

*Together*

*Stronger*

*Transcending*

*"Because there is Strength in Unity"*

# 2013 ANNUAL REPORT

UNITED SOUTH AND EASTERN TRIBES, INC.





# Letter from the President

December 31, 2013

Dear Friends,

Our hearts, minds, and bodies should be nourished by the engagement and success USET has witnessed this year for Indian Country, our Tribal members, and the organization. It is my firm belief that our high level of consciousness and interaction with the world around us has sustained our Tribal Nations and our way of life. USET's commitment to protect and promote Tribal sovereignty continues to be the foundation of all our efforts. Core to this commitment is USET's responsibility to honor the efforts and legacy of those that walked the path before us, but to also be confident and proactive in our own moccasins as we continue this work. With the good heart, body, and spirit we move forward striving for unity; providing a broad audience with education about American Indian culture, challenges and successes, and the unique sacred trust relationship; and working as advocates to ensure strong, healthy, and prosperous Tribal Nations for generations to come.



**Brian Patterson**

2013 was a great year for USET and we continued to expand our alliances and relationships with Tribal leaders from across Indian Country, national policy makers, Tribal and non-Tribal organizations and institutions, and with individuals. Through these strategic alliances and partnerships, USET strengthens its leadership and enhances its ability to be responsive to the needs of its membership by providing better access to information and advocating for the specific needs of its membership at a national level. Additionally, these broad and strategic alliances ensure that USET has a prominent and leading voice in the issues most critical and important to Indian Country.

Further strengthening of the Nation-to-Nation relationship, adherence to the sacred trust responsibility, and protection and promotion of our inherent sovereign rights continue to be top priority for USET. These fundamental principles are at the heart of this organization's advocacy strategy on any particular piece of policy or legislation. To compliment these efforts, educating our policy and law makers about these principles, our Tribal cultures and traditions, successes, and challenges is a focus to allow them to be more aware of the implications of their decision making.

During this year, we have been honored by the presence and engagement of Tribal leaders whose service to Indian Country will be felt for the next seven generations and beyond. We have suffered losses to our USET family including the passing of the great Tunica-Biloxi leader, Chairman Earl Barbry, Sr. We have also welcomed newly elected Tribal leadership and the creation of USET's newly formed Youth Leadership Council, co-chaired by Taloa Berg (Mississippi Band of Choctaw) and Nicodemus Bushyhead (Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians), to ensure our continued growth, evolution, and success as an organization.

As we move forward, I am encouraged by our USET leadership's commitment, participation, and shared vision for this organization to advance its mission. USET is poised and positioned to implement the organization's aggressive long term strategic plan which supports the mission to increase the capacity to build strong and healthy Tribal Nations. In my closing thoughts I am reminded of a quote from futurist Joel Barker, "Vision without action is a dream. Action without vision is simply passing the time. Vision with action can change the world." Together we will grow Stronger and Transcend the challenges facing our Tribal Nations.

Scan^ - in Peace & Friendship

Brian Patterson  
USET President



# **USET Mission Statement**

**United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc. is dedicated to enhancing the development of federally recognized Indian Tribes, to improving the capabilities of Tribal governments, to assist the USET Members and their governments in dealing effectively with public policy issues, and to serve the broad needs of Indian people.**



## **History of USET**

On October 4, 1968, the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida and the Seminole Tribe of Florida met in Cherokee, North Carolina with the shared idea that some form of unity between the Tribes would enhance 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 member Tribes at the regional and national level. USET has grown to include 26 federally recognized Tribes, operating through various workgroups and committees and providing a forum for the exchange of ideas and information amongst Tribes, agencies and governments.



# Board of Directors

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

Ronnie Thomas - Chairman  
Nita Battise - Vice Chairwoman

## **Aroostook Band of Micmacs**

Edward Peter-Paul - Tribal Chief  
Jennifer Kiandoli - 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  
April Wyatt - Vice Chairwoman

## **Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana**

Lovelin Poncho - Chairman  
Michelle "Missy" Litteral - Vice Chairwoman

## **Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians**

Michell Hicks - Principal Chief  
Terri Henry - Chairwoman

## **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  
Jessie "Little Doe" Baird - Vice Chairwoman

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

Colley Billie - Chairman  
Jasper Nelson - Assistant Chairman

## **Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians**

Phylliss J. Anderson - Chief  
Ronnie Henry - Vice Chief

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

Kevin P. Brown - Chairman  
R. James Gessner - Vice Chairman

## **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 E. Snyder - President  
Rodney Pierce - Treasurer

## **Shinnecock Indian Nation**

Daniel S. Collins, Sr - Chairman  
D'Taobi Silva - Trustee

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

Paul O. Thompson - Chief  
Beverly Cook - Chief

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

Marshall Pierite - Chairman  
Marshall Ray Sampson, Sr - Vice Chairman

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

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

## **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



# Together, Stronger, Transcending!

During Impact Week 2013, USET hosted the event “Together...Stronger...Transcending”. The event was founded on the growing energy taking place throughout Indian Country as part of the Idle No More (Silent No More) movement. The event is also based on the USET statement of unity and mission. The goal for the event was to invoke the spirit of unity, critical thinking, and to begin a new era of overcoming problems which have historically plagued Indian Country.

At the USET event “Together...Stronger...Transcending” guest speaker Gyasi Ross, a citizen of the Blackfoot Nation, spoke to Tribal youth and leaders. The basis of his talk was to promote critical thinking about the world around us. The attendees finished the event with song and round dancing. During Ross’s talk, American Indian artist Steven Judd (Kiowa/Choctaw) composed an original painting to capture the energy of the event. This painting has become symbolic with USET’s “Together...Stronger...Transcending” movement.



communities. Indian Country will be **Stronger** and our collective efforts will **Transcend** the challenges of today and tomorrow.

USET believes its motto **“Because there is Strength in Unity”** is critical to the success as American Indians in rebuilding Tribal Nations, creating healthy communities, and promoting and protecting Tribal sovereignty. By working **Together**, American Indians will identify and pursue solutions to its greatest challenges and take advantage of opportunities as we rebuild



“With the opportunities and resources that have been presented by this administration, it is now incumbent upon us to be the engaging partner to make these initiatives work for Indian Country and our entire global community so that we rebuild our nations. Together we will build strength and transcend! Together we must work in unity as true social-entrepreneurs to rebuild our nations and our country. Thank you for your attention to Indian Country and your actions to help it transcend long-term challenges. USET remains a ready and willing partner for the positive development of our Nation,” **USET President Brian Patterson addressing the White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs.**



# LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES AND LITIGATION

USET remains vigilant in its effort to advocate on legislation and policy that promotes and protects the principles of sovereign authority for Tribes. As part of this effort, USET works with Tribal, national, and state leadership to create a stronger understanding of Indian Country, its rights, and issues. USET works to address issues, challenges, and pursue opportunities in partnership with the White House, Congressional members, and 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 Health Board (NIHB), National Indian Education Association (NIEA), Native American Finance Officers Association (NAFOA), and National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development (NCAIED). Throughout 2013 USET has actively participated as a presenter, speaker, witness, or sponsor on a variety of issues.

## White House Tribal Nations Conference 2013

USET Tribal leaders joined many other American Indian Tribes in Washington, D.C. for the 5th White House Tribal Nations Conference. During the conference Penobscot Indian Nation Tribal Chief Kirk Francis and Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah) Tribal Council Chairwoman Cheryl Andrews-Maltais spoke to the White House Cabinet members on finding a Carcieri Fix, Indian Budget, Trust Reform, and Tribal Sovereignty. Video of their speeches may be found on the USET website and Facebook page. Oneida Indian Nation Representative Ray Halbritter had face to face conversations with President Obama regarding these issues. The Obama Administration has also established the White House Council on Native American Affairs to promote and sustain prosperous and resilient Tribal Nations.



*USET Regional and Oneida Indian Nation Representative  
Ray Halbritter, right from President Obama*



*Tribal Chief, Kirk Francis*



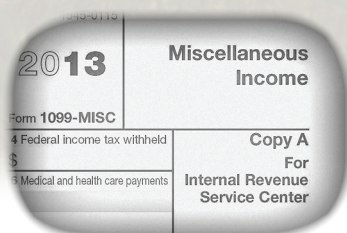
*Tribal Council Chairwoman,  
Cheryl Andrews-Maltais*

## Carcieri Fix

USET continues to be a national leader in aggressively advocating and fighting for a legislative fix to the 2009 U.S. Supreme Court (SCOTUS) decision in the case of Carcieri versus Salazar. The consequences of this SCOTUS decision have clearly eroded and threatened the sovereignty rights of all Tribal Nations. The decision effectively created two classes of sovereignty, has slowed down the land to trust process for all Tribal Nations, and has resulted in negative impacts to economic and social development across all of Indian Country.

## Taxation

USET continues to work towards securing parity and fairness for Tribal Nations in the area of taxation. As Tribal Nations work to reverse years of failed federal Indian policy and work towards Nation rebuilding, it is of critical importance that our Tribal government structures retain revenue and profit receipts to spur further economic activity, growth, and prosperity. Additionally, it is important Tribal Nations receive full recognition of its sovereign authority with the related right to determine what is best for its Tribal communities and people. In 2013, USET submitted its Comprehensive Tax Reform Proposal to Congress to ensure awareness and consideration of its tax priorities as part of any potential comprehensive tax reform legislative effort.



## Tribal Leadership Tax Summit

Inter-tribal organizations hosted a tax policy leadership summit in Washington in early March to report to Tribal leaders on issues and accomplishments since the first Tribal Leaders Tax Summit was held at Miccosukee in 2011. The Tax Summit drew approximately 125 participants, including elected Tribal leaders, Tribal staff and representatives of inter-tribal organizations. Formal remarks were offered by Mohegan Chief Lynn Malerba, Jamestown S'Klallam Chairman Ron Allen and former Seneca Nation President Robert Porter.



# Trust Reform

Recognizing the current challenges of the federal trust model, USET continues to advocate for systemic changes that would strengthen this model. As part of this effort, USET submitted its Trust Reform position paper to the Trust Reform Commission that was established as part of the Cobell settlement for review and to consider including in their final report to the Secretary of the Interior. USET continues to take the position that stronger Nation to Nation relations with the United States will only result from a drastically improved federal trust model.

## Indian Budget and Federal Budget Sequestration

USET is working to educate members of Congress and the Administration about the federal fiduciary responsibility to Indian Country. Current appropriation levels fall drastically short in fulfilling this obligation threatening the well being of Tribal Nations. Additionally, the recent effects of the budget sequestration have made this situation worse. Because the United States holds a sacred trust responsibility to all federally recognized Tribes, USET continues its work to advocate and educate members of Congress and the Administration that Indian Budgets must be fully funded, held harmless from sequestration, and dealt with as a mandatory obligation.



**Jackie Pata**  
NCAI Director

**Terri Henry**  
Eastern Band of  
Cherokee Chairwoman

## Violence Against Women Act reauthorized with new provisions for Indian Country

During 2013 the United States Congress amended and reauthorized the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) to broaden the ability to address Native needs. During the USET Semi-Annual Meeting in Niagara Falls, New York, the Board of Directors received an update from Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians Tribal Council Chairwoman Terri Henry and National Congress of American Indians Executive Director Jackie Pata. Their report noted work with the U.S. Department of Justice to provide grant funding, training, and technical assistance to Tribes in order to help Tribal police, courts, and jails uphold the new provisions of the law. The new VAWA amendments allow for non-Tribal members to be arrested and prosecuted by Tribal police and courts for charges of domestic violence and sexual assault on American Indian victims.

## USET Develops Workgroup to Address Violence Against Native Women

USET is setting goals and taking action to be a facilitator to national efforts to build capacity within Tribal Nations to carry out the new Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) initiatives. During its Semi-Annual Board of Directors meeting, USET adopted a resolution which creates a workgroup on violence against Native women to monitor policy, identify best practices, provide technical assistance and provide public education and awareness to Indian Country.



**FEMA Staff Richard Flores (left),**  
**FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate**

## Stafford Act-Hurricane Sandy Tax Relief Act of 2013

Through the Hurricane Sandy Tax Relief Act of 2013, the Stafford Act was amended to include provisions to allow federally recognized Indian Tribes the ability to directly request financial assistance and a disaster declaration from the President and the U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate and Special Advisor for National Tribal Affairs Richard Flores worked closely with USET, Tribes, and other inter-tribal organizations when developing the amendments to the Stafford Act. USET member Tribe, Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians was the first Tribe to receive a Presidential Disaster Declaration shortly after the Stafford Act was amended.



# Contract Support Costs (CSC)

For over twenty years, Tribes have been litigating CSC issues with the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) and the Indian Health Service (IHS). In June 2012 the Supreme Court affirmed in *Salazar v. Ramah Navajo Chapter* that Tribes carrying out federal programs under the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (ISDEAA) are entitled to full CSC. Every Tribe, with federal contracts, is entitled to compensation according to terms of the contract. USET is now working to develop a plan leading to efficient settlements of all claims. Unfortunately the majority of these contractual breaches still exist due to the administration's slowness in resolving the more than 1600 claims submitted by Indian Country.

## Farm Bill Important to Indian Country

The 2008 Farm Bill expired in September 2012, and authorization and funding for certain programs was extended during the negotiations for the 2013 Farm Bill. USET has been working to educate members of Congress on the importance of programs supported by the Farm Bill, which help create healthy Tribal communities. Part of this education is to remind Congress of its federal trust responsibility to Tribes as it relates to the continuity of these services to Indian Country and meet its needs.



## 2013 Litigation Activities

USET has actively participated in several amicus briefs in 2013 in defense of Tribal sovereignty

### Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde v. Jewell (U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia)



This case involves a challenge by Clark County, Washington and the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde to a decision by Interior to take land into trust for gaming purposes for the Cowlitz Tribe. Among other claims, Grand Ronde and Clark County assert that the Cowlitz Tribe fails to meet the standard set forth in the *Carcieri* decision, arguing for a very restrictive interpretation of that decision. If the Grand Ronde/Clark County position were to be adopted by the District Court it would magnify the adverse impact of the *Carcieri* decision. USET submitted a detailed amicus brief arguing

that the restrictions in the *Carcieri* case should be interpreted as having very limited effect and that the Grand Ronde/Clark County proposed standard is unsupportable in the law.

### Adoptive Couple v. Baby Girl (U.S. Supreme Court)

At least four briefs submitted in this case argued that the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) was unconstitutional. Such a holding would not only have been devastating with regard to ICWA, but would put in jeopardy many other federal Indian laws. USET joined with other Tribal entities in submitting a brief defending the constitutionality of the ICWA.



Baby Veronica

### Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality v. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia)

The Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (ODEQ) is challenging the scope of the EPA's authority to give Tribes "treatment as a state" with regard to Indian Country lands that are not designated reservations. ODEQ's limited view of EPA's authority (and expansive view of state authority) runs directly counter to federal Indian law, which presumes federal and Tribal authority over all of Indian Country, to the exclusion of the states. USET joined a Tribal amicus brief in opposition to ODEQ's position.





# YOUTH

**Youth and younger generations are a critical resource to Tribal Nations to rebuild and thrive. For this reason USET created a Youth Leadership Council to help educate and expose American Indian youth on Tribal cultures, the legislative and policy making process in Washington, DC, stimulate critical thinking to address the issues in their community, and bring opportunity to Native students.**

## *The Future of Tribal Nations*



*Nicodemus Bushyhead, Brandy Venuti - USET Staff, Taloa Berg*

## YOUTH LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

During 2013 Taloa Berg, Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, and Nicodemus Bushyhead, Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians worked to develop the goals, objectives, and activities for the new USET Youth Leadership Council. The intent of the Youth Leadership Council is to empower USET youth, promote education, and develop future Tribal leaders. The council is expected to offer its insight, perspective, and recommendations on developing additional goals and objectives to help create new generations of Tribal leadership. In their first report this year, Taloa and Nicodemus are developing ideas for youth cultural exchange and American Indian traditional sport competitions in order to gain a greater understanding of American Indian traditions, social, and community issues. The youth leadership council is assisted by USET Special Projects Coordinator Brandy Venuti.



*USET Executive Officers Committee, Tribal Leadership, and Youth Leadership Council*





# CLOSE UP FOUNDATION



*2013 USET member students participating in Close Up*



*USET Close Up students and Tribal leaders visit with members of Congress*



*USET Close Up students participate in mock USET Board of Directors meeting*

Close Up's High School Programs are designed to give students and educators an inside look at their democracy in action using the nation's capital as a living classroom. The Close Up Foundation has customized its trips for USET Tribal member student groups so they may gain a perspective of how Washington, D.C. and Indian Country function with one another. During their trip, students work on leadership skills, identify issues and challenges in their community, and work on community action plans to help make improvements at the Tribal level when they return to their respective communities.

## VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY ASPIRNAUT PROGRAM

USET remains involved with Vanderbilt University Medical Center's Aspirnaut Program. The Aspirnaut Summer Research Internship is a hands-on and mentored laboratory experience for high school students interested in a career in the fields of science, technology, engineering, or mathematics (STEM). Participants reside for six weeks on the campus of Vanderbilt University and conduct biomedical research at Vanderbilt University Medical Center. Students have been involved in research ranging from understanding diabetic kidney disease and breast cancer to designing microfluidic devices with engineers at Vanderbilt.

**Taloe Berg  
Nicodemus Bushyhead  
Nicklaus Shumake  
Deon Denson  
Xan Sadonge  
Will Martin**

**Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians  
Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians  
Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians  
Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians  
Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians  
Poarch Band of Creek Indians**



*USET Staff hosts Tribal Aspirnaut Students  
at Nashville headquarters*

USET Executive Director Kitcki Carroll discussed USET's partnership with Vanderbilt, "We are most excited about what has occurred up to this point. The relationship USET has with Vanderbilt is so important because it is a critical component to our overall Tribal Nation rebuilding efforts. 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 rebuild our communities, that it is going to take all kinds of skill sets, all sorts of expertise."



# USET IN ACTION 2013

## USET Leaders meet with Sally Jewell new U.S. Secretary of the Interior



On April 19 members of USET Tribal leadership joined a roundtable discussion of issues with the new United States Secretary of Interior Sally Jewell. Penobscot Indian Nation Chief Kirk Francis, Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians Tribal Chief Phylliss Anderson, and Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah) Chairwoman Cheryl Andrews-Maltais joined Secretary Jewell for discussions on Carcieri, Restrictive Settlement Act initiative, Indian Budget, protection of sacred sites, and other issues. Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs Kevin Washburn also attended the meeting. Secretary Jewell told USET leaders she is interested in helping find solutions to these issues, including a clean fix for Carcieri.



## USET presents to Secretarial Commission on Indian Trust Administration and Reform (SCITAR) in Nashville

SCITAR held its fifth public meeting in Nashville during the spring. SCITAR has been conducting listening sessions and meetings across Indian Country to gather recommendations to be made to the federal government to improve its trust responsibility and government to government relationship with Tribal Nations. USET

President Brian Patterson, Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians Tribal Chief Phylliss Anderson, and Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana council member Brenda Lintinger spoke to SCITAR. In their presentations, USET Leadership focused on ways to advance the federal government's trust responsibility to Indian Country, improving efficiency within the U.S. Department of Interior, and eliminating complacency among the federal programs and Tribes. USET submitted written comments to SCITAR in addition to the testimony of its three panelists. Commissioners for SCITAR include Fawn Sharp, Tex G. Hall, Stacy Leeds, Dr. Peterson Zah, and Robert Anderson.



## USET Presents at U.S. Department of Education Tribal Consultation and Listening Session

Several educators, school administrators, and Tribal leaders from USET member Tribes presented at the U.S. Department of Education Tribal Consultation and Listening Session in Niagara Falls, New York in May 2013. Support for Native language, cultural activities, and Tribal history were the topics for educators who spoke during the consultation. Members of the Seneca Nation of Indians, Poarch Band of Creek Indians, Oneida Indian Nation, Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah), Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, and Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe spoke or presented comments. Office of Indian Education listening and consultation sessions are conducted by Director Silverthorne (Salish) and White House Initiative on American Indian and Alaska Native Education Associate Director Sedelta Oosahwee (Mandan, Arikara, Hidatsa, Cherokee).



## Economic Development Roundtable in Nashville

In an effort to identify needed resources, goals, and objectives for creating an economic development core competency within USET, various USET member Tribes, Tribal organizations, federal agencies, and consultants, including members of Vanderbilt University Owen Graduate School of Management, held a roundtable discussion in April (2013) at USET headquarters in Nashville.



The group identified improving access to capital, gathering better demographic data, understanding Tribal challenges and assets, providing workforce training and technical assistance, developing policy, and creating an overall economic development plan as specific actions. The roundtable discussion was facilitated by USET Economic Development and Entrepreneurship Committee co-chairs Jason Lambert (Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians) and Karen Nichols (Catawba Indian Nation).



## USET Board of Directors Develop Strategic Plan and amend organizational by-laws



With tremendous organizational growth and development among USET Tribal Nations, the USET Board of Directors worked diligently to make amendments to its by-laws and create a long-term strategic plan. A USET Board of Directors retreat was held in Nashville to address changes in the organizations' by-laws and develop a long-term strategic plan. By-laws were amended to create greater efficiency and effective board meetings and function of the organization. A three-year strategic plan has been adopted to create balance with immediate needs and investment for the future, and to provide more efficiency in yearly planning. The long-term strategic plan places focus on enhancing financial stability and resilience, building capacity, strengthening a unified policy agenda, and enriching program development integration.

## Regional Extension Center - Electronic Health Record - Meaningful Use Business Plan

USET has been utilizing its Regional Extension Center to provide software technical support and training to Tribal health clinics and medical providers in 28 states. Federal funding, authorized through the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act (HITECH Act), which has subsidized this service, is ending. USET is in the process of developing a business plan to continue these services to Tribal clinics and medical providers. During business plan development, USET will make an assessment of the feasibility to carry on these services. USET's goal is to enable the Tribal clinics to meet the goals and objectives set by the HITECH Act, which should lead to higher efficiency for medical providers. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) is supporting USET's business plan development through a grant from its Rural Business Opportunity Grant (RBOG) program.



## USDA visits USET to make RBOG presentation

USDA Rural Development (Tennessee) State Director Bobby Goode and many other members of the Nashville USDA District Office visited USET prior to the Thanksgiving holidays. USET Executive Director Kitcki Carroll and USDA State Director Goode took the opportunity to provide more information about their respective organizations and sign the official documents awarding RBOG funding to USET to build a business plan to provide technical support to medical providers utilizing electronic health records. The RBOG funding, which is almost \$70,000.00, has the potential to make an impact in 28 states to dozens of Tribal Nations. The USDA RBOG program assists with business development and planning.



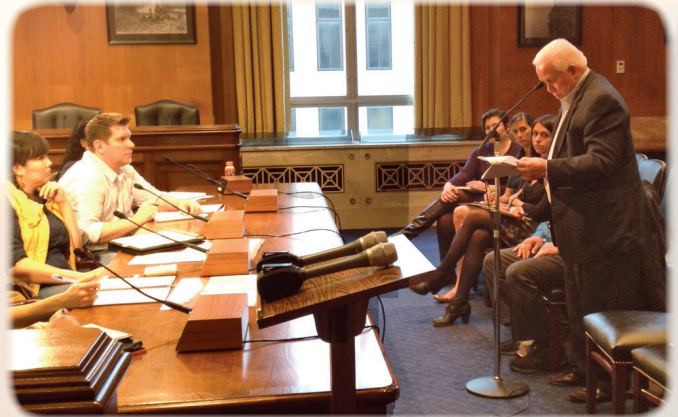


## Change the Mascot Name Campaign

USET actively works to educate the public on American Indian issues, culture, and to remove negative stereotypes. USET has affirmed its support of the Oneida Indian Nation's "Change the Mascot" campaign to change the nickname and mascot of the Washington National Football League team. Washington uses the name redsk\*ns, which is a racially offensive slur referencing a colonial effort to exterminate and mutilate citizens of the Penobscot Indian Nation. The USET Board of Directors adopted a resolution supporting the "Change the Mascot" campaign at its annual meeting in Cherokee, NC.

## Special Diabetes Program for Indians (SDPI)

USET has been working diligently to educate members of Congress, Indian Country, and the public on the benefits of SDPI. The rate of diabetes in the USET region is approximately one in every four Tribal citizens. SDPI provides critical resources to diabetics for treatment and support to cope with the disease. Buford L. Rolin, Chairman of the Poarch Band of Creek Indians and Nashville Area Representative to the National Indian Health Board (NIHB), advocates for the reauthorization of the SDPI during a December meeting of the NIHB with key staff to members of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs.



## Tribal Emergency Relief Fund (TERF)

USET collected financial donations to support Tribal Nations effected by Hurricane Sandy in the fall of 2012. USET collected approximately \$30,000.00 and made four grants in 2013 to Shinnecock Indian Nation, Narragansett Indian Tribe, Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe, and Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation. TERF provided financial resources to fill identified needs not filled by federal, state, and non-governmental agencies.

## USET's New Website and Social Media

USET has been working on developing a new website to improve its look and accessibility. It is anticipated that the new and improved website will go active in February 2014 and will utilize the same URL address at <http://www.usetinc.org>. USET's Facebook page has been active since October 2013. To stay informed about USET and its member Tribes, Like the USET Facebook page.



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



# USET Tribal Leaders in the Spotlight

Throughout the years, USET has been fortunate and privileged to have the engagement and unity of strong, dedicated, and visionary Tribal leaders. The accomplishments and recognition USET Leadership receives is an example of progress being made to rebuild Tribal Nations. During 2013, USET took steps to showcase several of its leaders at the national level. As a reflection of their work and dedication to Indian Country, several USET Tribal leaders were featured in Performance 360 Magazine. In addition, USET President Brian Patterson was featured in the December 2013 National Museum of the American Indian Meet Native America series. USET is proud of the accomplishments and recognition its leadership has received.

## Performance360 Magazine features Tribal Leadership

Performance360 Magazine is a national publication featuring first person commentary from leaders, celebrities, and prominent people who have achieved success in business and government. Performance360 Magazine boasts that it has for its readers ***What You Need To Succeed!*** During the past year, five of USET's Tribal leaders have been featured. The Dalai Lama, Oprah Winfrey, Donald Trump, and New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg have been some of the other world leaders featured in issues with USET Tribal leadership.



*Oneida Indian Nation  
Representative  
Ray Halbritter*



*Mississippi Band of Choctaw  
Indians Tribal Chief  
Phylliss J. Anderson*



*Eastern Band of Cherokee  
Indians Principal Chief  
Michell A. Hicks*



*Penobscot Indian Nation  
Tribal Chief Kirk Francis*



*Former Seneca Chief  
Robert Odawi Porter*

## National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI) introduces its Meet Native America interview series



### NMAI Feature: USET President Brian Patterson

NMAI has launched a new blog featuring Tribal leaders, cultural figures, and other interesting accomplished Native individuals to share their experiences, concerns, insights, and cultural diversity. USET President Brian Patterson was one of the first individuals to be featured. President Patterson is a citizen of the Oneida Indian Nation (New York). He serves as the Bear Clan representative for the Oneida Nation Council.



# Staff Service Awards

During 2013 there were five employees that achieved milestones of service with USET. Financial Controller Steve Adams completed 15 years of dedicated service. Epidemiologist Christy Duke, Administrative Assistant II Edna Fay, and Accounting Clerk Gail Meador completed 10 years of service. Office of Environmental Resource Management Administrative Assistant II Jasmine Alvarado completed five years of dedicated service.

**Steve, Edna**



**Christy, Jasmine, Gail**



**Michelle Ruslavage**

## USET's Michelle Ruslavage, DNP, RN Receives Commission Corp Field Medical Readiness Badge

During 2013 Health Informacist & Immunization Coordinator Michelle Ruslavage received the Field Medical Readiness Badge (FMRB). FMRB recognizes officers who have met criteria beyond the required force readiness standards. It is awarded on the basis of proven knowledge and skill related to force readiness and performance while engaged in Corps deployment(s). The criteria for FMRB include requirements for service, physical readiness, training, and deployment.



**Kate Grismala**

## USET Hires New Assistant Director for Tribal Health Program Support (THPS)

Kate Grismala is the new Assistant Director for Tribal Health Program Support. Kate comes to USET with 10 years of experience in Indian Country in the areas of healthcare delivery and healthcare payment. She has been working as a consultant providing technical assistance for health and human services in Indian Country.



**Ellen Omohundro**

## USET Gains New Epidemiologist - Ellen Omohundro, Ph.D.

Ellen Omohundro came to USET in May as an epidemiologist with 25 years of experience in practicing and teaching public health and environmental sociology. Most recently, she worked for the TN Department of Health analyzing many different types of data and developing community health assessment tools.



**Melisa Stephens**

## USET Welcomes New Executive Assistant

Melisa Stephens has been hired as the new USET Executive Assistant. Melisa comes to USET with a wealth of knowledge and vast experience as an Executive Assistant. She served in various capacities in the last 7 years, allowing her to enhance her organizational skills, communication techniques and multi-tasking abilities.



**Ryan Miller**

## Ryan Miller - USET Help Desk Technician

Ryan Miller is a recent graduate from Antioch High School and will attend Nashville State Community College. Ryan will be majoring in computer science and web design. During his work at USET this year he has worked to design a new website and Facebook page. Ryan is working part-time assisting the USET Computer Support Specialist.

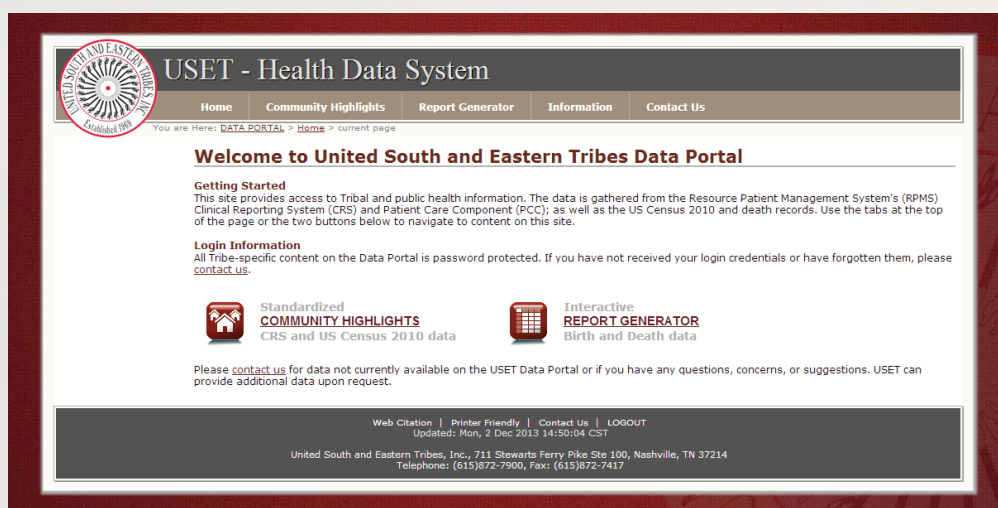


# TRIBAL HEALTH PROGRAM SUPPORT (THPS)

The THPS department provides ongoing health and policy information, technical assistance and training to USET member Tribes. The intent of THPS efforts is to create efficiencies within Tribal Clinics, build capacity among medical providers, and promote healthy living and activities.

## USET Health Data Portal

The Tribal Epidemiology Center (TEC) at USET is developing a population health data portal to assist our member Tribes in better monitoring the health status of its Tribal citizens. This tool will also better identify health disparities in American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) communities.



The goals of the Data Portal project are to increase the quality of data provided by Tribes; identify gaps in knowledge about best practices and health improvement areas; address the low percentage of health indicators meeting benchmarks set by the Indian Health Service and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; and to increase youth interest in healthcare careers.

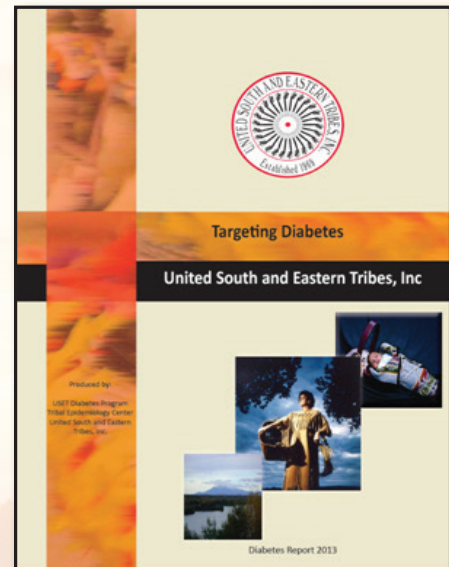
Having current surveillance data readily available through the Data Portal, which is a secure location, will help the Tribal Health Directors identify the highest priority health status objectives and services needed to achieve these objectives. The Data Portal will allow the Health Directors to generate customized reports specific to their Tribal service populations, as well as standardized community highlight reports.



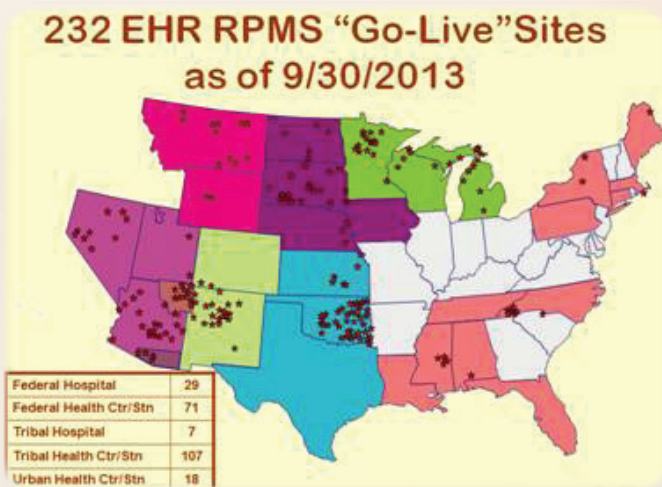


## USET Diabetes Reports

During FY 2013, the USET Diabetes Program, TEC, and the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA) pilot project, partnered to create a new format for the annual diabetes report. This new report replaced an encyclopedic report and provided Tribes with an easy to read, concise report of health status of their diabetes patients, which could be utilized to assist with budgeting priorities, decisions and targeting subpopulations within the Tribal community.



## USET continues to assist Indian Country with Electronic Health Record Implementation and Meaningful Use



USET has been working in partnership with the NIH and various Area Indian Health Boards to ensure that providers throughout the Indian Health Care Delivery System receive technical resources to support their implementation and use of electronic health records (EHRs) and related health information technology to achieve meaningful use of said EHRs. To date, USET has provided the following services to Tribes in nine of the Indian Health Service geographic areas, including the Nashville area:

EHR training materials were developed for various topics. 36 EHR deployment trainings were provided via e-Learning in one-on-one, cohort, and group formats. A total of 232 facilities in 28 states and in USET's nine IHS catchment areas have "Go-Live" EHR's.

## USET Receives Funds From National Library of Medicine for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention Effort

USET has received funding from the National Library of Medicine to work on a pilot project to prevent prescription drug abuse in Indian Country. USET member, The Mohegan Tribe has a successful process for identifying substance abuse issues and supporting citizens in recovery process. During 2014 USET will be working with the Mohegan Tribe to replicate the program in other Tribal Nations.





## USET and Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC) Awarded the Indian Health Service National Director's Special Recognition Award for its work on the National Best Practices Training and Conference

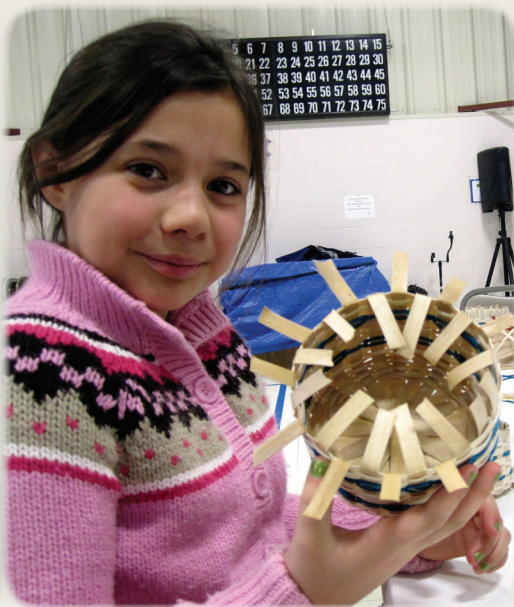
USET, Indian Health Service (IHS), Office of Tribal Self Governance, and ANTHC Tribal GPRA Pilot Project teams co-hosted the second annual USET/ANTHC National Tribal Best Practices Training Conference July 22-26, 2012, in Salt Lake City, Utah. This was a successful conference, attended by over 200 individuals, with agenda tracks that provided attendees specialized training for local and Area GPRA teams, physicians, nurses, case managers, IT site managers, coders-ICD10, and others. USET was instrumental in securing a key note address on "Healthcare Transformation-Patient Engagement/Patient Empowerment" from the national recognized speaker e-Patient Dave. During 2013 USET and ANTHC were given the IHS National Director's Special Recognition Award for their effort with this conference.



*Jena Band of Choctaw  
Tribal Chief B. Cheryl Smith  
has her blood sugar checked*

## USET provides Outreach and Education on the Affordable Care Act

USET, in partnership with the IHS/Nashville Area Office, have been providing outreach and education to member Tribes regarding the Affordable Care Act (ACA). Throughout 2013, THPS Staff and consultants have provided updates and training to a variety of audiences in multiple venues. Tribal outreach efforts will continue through 2014 with an emphasis on community awareness and education.







*2013 TEOC Attendees - Nashville*

## USET hosts Tribal Education & Outreach Consortium (TEOC) in Nashville

During the summer USET THPS helped facilitate and host a TEOC meeting in Nashville. Several Tribes from across the nation attended the event. The purpose of TEOC is to create materials for outreach and education to Tribes about Health Insurance Exchanges. TEOC partners include Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board, California Rural Indian Health Board, Bemidji Area Office, Alaska Tribal Health Consortium, Alaska Native Health Board, Oklahoma City Area Inter Tribal Health Board, and USET.



*Liz Malerba, Liz Neptune, Dee Sabattus*



*TEOC Attendee presentation*



*Seminole Tribe of Florida citizens on a health walk*



*Healthy eating and food preparations taught at The Mohegan Tribe*





The USET OERM was created in 2004 to assist member Tribes in addressing environmental concerns, such as clean and safe drinking water, healthy community ecosystems, climate change, traditional practices, and public safety.

### 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, continues to provide training and testing for EPA approved Drinking Water Operator Certification as well as Wastewater, Water Distribution, Wastewater Collection System Operator Certifications, and a Laboratory Analyst Certification. The USET Certification Program utilizes the Association of Board of Certification examinations. The USET Certification Program is in place to increase the capacity of Tribal treatment plant operations, which is a practice to promote Tribal sovereignty.



### National Tribal Water Council

The National Tribal Water Council (NTWC) is a technical and scientific body created to assist the EPA, federally recognized Indian Tribes, including Alaska Natives, and their associated Tribal communities and organizations, with research and information for decision-making regarding water-related issues and concerns. The USET OERM in partnership with Association of Board of Certification is the facilitator for NTWC through a grant from EPA Office of Water. The goal for the NTWC is to promote health by improving access to clean water throughout Indian Country.





# 2013 Tribal Utility Summit (TUS) held in Nashville

The 2013 TUS was hosted by USET near its headquarter offices in Nashville, Tennessee. TUS is a training and continuing educational program for operators and managers overseeing Tribal drinking water, waste water, solid waste utility and infrastructure, which is cooperatively supported by USET, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the Nashville Area Indian Health Service (IHS).



*2013 TUS attendees in Nashville*



*2013 TUS Drinking Water Contest Judges*

EPA, USDA, IHS, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, and U.S. Department of Interior utilized the 2013 TUS as a national stage to announce the renewal of an inter-governmental agency memorandum of understanding. These agencies announced a renewed and combined effort to lower the number of American Indian homes who do not have access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation by the year 2015.

USET Office of Environmental Resources Management Director Jerry Pardilla told TUS attendees, "The services you (Tribal utility and emergency services employees) do are so vital for public services and health. It promotes quality of life and public health."



*Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians  
(TUS Drinking Water 1st Place)*



*Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation  
(TUS Drinking Water 2nd Place)*

During the TUS attendees had the opportunity to attend workshops, training, and gather resources to improve Tribal utility operations, response and recovery from

disasters and emergencies, and engage in exchange of ideas and issues with other Tribal members and subject matter experts. There were more than 130 attendees from 17 Tribal Nations, three of which were outside of the USET membership.

During the TUS a drinking water contest was held. The winners were Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (First Place), Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation (Second Place), and Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe (Third Place).



*Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe  
(TUS Drinking Water 3rd Place)*



# EPA Region 4 Regional Tribal Operations Committee

USET provides support to the EPA Region Four Regional Tribal Operations Committee (RTOC). The mission for RTOC is to assist EPA with meeting its trust responsibility to Tribes by providing support and resources to Tribal environmental and public health programs, assist with communications and information exchange, and to respond to Tribal needs. USET's efforts with RTOC have also led to the completion of the Umbrella Quality Management Plan (UQMP) for five of the six Tribes located in Region Four, which is a resource for these Tribes to develop their own QMP.



## Joint Initiative on Ethnobotanical Climate Change

The USET Natural Resources Committee hosted a two-day Climate Change Adaptation Planning Workshop in Cherokee, NC to unite professionals from the Climate Science Center in Raleigh, NC as well as from the Landscape Conservation Cooperatives to the Tribes. The workshop taught planning and organizational skills needed to implement critical plans to assist their communities.

## Indian Energy Development

USET established goals and priorities that would lead to conventional and renewable energy development by USET member Tribes, and more broadly to Indian Country. USET has partnered with Tribes and Tribal organizations to pursue policy and regulatory changes, increased federal funding and technical assistance, and Congressional action to unlock the energy potential of Indian Country, which may improve its standard of living.





# USET Agricultural Technical Assistance

USET, through an agreement with the inter-tribal Agriculture Council, provides technical assistance to member Tribes to increase access and participation in the full scope of programs offered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). In cooperation with the USDA Office of Advocacy & Outreach, USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, and Wisconsin Tribal Conservation Advisory Council, OERM held workshops which were hosted by Poarch Band of Creek Indians and Penobscot Nation respectively, to provide information to member Tribes and individual Indian farmers, ranchers, and producers about USDA programs and services.



## Integrated Pest Management for Schools

To create a resource for schools, USET has been working with Cherokee Schools to record its Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program. In coordination with EPA, USET will continue this work into 2014 with Cherokee Schools to develop a final IPM document, which will be used as a model for other Tribal schools.



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# Earl J. Barbry, Sr. Lifetime Achievement Award



## Passing of Tunica-Biloxi Chairman Earl J. Barbry, Sr.

The hearts of the USET Nations were heavy and saddened this past year due to the passing of a beloved and treasured leader, Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana Chairman Earl J. Barbry, Sr. His leadership, vision, and passion have been critical to advancing, strengthening, and rebuilding Tribal Nations.

During its Semi-Annual Meeting in Niagara Falls, NY in May (Prior to Chairman Barbry's passing), USET presented its inaugural Lifetime Achievement Award to Chairman Barbry. As the first recipient, USET has also named the honor, the Earl J. Barbry, Sr. Lifetime Achievement Award.

**USET President Brian Patterson stated,** "Chairman Barbry has made a great and lasting impact on many Tribes and individuals in Indian Country. His leadership, vision, and passion to advance, strengthen, and rebuild Tribal Nations have set a shining example of unity, empowerment, and compassion."

Chairman Barbry was elected Tribal Chairman in 1978 and appointed as Tribal Administrator that same year. In 1981, Barbry was instrumental in helping the Tribe receive federal recognition. He has overseen the construction of major housing developments, a Tribal center, court complex, welfare office, a hotel-casino recreation complex, and a new multi-million dollar cultural and education center. Barbry was named the recipient of the Avoyellean of the Year Award in 1993 by the Avoyelles Journal, the highest award given in the parish. In 2006, he was named a Louisiana Legend by Louisiana Public Broadcasting in recognition of his cultural, educational, and economic contributions to the region and the state. He was the first American Indian to receive this honor. In December 2011, Chairman Barbry was awarded an honorary doctorate of humane letters by Northwestern State University.



Chairman Barbry is survived by his wife Gail Kelone Barbry and two sons, Earl, Jr. and Joey along with two grandchildren Alexis and Annabelle, which he considered his greatest legacy.

Several Tribal leaders made statements at the awards ceremony about Chairman Barbry's character and leadership and the impact it has made on Indian Country.

### Tunica-Biloxi Vice Chairman Marshall Pierite:

*You made me believe. - "You're (Barbry) a man with great vision. You had the vision to bring a casino to Marksville. I thought that would never happen. It's your influence and leadership that has taken us from a poverty stricken community. It has been you that has made a great impact on all of our people."*



### Tunica-Biloxi Council Member Brenda Lintinger:

*The passing of Chairman Barbry is a thunderous silence. - "He was my Chairman and the older brother I never had. He was a gift to the Tunica-Biloxi people. There will never be someone like him for us ever again. We are so broken hearted."*







# 2013 ANNUAL REPORT

## United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

### Statement of Revenues & Expenses

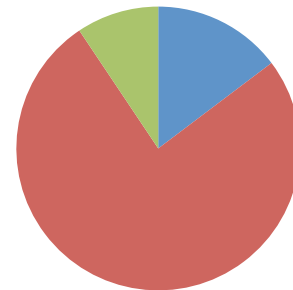
Year Ended September 30, 2013

#### Revenues

<i>Unrestricted</i>	\$ 1,899,323
<i>Program</i>	\$ 9,800,176
<i>IDC Recovered</i>	\$ 1,211,981
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 12,911,480</b>

#### Revenues by Category

- Unrestricted
- Program
- IDC Recovered

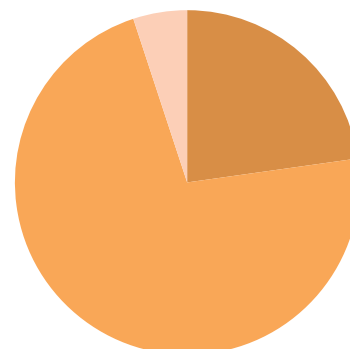


#### Expenses

<i>Admin &amp; Unrestricted</i>	<u>\$ 2,890,719</u>
<i>Diabetes</i>	\$ 4,053,386
<i>THPS</i>	\$ 1,103,324
<i>EPI</i>	\$ 339,233
<i>NARCH</i>	\$ 285,734
<i>Dental</i>	\$ 61,323
<i>NIHB</i>	\$ 3,039,848
<i>Other</i>	\$ 274,945
<b>Subtotal Health</b>	<b>\$ 9,157,793</b>

#### Expenses by Category

- Admin & Unrestricted
- Health Related
- OERM Related



<i>TEMAC</i>	\$ 118,455
<i>Safewater</i>	\$ 27,570
<i>PPG</i>	\$ 162,836
<i>Wastewater</i>	\$ 155,222
<i>IAG</i>	\$ 133,936
<i>Other</i>	\$ 44,456
<b>Subtotal OERM</b>	<b>\$ 642,475</b>

<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 12,690,987</b>
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<b>Surplus/Deficit</b>	<b>\$ 220,493 **</b>
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\*\* Pending Final Audit



# Member Tribes







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