



# USET NEWSLETTER

## UNITED SOUTH AND EASTERN TRIBES, INC.

Friends and Colleagues:

So much has been accomplished this winter and early spring and it has been as a result of our unity and hearts being in the right place. Now the pleasure will be yours as your heart is filled with our accomplishments. As we move through the next few months, we must continue to carry our unified energy and work to address challenges in our region and across Indian Country. We must address issues like taxation, the Carcieri Fix, Trust Reform, the Farm Bill and our Indian Budget. Our success will rely on Tribal Leaders continuing to be heavily involved with these meetings and addressing these critical issues.

Our mission to protect Tribal sovereignty and advance the great legacy of our Tribal Nations is being actively fulfilled through strong dedication of Tribal Leadership, collective membership and our staff support. In order to protect sovereignty, Tribal capacity must be built and strengthened so we have the ability to overcome challenges and realize new opportunity that leads to prosperity. USET works daily to provide resources to our Tribes in the form of information, training, technical assistance, and service. I am proud of our high functioning organization, which is making great progress to see that our Tribal sovereignty is strong and future is rewarding.

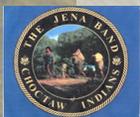


TOGETHER we are making a difference with our unity. STRONGER is what we are becoming every day. TRANSCENDING our challenges and the historic trauma that has too often been the Indian Country theme is what we are doing. Please take time to read our accomplishments from this past quarter and take note of things that are yet to come. I am excited to see how the next quarter will be for USET.

Scan ^ -in peace.

*Brian Patterson*

Brian Patterson  
USET President



## White Ribbon Campaign



In March several male employees with USET, Indian Health Service, and USET member Tribes signed the White Ribbon Campaign Pledge. The White Ribbon Campaign Pledge is a promise by men to support and promote solutions to domestic violence, abuse, and assault on women. The campaign was kicked off in Nashville with USET and Indian Health Service and coordinated with USET member Tribes. The White Ribbon Pledge is not just for one day. It is a lifetime promise.

## USET at NAFOA

Native American Finance Officers Association (NAFOA) held its annual conference in New Orleans in April. Several USET member Tribes including the Eastern Band of Cherokee, Jena Band of Choctaw, Poarch Band of Creek Indians, Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas, Tunica Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana, The Mohegan Tribe of Connecticut, Oneida Indian Tribe (New York), Seneca Nation of Indians, and Saint Regis Mohawk attended.

Leadership from the Oneida Indian Nation (New York), St. Regis Mohawk Tribe, and Seneca Nation of Indians were recognized by NAFOA for The Deal of the Year Award/Honor. In 2013, these three Tribes executed agreements with the state of New York that collectively represent a comprehensive reset in the Tribal-state balance of power. During this process they incorporated several provisions that collectively represent unique accomplishments including: exercising Tribal-to-government negotiations and using the opportunity to resolve or settle multiple long-standing disputes between Tribal and state government in regards to prior or outstanding compacts. These agreements represent governments coming together to forge a new partnership in the pursuit of shared prosperity.



During the meeting various USET member Tribal citizens served on speaker panels including Mohegan Tribal Chief Lynn Malerba. In the photo to the right: Chief Malerba and USET Executive Director Kitcki Carroll sit on a panel (2nd and 3rd from left respectively). Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians Deputy Finance Officer Kim Peone serves as the NAFOA Treasurer.

**Poarch Band of Creek Indians Open Health Clinic and Assisted Living Facility**  
**Facilities Honor Legacies of Tribal Leaders Rolin and Martin**

**Poarch Creek Indian Nation, AL** – In early March, The Poarch Band of Creek Indians opened the doors of two new facilities that will provide health care services for the Tribe and its employees and long-term care and housing for its senior citizens, respectively.

The Buford L. Rolin Health Clinic, named after the Tribe’s Chairman, and the Lavan Martin Assisted Living Facility, which honors the revered late Tribal leader, serve as working monuments to the two men’s lifelong commitment to providing essential services to Poarch.

Chairman Rolin is nationally recognized for his decades of work in Indian healthcare. Mr. Martin worked tirelessly during his lifetime to secure tribal services for current and future generations.



“I am so proud to be able to walk through these doors today,” said Chairman Rolin. “Lavan and I dreamed for many years about having these kinds of facilities for our Tribe.” Chairman Rolin told USET he believed the organization was instrumental over the years in helping his Tribe develop saying, “If it had not been for USET we may not be where we are or it would take many more decades to be where we are. There were many leaders like Earl Barbry (Former Chairman of Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana), (Jonathan) Edd Taylor (Former Principal Chief of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, Phillip Martin (Former Tribal Chief Phillip Martin), and others from Seminole and Miccosukee Tribes of Florida who helped us with getting our federal recognition, advancing our healthcare, and guiding on gaming. We owe a lot to USET.”

**USET TO GET A PROCUREMENT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CENTER (PTAC)**

USET Headquarters in Nashville will soon be the home of a PTAC, which will serve the eastern region. USET is working in partnership with the Minnesota American Indian Chamber of Commerce (MAICC) to set up the PTAC, which will provide valuable services to Tribal businesses and enterprises to secure government contracts. MAICC received a grant in February to set up the PTAC. USET is providing office space and administrative support for the operations. MAICC is working with the USET Economic Development and Entrepreneurship Committee to develop resources and begin a working relationship with USET member Tribes.



## USET Impact Week Meeting

USET member Tribal Leadership met in Washington, DC in February for the yearly Impact Week meeting and to hold consultation with federal programs and members of Congress. Impact Week was filled with activities including visits from White House Domestic Policy Counsel and Public Engagement, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Indian Health Service, Small Business Administration, Treasury, Homeland Security, Interior, Justice, Federal Communications Commission, Energy, and various non-governmental partnerships and individuals. Tribal leadership also made visits with members of Congress during the week to discuss issues ranging from finding a Carcieri Fix, taxation, Farm Bill, Trust Reform, Special Diabetes Program for Indians (SDPI) reauthorization, federal contract support cost, IHS forward funding, Indian Budget, and Indian Education. Impact Week included cultural activities, federal listening sessions, and consultations.



Youth, our future leaders in development, made a lasting impression with its discussions in a mock session as a youth USET board of directors during the Close Up Foundation Tribal Youth Summit week.



## USET RECEIVES AWARD FOR ITS WATER AND WASTE CERTIFICATION PROGRAM



(Charleston, SC) - - In January USET was honored with an award from the Association of Board of Certification (ABC) for outstanding contributions toward establishing and advancing the certification of environmental professionals. The award was presented to USET in Charleston, SC at the ABC Annual Conference. In recent years, USET has established a certification program for water, wastewater operators and laboratory analysts. The USET certification, which builds capacity Tribal clean water and wastewater operations, has been approved by ABC and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

USET Certification Board Chairman Michael Bolt remarks, "This award is justly deserved for being the first Tribal certification program to be approved by the EPA. What makes this certification worthwhile is that it is a fundamental practice and activity to promote Tribal sovereignty, healthy communities by providing better access to clean drinking water, protection of natural resources, and an overall safer environment." The USET Certification is a program open to all Tribes to receive certification for its operations.

## NEW ENGLAND TRIBES SUFFER HARSH WINTER



New England Tribes suffered the effects of a cold winter, which resulted in damages to homes and Tribal buildings. USET worked with the effected Tribes to coordinate response and recovery efforts with the Tribal Assistance Coordination Group. USET also coordinated a conference call with the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI), who received the first Tribal Disaster Declaration from FEMA. The EBCI Emergency Management's Mollie Grant provided some guidance to the Passamaquoddy Tribe – Pleasant Point on how to proceed with requesting a disaster declaration. USET also established Tribal Emergency Relief Fund (TERF) to help provide some unrestricted funding to assist Tribes with recovery efforts.

## INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT PROGRAM - CHEROKEE HIGH SCHOOL

(Cherokee, NC) - - 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. USET Senior Project Coordinator Steve Terry made a site visit to Cherokee High School along with the EPA's Pat Livingston. They worked with Cherokee High School's Hilda Queen to work on the IPM.



(Left to Right) USET Senior Project Coordinator Steve Terry, Cherokee High School Facility Management's Hilda Queen, and EPA's Pat Livingston.

## NTWC MEETING SPARKS ACTION FOR TRIBES



The National Tribal Water Council (NTWC) met in Washington, DC during April with Acting Assistant Administrator for EPA of the Office of Water, Nancy Stoner on April 22, 2014. In the course of the meeting, four major actions were taken by EPA as a direct result of past input from the NTWC.

1. EPA is proposing to reinterpret the Treatment in a similar manner as a State (TAS) requirements for Tribes applying for Water Quality Standards by eliminating the "Montana Test". Tribes would be considered to have delegation by Congress to administer Clean Water Act regulatory programs over their entire reservations.
2. EPA will do a rulemaking to consider how to declare waters on a reservation as 303(D) Impaired Waters. This will allow Tribes to have an easier time in receiving other funds to improve their waters, such as USDA funding.
3. The NTWC met with USDA, NRCS, USGS, and EPA to discuss Tribal Nutrient criteria. The multi-agency task force is also considering a stream assessment methodology with possible pilot projects for this with Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians and the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska.
4. EPA will assist the NTWC in the formation of a national webinar which will be used to tell Tribes about the benefits of joining the SP14(B) water quality monitoring network of EPA.

## USET HELD THE 2014 TRIBAL UTILITY SUMMIT



(Mashantucket, CT) - - The Fifth Annual Tribal Utility Summit (TUS) was held April 8<sup>th</sup> through the 10<sup>th</sup> in Mashantucket, CT at the Mashantucket (Western) Pequot Tribal Nation. TUS is a training and continuing educational program for operators and managers overseeing Tribal drinking water, wastewater, solid waste utility, infrastructure, and public safety, which is cooperatively supported by United South and Eastern Tribes, Incorporated (USET), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the Nashville Area Office of Indian Health Service (IHS). The mission of improving and protecting a healthy and safe quality of life is the theme of the TUS. More than 120 Tribal Utility workers from 15 federally recognized Tribes, speakers, and vendors attended this year's TUS.

USET Office of Environmental Resources Management Director Jerry Pardilla told attendees, "The building blocks of Tribal sovereignty begin with Tribal operations and operators like you. One of our most precious resources is water. We must protect it. This responsibility extends to our public safety officers, fire, police, and EMS. Please work diligently to gain skills and knowledge, which will contribute to your community's ability to exercise its sovereignty and rebuild our Tribal nations." Jerry Pardilla is also a member of the Penobscot Indian Nation.

The TUS was hosted by the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation. Chairman Rodney Butler stated in his opening and welcoming remarks to the attendees "You perform a critically important service. I thank you. We as Indian people are the protectors of our natural resources."



## MASHPEE WAMPANOAG TRIBE CELEBRATE OPENING NEW GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITY CENTER

The Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe celebrated the opening of its new government center and Tribal headquarters at the end of March, more than a year after ground was broken on the \$12.5 million building.



The building brings nearly all of the Tribe's functions under one roof after 16 months of construction. The building is another sign of the tribe's resurgence since gaining federal recognition in 2007 according to Tribal Council Chairman Cedric Cromwell. "It's full circle. It's amazing," Cromwell said. "It's a tremendous opportunity for our Tribe to have this community government center, a place that's the hub of our Tribal universe where people can use all the services that are provided to our people. It really symbolizes the true renaissance for our Tribe," he added.



## INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE (IHS) HONORS SEVERAL USET TRIBES AND INDIVIDUALS

Nashville Area Indian Health Service announced its 2013 Honors and Promotions in February. Congratulations from USET for their honored contributions to increasing access to quality health care.

Nashville Area Indian Health Service Director Martha Ketcher made the presentations to the recipients, which included:

### **Director's Award for Excellence**

- Marla Jones, Nashville Area Office
- Health Advocate - Liz Neptune, Passamaquoddy Tribal Member

### **Exceptional Performance Award**

- Christine Williams, Poarch Band of Creek Indians
- Weston Kenney, Bangor Field Office
- Orlando Nieves, Eastern Band of Cherokee
- Gerald Bradley, Unity
- Haran Siva, Nashville Area Office

### **Employee of the Year – Outstanding Customer Service**

- Judy McGhee, Poarch Band of Creek Indians

### **Employee of the Year – Behavioral Health Provider**

- Jan Lambert, Eastern Band of Cherokee



From Left to Right: Nashville Area Director Martha Ketcher (Cherokee Nation), USET THPS Director Dee Sabattus (Passamaquoddy Indian Township), Passamaquoddy Indian Township Health Director Liz Neptune, USET Health Policy Analyst Liz Malerba (Mohegan Tribe)

## CSC WORKGROUP

(Washington, DC) - - Indian Health Service (IHS) announced recently its final plan for negotiating and calculating contract support costs for Tribes and contractors providing IHS medical services. Leading up to this final announcement, several USET member Tribal leaders met in Washington, D.C. to participate in the IHS Contract Support Cost (CSC) Workgroup. Passamaquoddy Tribe (Indian Township) Vice Chief Clayton Sockabasin, Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians Finance Department's Doug Weaver, and Nashville Area Office IHS Area Director Martha Ketcher participated in the IHS-CSC workgroup. They and other participants provided input to the IHS Director (Washington) on CSC practices moving forward for future years, and how to best estimate CSC needs for the budget formulation process. USET Executive Director Kitcki Carroll, THPS Director Dee Sabattus, and Health Policy Analyst Liz Malerba attended the workgroup discussion this past February.



## JENA BAND OF CHOCTAW FLOAT IN MARDI GRAS



From left to right: Council members Ricky Jackson, Christy Murphy, and Christine Norris, Chief Cheryl Smith, and Julie Wilkerson, Tribal Attorney. Jason Norris, Tribal member is up top (also the son of Council member Christine Norris). Photo submitted by Julie Wilkerson

Who says when you're a Tribal Leader you can't have some fun and masquerade on a float? The Jena Band of Choctaw is enjoying success in its first full year of operating Jena Choctaw Pines (<http://www.jenachoctawpinescasino.com/>). It has given them something to celebrate during Mardi Gras. Congratulations on a great year and the USET family wishes you many more successful years. The float was in the Alexandria (Louisiana) Mardi Gras parade ...next year will Chief Smith and Council be at Bourbon Street on the main float?

## Member of Coushatta Tribal Council Honored as Unsung Hero by LSU Office of Equity, Diversity & Community Outreach *Sickey the First Tribal Citizen Recipient*

ELTON, LA (January 22, 2014) - - The Louisiana State University Office of Equity, Diversity & Community Outreach (EDCO), honored David Sickey with the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Unsung Hero Award this past January.

Sickey, Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana, member of the LSU National Diversity Advisory Board, and the LSU at Eunice Foundation Board, is the first Tribal Citizen to receive the award.

"Mr. Sickey's passion and commitment to diversity in leadership and economic development are both inspiring and contagious. We look forward to collaborating both with him and the Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana in the future," said Kenneth O. Miles, Interim Vice Provost for Equity, Diversity & Community Outreach at LSU.



## Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians Breaking Ground on New Hospital Site



It's the second major ground breaking for the Eastern Band of Cherokee in a six month period. This past fall the Tribe broke ground on a new casino expansion. Now Cherokee Tribal leadership placed shovels in the ground to begin work on a new \$75 Million hospital, which will have more in-patient facilities and programs. Cherokee Indian Hospital Authority CEO Casey Cooper commented, "We stand here today because we are dedicated to the health care of this Tribe for the next seven generations. This morning's ceremony is yet another illustration of our Tribal leadership's commitment to the future of our Tribe." The hospital is expected to open in January 2016.

## FIX CARCIERI NOW!

During the National Congress of American Indians Executive Council Winter Session held in Washington, DC in March, USET provided a table to inform attendees and participants of the importance of securing a Carcierri Fix. Attendees stopping by the table could pick up a custom-made button urging Congress to Fix Carcierri Now, Protect Tribal Homelands, Protect our Human Rights, and Protect Tribal Sovereignty.

USET members spoke to the attendees during a Carcierri session on the importance of a unified effort to secure a Clean Fix.



## USET HONORS TWO EMPLOYEES FOR FIVE YEARS OF SERVICE



Please join us at USET in congratulating Tribal Health Program Support's Project Administrator Vicki French (left) and Tribal Data Coordinator Alison Sanders (Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians citizen) for five continuous years of service to the organization. Vicki and Alison were recognized for their service at an all-staff meeting in April and given certificates for their five years of service. Thank you ladies for your dedicated work and care for USET member Tribes and Indian Country!

## MICHELLE RUSLAVAGE TAKES NEW POSITION WITH INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE



After five years with the USET Tribal Health Program Support as Health Informativist and Immunization Coordinator, CDR Michelle Ruslavage has taken a position with Indian Health Service in the Office of Information Technology. She is designing solutions for RPMS customers that address business workflow and data needs, analyze and write software requirements, test against requirements, manage software development projects, and develop policy and training materials. She thanked the Tribes of USET and the USET organization for the opportunity of being an active contributor to the USET mission and looks forward to when our paths cross again. USET wishes the very best to Dr. Ruslavage and her family.

## DR. CATHY HOLLISTER RETIRES



At the end of January, Dr. Cathy Hollister retired from USET as the Dental Support Center Director. Dr. Hollister has been working eight years with USET in this capacity. She is completing 20 years of dedicated service to promoting healthy Indian Country Communities.

USET Tribal Health Program Support Director Dee Sabattus thanked Dr. Hollister for her dedicated work saying, "We will miss Dr. Hollister. She has really advanced the USET Dental Support Center to be one of the leading programs serving Indian Country. With the same passion and spirit she places into her work caring for Tribal programs, we send our best wishes for her in retirement."

During retirement, Dr. Hollister wants to take advantage of her time to have some fun before looking at doing any other work. "I'm going to travel and do a lot of contra dancing for the first year and really enjoy life. I may do some teaching online in a year or so if the opportunity is there," Dr. Hollister told USET.

Best wishes and thank you Dr. Hollister for your service to USET and Indian Country.

## USET Annual Meeting to be held in Verona, NY

### Mark your Calendar!

The upcoming USET 2014 Annual Meeting & Expo is scheduled for December 1 - 3, 2014 at the Turning Stone Resort Casino and will be hosted by Oneida Indian Nation.

Please check the USET Website at <http://www.usetinc.org> for information.

