training and Technical Assistance

EPA Region I awarded USET a Direct Implementation Tribal Cooperative Agreement (DITCA). The agreement sets a goal to provide technical assistance and training to Region I USET members. This is the first time another EPA Region has supported the USET Certification Board and Certification Program. Site visits have been conducted and training provided to Tribal Nations. This DITCA supplements the EPA Region IV DITCA along with the U.S. Health and Human Services grant to provide technical assistance and training for Drinking Water, Wastewater and Solid Waste systems.

# Office of Environmental Resource Management (OERM)



## Tribal Focused Environmental Risk Sustainability Tool

USET has entered into a contract with the EPA to develop Tribal Focused Environmental Risk Sustainability Tool (T-FERST). USET is utilizing its Office of Environmental Resources Management to organize and oversee the T-FERST project. This is a Web-based, geospatial environmental decision support tool designed to equip Tribal Nations with best available human health and ecological science. It is an opportunity to link EPA research to Tribal environmental needs through a collaborative partnership approach. Highlights accomplished to date include the development of a T-FERST Roadmap, a Fish Survey distributed to USET members, and the Water Quality Exchange Node is being adapted to accept T-FERST Data.

## National Tribal Water Council

The OERM, in partnership with ABC, is the facilitator for the National Tribal Water Council (NTWC) through a grant from EPA Office of Water. Monthly conference calls are being conducted. A Co-Sponsorship Agreement was signed at the USET Office between EPA Office of Water, USET, and the National Tribal Water Council which outlines the responsibility among the parties on June 6, 2012. Two face to face meetings have been held (one at USET offices, the other at the Gila River Reservation in Chandler, AZ). The NTWC is a technical and scientific body created to assist the EPA, federally recognized Indian Tribal Nations, including Alaska Native communities, and their associated communities and organizations, with research and information for decision-making regarding water issues and water-related concerns.



## Joint Initiative on Ethno-botanical Climate Change

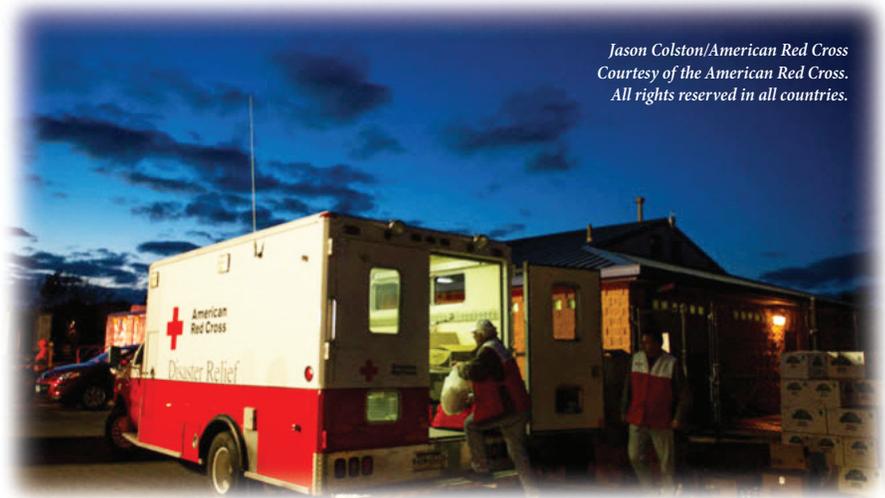
The USET Natural Resources and Culture & Heritage Committees initiated a Joint Initiative on Ethnobotanical Climate Change. These two committees held conference calls and convened at the USET Annual Meeting at the Mohegan Sun Casino in Uncasville, CT, to address ecosystem changes and the potential adverse impacts to Tribal cultures and traditional practices. The USET OERM assisted these committees with development of a Mission and Goals Statement and administrative support. OERM is networking with government agencies and Tribal organizations to gather information about climate change and response strategies to evaluate USET involvement at the regional and national levels.

# **TEMAC**

## **Tribal Emergency Mutual Aid Compact**

### **TEMAC Advocacy - Stafford Act**

USET and the Tribal Emergency Mutual Aid Compact (TEMAC) participant Tribal Nations have taken a leadership role in an effort to make the much needed, and long overdue changes, in the Robert T. Stafford Act of 1988 (Stafford Act), a law promulgated to give the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), States, and local units of government the ability to receive assistance in the wake of disasters. At the date of this publication, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the “Hurricane Sandy Relief Bill” or House Bill 219 (H.R. 219) and House Bill 152 (H.R. 152) to fund Sandy-related response and recovery, according to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.



*Jason Colston/American Red Cross  
Courtesy of the American Red Cross.  
All rights reserved in all countries.*

### **TEMAC Helps Tribal Mutual Aid Efforts**

Working with the USET TEMAC, the Seminole Tribe of Florida demonstrated overwhelming humanity in their willingness to assist those impacted by Hurricane Sandy in the northeast United States. The Tribal community came together to support emergency management needs in the devastated region through mutual aid response. The Seminole Tribe of Florida deployed an emergency management team to assist the Shinnecock Indian Nation of New York.



“This is the first time that we have been a part of the emergency management system as a conduit to provide assistance to another Tribal Nation,” said Jerry Wheeler, Public Safety Director for the Seminole Tribe of Florida. “As we work to assist the Shinnecock Indian Nation, we will not hesitate to expand our relief efforts to other entities that need assistance within our emergency management expertise.”

## USET-TEMAC Become Affiliated with Tribal Emergency Management Association (iTEMA) to build new resources of strength across Indian Country

iTEMA is an emerging national Tribal association created for Indian Country, by Indian Country. The mission of iTEMA is to promote a collaborative, multi-disciplinary approach to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate against all hazards that impact our Tribal communities. iTEMA supports education, training and preparedness activities in a manner that promotes cooperation and equality for the whole community and works to develop partnerships with Tribal, Federal, state, and local agencies and organizations for the advancement of emergency management and services. To this end, we continue to formalize our organizational capacity and structure by developing business and strategic planning structures to launch the organization.

### Why the “i”?

The lowercase “i” versus the uppercase letter was added to show humility. It gives individual ownership in our association; “i” becomes one within the context of our Team or TEMA. It stands for: Indian, indigenous, inter-Tribal.



## USET Tribal Cultural Resource Monitors Continue Involvement in the Deepwater Horizon Gulf Oil Spill

The urgent need to protect all American Indian historical sites from manmade disasters was highlighted when British Petroleum's (BP) Deepwater Horizon oil well exploded in April of 2010. It has been over two years since USET and the Tribal Historical Preservation Officers of the impacted Tribal Nations successfully negotiated a contract with BP to deploy a team of Tribal Cultural Resource Monitors to work alongside archeologists employed by BP in the disaster's response.

The work of the monitors is essential to help ensure that historically cultural materials are preserved and protected. The site identification

efforts have turned up dozens of areas where archeologists and monitors are finding human and animal remains, pottery and primitive weapons left behind by early American Indian settlements. The locations of these sites are being closely guarded to prevent looting.



# USET in the Spotlight

USET is proud of the accomplishments by its leadership and staff. Each day the USET staff works diligently to meet the goals and objectives that support the organizational mission. This year some outside agencies have recognized individuals that work with USET.

## United States Department of Health and Human Service - Indian Health Service (IHS) - Nashville Area Directors Award for Excellence

**Brian Patterson**, USET President (Oneida Indian Nation): For exhibiting outstanding leadership in advocating for improved Indian Health Care in numerous forums, and reinforcing transparency and accountability in IHS.

In his remarks to the IHS audience, President Patterson said, "I have served my people (Oneida Indian Nation) for more than 20 years. I often remind them that you don't need a title to make change for the people. It is service that will make the greatest positive impact for Indian Country. Service will bring a legacy for our children's children."



## United States Department of Health and Human Service - Indian Health Service - Nashville Area Exceptional Performance Award

**Tihtiayas (Dee) Sabattus**, Tribal Health Program Support Director (Passamaquoddy-Indian Township): Citation for exceptional initiative and accomplishments in advocating for USET members health needs in multiple national forums. Dee supervises programs that provide ongoing health and policy information, technical assistance and training to USET members.

Tribal Health Program Support (THPS) has demonstrated leadership throughout Indian Country by using its trusted personnel, strong network of contacts and existing partnerships and processes to support Tribal self-determination and sovereignty.



## USET Natural Resources Committee Chair, Michael Bolt, Appointed to National Ocean Council Governance Coordinating Council

Eastern Woodland American Indians now have a new advocate and voice on the President's National Ocean Council Governance Coordinating Council. The Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians Water Quality Section Supervisor, Michael Bolt has been appointed to serve a two-year term in the summer of 2012. On February 23, 2011, the National Ocean Council established the Governance Coordinating Committee (GCC), in consultation with appropriate state, Tribal, and local governments and organizations, to serve as a key coordinating body on inter-jurisdictional ocean policy issues. The GCC consists of 18 members from states, federally recognized Tribal Nations, and local governments.



The GCC has the tasks of finding solutions to Deepwater Horizon oil spill, the Gulf of Mexico Dead Zone, and Climate Change. The overall welfare of our oceans will be the general focus. Some Tribal Nations do not have a coastal water front while others depend on it for their way of life. Michael Bolt stated, "Oceans are a very unique ecology of the planet. In fact, they are the breeding ground for the whole web of life which needs to be protected and enhanced." Bolt is one of three Tribal representatives with the committee.

## *USET Honors Two Students at Annual Meeting and Vanderbilt Announces New Opportunity*

Youth have new opportunities and USET Tribal development has hope for a positive future. Vanderbilt University Medical Center's Assistant Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs Julie K. Hudson, MD, MA announced at this year's USET Annual Meeting that the Aspironaut Program has received grant funding from the National Institutes of Health/The National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases for the next five years. The new grant funding will allow up to 15 new collegiate



undergraduate students to enroll in the Aspironaut Program. Also, two students from USET member Tribal Nations were honored for their participation this past summer in Aspironaut. The two students are Choctaw Central High School (Mississippi) Senior Taloa Berg and Independence High School, formerly at Cherokee High School, (North Carolina) junior Nicodemus Bushyhead. Bushyhead now attends high school at Independence High near Franklin, Tennessee.

The Aspironaut Program at Vanderbilt University (VU) is working to encourage young rural students to reach their dreams while giving them resources and real life experiences in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) fields so that they may become doctors, engineers, telecommunication specialists, or math teachers and professors. The Aspironaut Program works to beam information, resources, and research back into rural classrooms so that it may involve younger students in elementary schools, high schools and collegiate undergraduates. Over 800 students have been recipients of online conferencing and virtual laboratories. Dr. Hudson told USET leadership, "We think that the partnership works well because it uses the assets of a research university and extends those to rural schools, rural teachers, and rural leaders in education."



The Aspironaut Program has collected data on all of its participants and monitored their progress after leaving the program. There have been no dropouts recorded among the 43 high school students that have participated in the last four summers. Twenty seven are seeking some form of post secondary training or are enrolled in college according to Dr. Hudson. Hudson adds, "All but one or two of the 27 in college are enrolled in a STEM related field of study." Hudson says that the remaining 16 students are still in high school and data is showing that they are making good grades. "Our data is showing that we are increasing the efficacy of the students and are showing positive progress in the classroom," Hudson commented.



Taloe Berg worked in the summer (2012) with VU scientists on gene mutations in flies. Berg has a goal to attend medical school and become a pediatrician. While participating with the Aspirnaut Program, she worked with researchers on the development of human genes and what may impact normal development. Taloe says that she is torn between wanting to be a pediatrician and becoming a research physician after this experience, "I have thought about a career back home at our hospital (Choctaw) because my dad works there. Any student that is really into science, math or medicine should go for this program. It will open your eyes to a lot of things," Berg commented. "It (Aspirnaut Program) has made a big impact on me and made me understand I needed to do more work to prepare for college," Berg told USET leaders.

Nicodemus Bushyhead conducted testing on new steroid drugs that will help prevent kidney disease by regulating blood pressure and lowering the risk of associated liver damage during his six weeks at Vanderbilt this past summer. Bushyhead says that his goal is to attend college to become a pharmacist, return home and open a pharmacy on the Cherokee Indian Reservation. "Working here in these labs (at Vanderbilt University) has helped me understand the work and steps it will take to be a pharmacist," Bushyhead says. Bushyhead also says the experience opened his eyes to the many other possibilities that this program has to offer and where the work of pharmacy can take him, not just someone who dispenses medicine at a drugstore. He told the USET Board of Directors, "This program that we got into makes you realize that there is work to be done when you are taking your classes in high school that will help make your way into college and do what you want to do as a career."

For several USET members the goal is to improve the standard of living. The Aspirnaut Program works to gather a diverse group of students and create unique approaches in seeking solutions for challenges in science. The students gain experience and possibly a new foothold in gaining acceptance to first rate universities. The Tribal Nations may benefit from highly trained students. Dr. Hudson says the hope is that these students will go into a field of science. But, if they become leaders, teachers, or administrators they will have critical thinking skills, understand how to influence lawmakers on funding innovations in science that will make positive affects in their community, and become positive role models for the future.



USET Executive Director Kitcki Carroll echoes Hudson's remarks saying, "We are most excited about what has occurred up to this point. The relationship USET has with Vanderbilt is so important in its effort to establish Nation rebuilding. The educational opportunities for our younger generations are paramount to accomplishing our goals of rebuilding Indian Country. We must always remember in our efforts to rebuilding communities that it is going to take all kinds of skill sets, all sorts of expertise. It's not just all attorneys, not just all educators, it's not just all scientists, and we need everything to make the communities strong. It is through the efforts and examples that you (Nicodemus and Taloa) are setting that's going to allow these collective Nations to become empowered to do what they want to do."



Carroll has also invited Berg and Bushyhead to become the initial co-chairs on a USET Youth Leadership Council. "We really need that voice and that perspective from the USET Youth talking as we are talking about the growth and direction of this organization. We are most appreciative of this relationship. We have high hopes for this relationship and we have high hopes for the futures of Nicodemus and Taloa," Carroll told the USET Board of Directors.

USET President Brian Patterson told Tribal Leadership it must do everything it can to provide resources to USET Tribal youth. "We know in our home lands. We know in our teachings. We know when we invoke the power of a good mind in principle throughout our Nations that we do



so with the future generations in mind. We do so while talking of the future seven generations. For the seven generations to meet their challenges, we must prepare our leaders of today. We must give them all the strength, all the courage, all the compassion that we can so they can advance their generation and future generations," Patterson said.

Vanderbilt is ready to begin taking applications for its new round of undergraduate students for the Aspirnaut Program.

## Four American Indians from USET Region make the NCAIED National “Native American 40 Under 40”

The National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development (NCAIED) has announced that four individuals from the United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc (USET) region are recipients of the prestigious national “Native American 40 Under 40” recognition awards. Recipients for 2012 include Tribal Council Chairman **Kyle Williams** (Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas), U.S. Department of Interior’s Office of Indian Energy & Economic Development Program Specialist **Rebecca Naragon** (Poarch Band of Creek Indians), National Indian Gaming Commission Chief of Staff **Paxton Myers** (Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians), and USET Executive Director **Kitcki A. Carroll** (Cheyenne-Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma).

USET President Brian Patterson praised the group of individuals selected by NCAIED. “USET Leadership is extremely proud of the accomplishments and contributions made by these amazing and deserving individuals. We are proud of each person and how they have served their communities. Our sitting leaders of our great Tribal nations stand tall today with hearts filled with gratitude for the accomplishments of these individuals and the positive impact they make. Our wish is that their path of success will continue. The award is prestigious to these recipients and marks greatness in our USET region. It is also a shining example of accomplishments and leadership for our younger generations to achieve,” stated Patterson.



**Kyle Williams** serves as Chairman of the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas. Prior to being elected to Tribal Council in 2008, Chairman Williams served his people in the Tribal Environmental Office. In addition to his work for the Tribe, he has recently been selected to serve as the Tribal Representative for the Regional Tribal Conservation Advisory Council. He was also instrumental in establishing a Tribal Police Department for the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe. The Department will soon be recognized by the 82nd Texas State Legislature which convenes in January 2013. He has also started a Fitness Program for Tribal employees, chairs the Tribal annual youth conference and serves on various other boards. Kyle is a member of the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas (Livingston, Texas).

**Paxton Myers** has been named the Harrah’s Cherokee Casino and Hotel Vice President of Casino Marketing. He recently served as the Chief of Staff for the National Indian Gaming Commission (NIGC). In addition to the NIGC, Myers has worked as the Advisor on Native American Affairs for Michigan Representative (5th District) Dale Kildee, who was serving as the Chairman of the House Native American Caucus. Prior to his service in DC, Myers worked as the Chief of Staff and Governmental Affairs Liaison for Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians Principal Chief Michell A. Hicks. Paxton is a member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (Cherokee, North Carolina).



**Rebecca Naragon** is a Program Specialist for the Office of Indian Energy and Economic Development (IEED), Division of Economic Development, in the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior. In addition to her service with IEED, Ms. Naragon participated in the 2010/11 Class of the Ambassador Leadership Program through Americans for Indian Opportunity (AIO). Rebecca is a member of the Poarch Band of Creek Indians (Atmore, Alabama).

**Kitcki A. Carroll** has served as Executive Director for USET for the past 2 ½ years. In this role he is directly responsible for overseeing the day to day operations of the organization. He has held various Executive/Senior management positions in the Tribal government and not-for-profit sector over the past 12 years. Additionally, he serves on various workgroups, task forces, and advisory groups within Indian Country. Kitcki is a member of the Cheyenne-Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma.



# Tribal Emergency Mutual Aid Compact Living in the Eye of the Storm

Tribal Emergency Mutual Aid Compact (TEMAC) works year round to provide resources to its members. But after all of the Congressional meetings, seminars, and workshops are over, the work really begins for TEMAC. USET members have been significantly impacted by natural disasters, namely hurricanes and flooding events in recent months. In these times of need, USET Tribal Nations have provided one another with emergency response resources and assistance. Since they were established by the USET Board of Directors, the Tribal Emergency Services and Tribal Justice Committees have been taking the lead in requesting the development of mutual aid compacts between Tribal Nations in order to improve coordination in these efforts. The purpose of the current TEMAC project is to facilitate the efficient and effective sharing of emergency response resources between USET members in a completely voluntary way.

This year TEMAC was placed to the test with two major storms that kept USET Tribal emergency managers busy.

**Hurricane Isaac:** Preparation and coordination were the best resources to battle Mother Nature's wrath in a storm like hurricane Isaac that turned to tropical storm Isaac, which is unpredictable. USET Tribal emergency response personnel, federal agencies and non-government organizations learned their preparations, coordination and maybe a few lessons learned from events seven years ago have been very helpful in dealing with destruction from a powerful storm.

During a Tribal Assistance Coordination Group meeting, hosted by the United States Department of Interior, USET Tribal Nations in Isaac's path reported that they were dealing with mostly flooding, power outages, and high winds. "It turns out that it wasn't as bad as we expected. The majority of severe weather was experienced this morning around 1 AM (Central) when we had a lot of rain and 40 mile per hour wind. We fared well and had some siding taken off houses and several homes are without electricity," reported Jena Band of Choctaw Emergency Response Director Lillie Williamson once Tribal Nations were clear of imminent danger.

Isaac appeared to threaten Tribal Nations like the Chitimacha and Coushatta Tribes of Louisiana. Emergency response personnel there reported more flooding and debris. Outlying areas like the Poarch Band of Creek Indians near Mobile, Alabama, Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana near Alexandria, Louisiana, and Mississippi Band of Choctaw in central Mississippi were threatened by tornados.

**Hurricane Sandy:** Emergency Management Directors and Coordinators from USET Tribal Nations up and down the east coast braced for the potential devastating effects of Hurricane Sandy. Some Tribal Nations, like the Catawba Indian Nation (South Carolina) and Seminole Tribe of Florida were in the direct and early path of the storm. But, Sandy pulled out to sea and headed north to New Jersey, New York, Connecticut, and Rhode Island. The Tribal Nation hardest hit was the Shinnecock Indian Nation. The Mohegan Tribe,

*continued on next page*

Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation, and Narragansett Indian Tribe felt the effects of the storm with some light damage. Further inland, the Oneida Indian Nation, Cayuga Nation, Seneca Nation of Indians, and Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe were expected to get a direct hit of rain, snow, and high winds. The Wabanaki Tribal Nations in Maine were spared the effects as Tropical Storm Sandy went into Canada and dissipated.

USET worked with its Tribal Nations to coordinate efforts to respond to the storm and get critical resources from state and federal agencies. While the Tribal Nations waited for Hurricane Sandy to approach, TEMAC started conference calls and communications to help Tribal Nations begin the planning for evacuations, response, and recovery activities.



USET Senior Project Coordinator, Harrell French worked to coordinate Tribal Nations who have experience, like the Seminole Tribe of Florida, with northeastern Tribal Nations who may not have as much experience with massive storms like Hurricane Sandy. “The first time a Tribal Nation encounters a situation like this there is always lots of confusion. Once we know more about the storm, we are going to match up experienced emergency management coordinators to follow the storm with those Tribal Nations,” French said.

During daily conference calls, USET TEMAC’s newest partner, The Tribal Emergency Management Association (iTEMA), provided valuable advice to member Tribal Nations. iTema’s Jake Heflin told them to be proactive by sending their disaster declarations to Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Headquarters in Washington, D.C. and to their respective state governors.

**TEMAC Asset:** From preparations and meetings, to the face of disaster, TEMAC provides rich resources to its members. Throughout the year, TEMAC provided critical substance in meeting and trainings to its members to make preparations for occurrences like Hurricane Isaac and Hurricane Sandy. Several Tribal Nations who were not in the storms’ pathways were standing with the affected areas to offer advice and technical assistance, send resources for response and recovery, and advocate for member Tribal Nations with agencies like Homeland Security, FEMA, Indian Health Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs, and state emergency management officials.

**TEMAC on the National Stage:** TEMAC members were recognized by national native media for its response and recovery from Hurricane Isaac. National Native News (Radio) and Native America Calling, a national talk radio program that is carried by approximately 50 radio stations and Internet outlets featured TEMAC and its member Tribal Nations on radio. USET Senior Project Coordinator, Harrell French (USET Nashville Office), Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians Emergency Management Manager, Mollie Grant (North Carolina), and Poarch Band of Creek Indians Director of Emergency Management and Fire Department, April Sells (Alabama), were featured on the 60 minute program Native America Calling to discuss the response and recovery that is needed for major storms like Isaac in addition to advocacy that is being made for the Stafford Act.



During the Hurricane Sandy response and recovery period, FEMA requested USET’s Harrell French to work at the National Response Coordinator Center (NRCC). French spent a week at the NRCC in Washington, D.C. assisting FEMA and working to coordinate federal and state response and recovery efforts with affected American Indian Tribal Nations. While French was at the NRCC, he helped develop response plans for FEMA and give greater understanding on how to improve efficiency and effectiveness with Tribal assistance.

# USEJ Staff

## Executive Office

**Kitcki Carroll**  
*Executive Director*  
615-467-1540  
kcarroll@usetinc.org

**Wanda Janes**  
*Deputy Director*  
615-467-1541  
wjanes@usetinc.org

**Callie Leasure**  
*Executive Assistant*  
615-467-1542  
cleasure@usetinc.org

**Tammy Neptune**  
*Human Resources Assistant*  
615-467-1548  
tneptune@usetinc.org

**Brandon Stephens**  
*Development Director*  
615-467-1560  
bstephens@usetinc.org

**Brandy Sue Venuti**  
*Special Projects Coordinator*  
615-467-1678  
bvenuti@usetinc.org

## Accounting Office

**Steve Adams**  
*Controller*  
615-467-1543  
sadams@usetinc.org

**Tammy Fowler**  
*Staff Accountant-A/R*  
615-467-1619  
tfowler@usetinc.org

**Gail Meador**  
*Accounting Clerk-A/P*  
615-467-1544  
gmeador@usetinc.org

## Information Technology

**John Miller**  
*Computer Support Specialist*  
615-467-1620  
jmiller@usetinc.org

## Office of Environmental Resource Management

**Jerry Pardilla**  
*OERM Director*  
615-467-1533  
jpardilla@usetinc.org

**Harrell French**  
*Sr. Project Coordinator*  
615-467-1636  
hfrench@usetinc.org

**Steve Terry**  
*Sr. Project Coordinator*  
*Tribal Community Support*  
615-467-1705  
sterry@usetinc.org

**Scott Williams**  
*Technical Assistance Specialist*  
615-467-1677  
swilliams@usetinc.org

**Lindy Colombini**  
*Technical Assistance Specialist*  
615-467-1553  
lcolombini@usetinc.org

**Jasmine Alvarado**  
*Administrative Assistant*  
615-467-1667  
jalvarado@usetinc.org

**Marsha Woodall**  
*Administrative Assistant*  
615-467-1554  
mwoodall@usetinc.org

## Tribal Health Program Support

**Dee Sabattus**  
*THPS Director*  
615-467-1550  
dsabattus@usetinc.org

**Byron Jasper**  
*Deputy Director -*  
*Public Health*  
615-467-1549  
bjasper@usetinc.org

**Jennifer Bennett**  
*Administrative Assistant*  
615-467-1568  
jbennett@usetinc.org

**Edna Fay**  
*THPS Administrative*  
*Assistant*  
615-467-1552  
efay@usetinc.org

**John Mosely Hayes, Sr.**  
*Senior Epidemiologist*  
615-467-1664  
jmhayes@usetinc.org

**Christy Duke**  
*Epidemiologist*  
615-467-1547  
cduke@usetinc.org

## Tribal Data Improvement/ Health Informatics

**Michelle Ruslavage**  
*Tribal Data Coordinator/  
Health Informatics*  
615-467-1551  
mruslavage@usetinc.org

**Vicki French**  
*Meaningful Use  
Coordinator*  
615-467-1578  
vfrench@usetinc.org

**Alison Sanders**  
*Tribal Data Coordinator*  
615-467-1599  
asanders@usetinc.org

**Diabetes Program**  
**Dianna Richter**  
*Area Diabetes Consultant*  
615-467-1556  
drichter@usetinc.org

## Dental Support Center

**Mary "Cathy" Hollister**  
*Director -  
Dental Support Center*  
615-467-1638  
mhollister@usetinc.org

## Washington D.C. Office

**Liz Malerba**  
*Health Policy Analyst*  
202-624-3550  
lmalerba@usetinc.org



# Statement of Revenues and Expenses

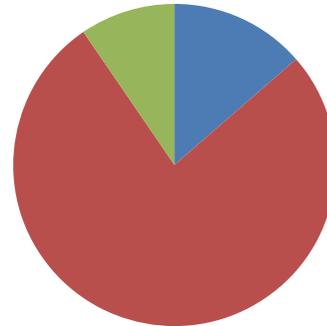
Year Ended September 30, 2012

## Revenues

|                      |                     |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| <i>Unrestricted</i>  | \$ 1,652,629        |
| <i>Program</i>       | \$ 9,342,100        |
| <i>IDC Recovered</i> | \$ 1,160,807        |
| <b>Total</b>         | <b>\$12,155,536</b> |

- Unrestricted
- Program
- IDC Recovered

Revenues by Category

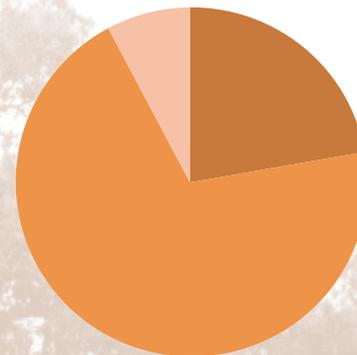


## Expenses

|                                 |                     |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|
| <i>Admin &amp; Unrestricted</i> | \$ 2,674,746        |
| <i>Diabetes</i>                 | \$ 4,084,229        |
| <i>THPS</i>                     | \$ 1,149,334        |
| <i>EPI</i>                      | \$ 249,672          |
| <i>NARCH</i>                    | \$ 249,441          |
| <i>Dental</i>                   | \$ 186,414          |
| <i>NIHB</i>                     | \$ 2,318,132        |
| <i>Other</i>                    | \$ 173,628          |
| <u>Subtotal Health</u>          | <u>\$ 8,410,850</u> |

|                      |                   |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| <i>TEMAC</i>         | \$ 243,367        |
| <i>Safewater</i>     | \$ 94,194         |
| <i>Biodiesel</i>     | \$ 129,920        |
| <i>Wastewater</i>    | \$ 144,691        |
| <i>IAG</i>           | \$ 101,101        |
| <i>Other</i>         | \$ 217,977        |
| <u>Subtotal OERM</u> | <u>\$ 931,250</u> |

- Admin & Unrestricted
- Health Related
- ELO Related



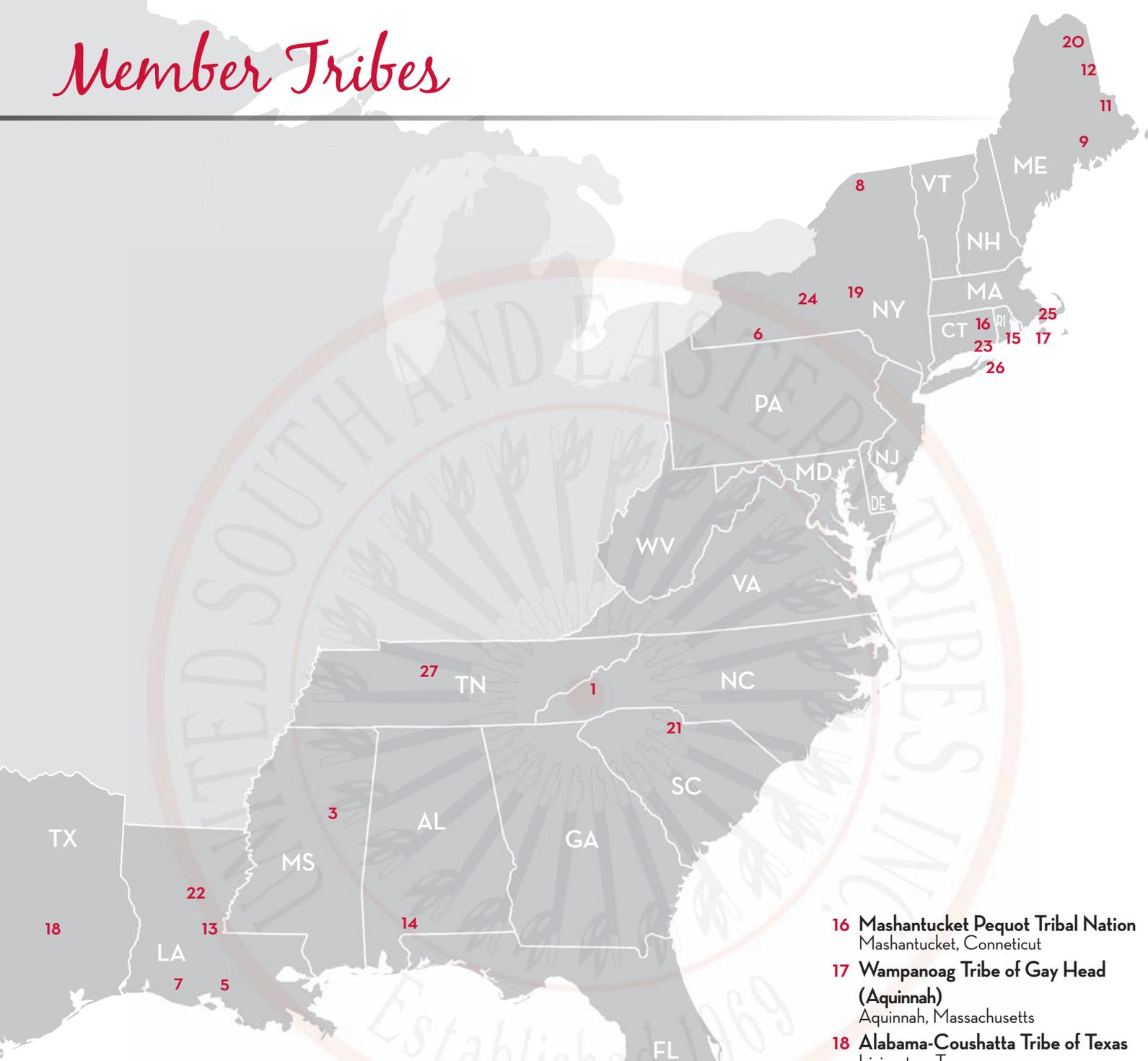
|              |                     |
|--------------|---------------------|
| <b>Total</b> | <b>\$12,016,846</b> |
|--------------|---------------------|

|                        |                      |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Surplus/Deficit</b> | <b>\$ 138,690</b> ** |
|------------------------|----------------------|

\*\* Pending Final Audit

Expenses by Category

# Member Tribes



- 1 Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians**  
Cherokee, North Carolina
- 2 Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida**  
Miami, Florida
- 3 Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians**  
Choctaw, Mississippi
- 4 Seminole Tribe of Florida**  
Hollywood, Florida
- 5 Chitimacha Tribe of Louisiana**  
Charenton, Louisiana
- 6 Seneca Nation of Indians**  
Salamanca, New York
- 7 Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana**  
Elton, Louisiana
- 8 St. Regis Mohawk Tribe**  
Hogansburg, New York
- 9 Penobscot Indian Nation**  
Indian Island, Maine

- 10 Passamaquoddy Tribe-  
Pleasant Point**  
Perry, Maine
- 11 Passamaquoddy Tribe-Indian Township**  
Princeton, Maine
- 12 Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians**  
Littleton, Maine
- 13 Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana**  
Marksville, Louisiana
- 14 Poarch Band of Creek Indians**  
Atmore, Alabama
- 15 Narragansett Indian Tribe**  
Charlestown, Rhode Island

- 16 Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation**  
Mashantucket, Connecticut
- 17 Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head  
(Aquinnah)**  
Aquinnah, Massachusetts
- 18 Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas**  
Livingston, Texas
- 19 Oneida Indian Nation**  
Verona, New York
- 20 Aroostook Band of Micmacs**  
Presque Isle, Maine
- 21 Catawba Indian Nation**  
Rock Hill, South Carolina
- 22 Jena Band of Choctaw Indians**  
Jena, Louisiana
- 23 The Mohegan Tribe**  
Uncasville, Connecticut
- 24 Cayuga Nation**  
Seneca Falls, New York
- 25 Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe**  
Mashpee, Massachusetts
- 26 Shinnecock Indian Nation**  
Southampton, New York
- 27 USET**  
Nashville, Tennessee

