



## 2017 ANNUAL REPORT



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*United South and Eastern Tribes (USET)*

*USET Sovereignty Protection Fund (USET SPF)*

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### **USET SPF Organizational Infrastructure & Capacity**

ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

## **United South and Eastern Tribes (USET)**

Established in 1969, the United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc. (USET) is a non-profit, inter-Tribal organization representing twenty-seven (27) federally recognized Tribal Nations, from Maine to Florida to Texas. USET is dedicated to enhancing the development of Tribal Nations, improving the capabilities of Tribal governments, and improving the quality of life for Indian people through a variety of technical and supportive programmatic services.

## **USET Sovereignty Protection Fund (USET SPF)**

Established in 2014, the USET Sovereignty Protection Fund (USET SPF) is a non-profit, inter-Tribal organization representing twenty-seven (27) federally recognized Tribal Nations, from Maine to Florida to Texas. USET SPF is dedicated to promoting, protecting, and advancing the inherent sovereign rights and authorities of Tribal Nations and in assisting its membership in dealing effectively with public policy issues.

## **USET Community Development Financial Institution (USET CDFI)**

The USET Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) was established in 2016 as an affiliate organization of United South and Eastern Tribes (USET). As part of an effort to build an economic development programmatic core competency, the USET CDFI was created to assist its member Tribal Nations in strengthening their economies. Specifically, the USET CDFI was created in direct response to the lack of access to capital for Tribal Nation economic development and community infrastructure projects within the USET region. USET CDFI's focused lending to Tribal Nations – including Tribal enterprises – will prepare Tribal Nations for mainstream financing options that will lead to more strategic investment of community projects and spark job growth. The overarching purpose of the USET CDFI is to administer assistance and opportunities to USET member Tribal Nations as they develop economic development opportunity and community development investments that strengthen Tribal sovereignty and build healthy Tribal economies. While still in its formative stage, the USET CDFI is currently putting in place the necessary and required foundation and infrastructure.





## Letter from USET President, Kirk Francis

Dear Friends and Fellow Sovereignty Protectors,

Reflecting upon 2017, I am reminded of the tremendous growth and maturation of this organization that has allowed us to be engaged on so many levels and across a broad spectrum of issues! As a result, and through our collective efforts and actions, we are fulfilling our mission as envisioned by our founders. This report highlights many of our programmatic, policy, legislative, and litigation efforts and accomplishments over the past year.

While there is much to celebrate in reflection upon 2017, I am further reminded of the many challenges that we experienced throughout the past year. However, these challenges underscore our calling and purpose as an advocacy and education organization; to promote and protect our inherent sovereign rights and authorities, to ensure that the United States fulfills its trust and treaty obligations, and to ensure that our story is conveyed in an accurate, respectful, and dignified manner.

While these challenges test our resolve, they also serve to strengthen our advocacy by sharpening our efforts. Moving forward, we must continue to remain focused and determined as much is at stake. Our ultimate success and prosperity is the only option. The work of this organization will ensure that Indian Country continues to grow and evolve as a reflection of our own vision for our future.

Together, we will honor the legacy of our ancestors and ensure a bright future for our relatives who have yet to come. Together, we will ensure that our collective voice is heard and work to advance those priorities of greatest importance to our membership and Indian Country. Together, we can and will move mountains.

I hope that you enjoy this report and I look forward to an even more engaging, productive, and successful 2018!

In Brotherhood,  
N-tal-nḍpem-nawak (All my relatives)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Francis', written over a light blue horizontal line.

President Kirk Francis

**Tribal Health  
Solutions Group  
(THSG)**

Medical Coding,  
Billing, Claims

**Calumet**  
Tennessee  
Incorporated For  
Profit Corporation

**United South and Eastern Tribes  
(USET)**

Programmatic Service and  
Technical Support

**USET Sovereignty  
Protection Fund  
(USET SPF)**

Policy, Advocacy,  
Education

**USET Community  
Development Financial  
Institution (USET CDFI)**  
Development Services,  
Revolving Loans for Tribal  
Enterprises

# EXECUTIVE OFFICERS



**B. Cheryl Smith**  
**Treasurer**  
*Chief, Jena Band of  
Choctaw Indians*

B. Cheryl Smith has spent her professional career working in various capacities for the Jena Band of Choctaw Indians, including as a member of Tribal Council from 1975 until 1998, 2004 through 2010, elected Chief in 2010.

**Kirk Francis**  
**President**  
*Tribal Chief,  
Penobscot Indian  
Nation*

Kirk Francis has served as Chief of the Penobscot Indian Nation since 2006 and holds the distinction of being the Nation's longest-serving Chief since the electoral system began in 1850. Prior to becoming USET President, he served as Treasurer.

**Robert McGhee**  
**Vice-President**  
*Vice-Chairman,  
Poarch Band of Creek  
Indians*

Robert "Robbie" McGhee serves as the Vice Chairman of the Poarch Band of Creek Indians Tribal Council and has been an advocate for Native American issues at all levels of government.

**Lynn Malerba**  
**Secretary**  
*Chief, Mohegan  
Tribe of Indians of  
Connecticut*

Chief Mutawi Mutahash "Lynn" Malerba became the 18th Chief of the Mohegan Tribe of Connecticut in August of 2010, which is a lifetime appointment, and is the first female Chief in the Tribal Nation's modern history.

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas**

JoAnn Battise, Chairwoman  
Ronnie Thomas, Vice-Chairman

**Aroostook Band of Micmacs**

Edward Peter-Paul, Tribal Chief  
Richard Silliboy, Vice-Chief

**Catawba Indian Nation**

William Harris, Chief  
Jason Harris, Assistant Chief

**Cayuga Nation**

Clint Halftown, Nation Representative  
Sharon LeRoy, Nation Secretary

**Chitimacha Tribe of Louisiana**

Melissa Darden, Chairman  
April Wyatt, Vice-Chairman

**Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana**

David Sickey, Chairman  
Crystal Williams, Secretary-Treasurer

**Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians**

Richard Sneed, Principal Chief  
Adam Wachacha, Tribal Council Chairman

**Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians**

Clarissa Sabattis, Tribal Chief  
Linda Raymond, Tribal Council

**Jena Band of Choctaw Indians**

B. Cheryl Smith, Tribal Chief  
Libby Rogers, Council Member

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Rodney Butler, Chairman  
Crystal Whipple, Vice-Chairwoman

**Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe**

Cedric Cromwell, Chairman  
Jessie Baird, Vice-Chairwoman

**Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida**

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Roy Cypress Jr., Assistant Chairman

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Hilda Nickey, Vice-Chief

**Mohegan Tribe of Indians of Connecticut**

Kevin Brown, Chairman  
R. James Gessner, Vice-Chair

**Narragansett Indian Tribe**

Matthew Thomas, Chief Sachem

**Oneida Indian Nation**

Ray Halbritter, Nation Representative  
Dale Rood, Council Member

**Pamunkey Indian Tribe**

Robert Gray, Chief/Tribal Administrator  
Bradby Brown, Vice-Chief

**Passamaquoddy Tribe at Indian Township**

William Nicholas, Tribal Chief  
Leslie Nicholas, Vice-Chief

**Passamaquoddy Tribe at Pleasant Point**

Ralph Dana, Tribal Chief  
Elizabeth "Maggie" Dana, Vice-Chief

**Penobscot Indian Nation**

Kirk Francis Sr., Tribal Chief  
Lee Francis, Tribal Council Member

**Poarch Band of Creek Indians**

Stephanie Bryan, Tribal Chairwoman  
Robert McGhee, Vice-Chairman

**Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe**

Eric Thompson, Tribal Chief  
Beverly Cook, Tribal Chief

**Seminole Tribe of Florida**

Marcellus Osceola, Chairman  
Jim Shore, General Counsel

**Seneca Nation of Indians**

Todd Gates, President  
Maurice John, Treasurer

**Shinnecock Indian Nation**

Charles K. Smith II, Chairman  
Randy King, Vice-Chairman

**Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana**

Marshall Ray Sampson Sr., Vice-Chairman  
Beverly Rachal, Secretary Treasurer

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

Cheryl Andrews-Maltas, Chairwoman  
Richard Randolph, Vice-Chairman

*Leadership as of 1/18/2018 publication date.*



### USET Tribal Climate Resilience Program

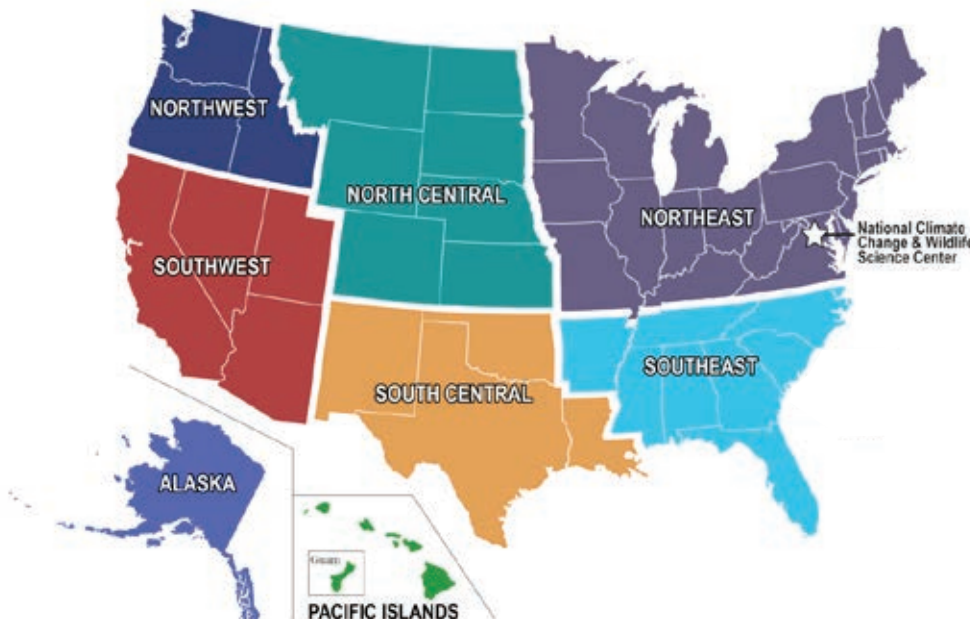
The USET Tribal Climate Resilience Program was funded by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) to provide climate science information and climate adaptation planning support to build resilience within Tribal Nations. USET is partnering with the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians (ATNI), Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association (APIA), American Indian Higher Education Consortium (AIHEC), and the College of the Menominee Nation Sustainable Development Institute (CMN-SDI). To implement this program, USET and its partners are coordinating with regional Department of Interior Climate Science Centers (CSCs) through a national network of seven Tribal Climate Science Liaisons.



Casey Thornbrugh, USET Tribal Climate Science Liaison.

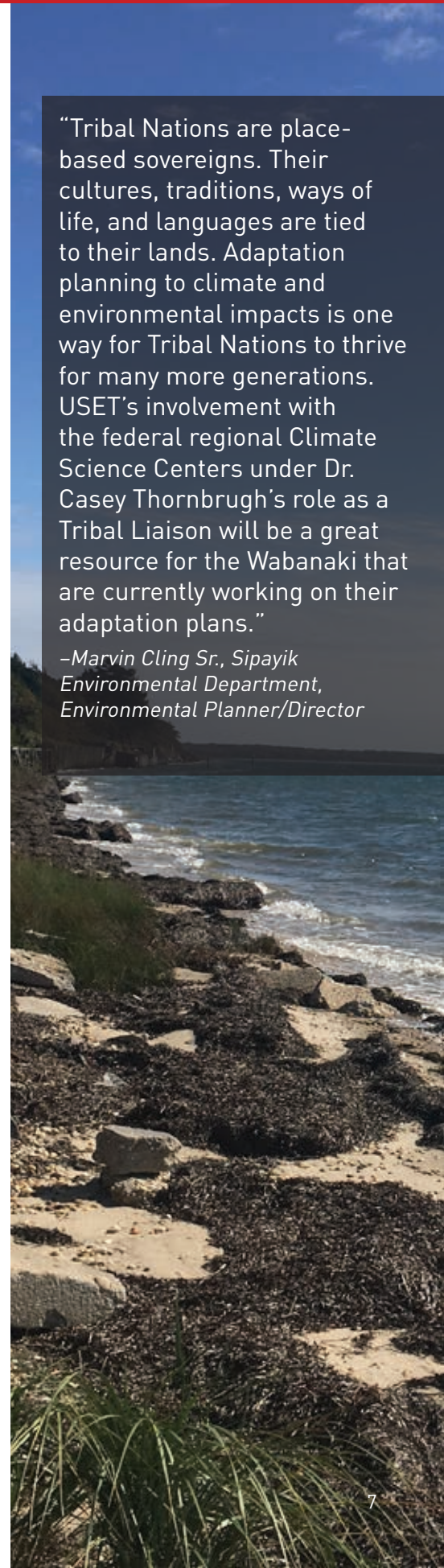
In September, USET hired Casey Thornbrugh (citizen of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe) to serve as the Tribal Climate Science Liaison for Tribal Nations within the regions of the Northeast and Southeast CSCs. Casey has been coordinating with his fellow Tribal Liaisons and BIA Tribal Resilience Program Coordinator, Rachael Novak, to develop and implement a strategy to provide technical support and resources to Tribal Nations. The Tribal Climate Science Liaisons work to connect with representatives from the Tribal Nations through conferences and site visits to identify Tribal priorities in building climate resilience.

The Tribal Climate Science Liaisons are also building a network to support Tribal climate resilience by connecting Tribal Nations to federal, state, and non-governmental partners, and by ensuring that representatives from Tribal programs (e.g., environmental, health, and education) are aware of funding opportunities to support climate resilience projects. Because funding support is recognized as a top priority for Tribal Nations, webinars and other media have been created by the Tribal Climate Science Liaisons to assist Tribal representatives in applying for grant opportunities to support their programs. Through the work of the Liaisons, the CSCs and Tribal Nations are collaborating and developing strong relationships to build resilience in the face of a changing climate.



“Tribal Nations are place-based sovereigns. Their cultures, traditions, ways of life, and languages are tied to their lands. Adaptation planning to climate and environmental impacts is one way for Tribal Nations to thrive for many more generations. USET’s involvement with the federal regional Climate Science Centers under Dr. Casey Thornbrugh’s role as a Tribal Liaison will be a great resource for the Wabanaki that are currently working on their adaptation plans.”

–Marvin Cling Sr., Sipayik Environmental Department, Environmental Planner/Director



### Clean Water and the Importance of Tribal Utilities

In April, the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida hosted the 8th Annual Tribal Utility Summit. The Summit is a collaborative effort among USET, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Indian Health Service that provides opportunities for Tribal Nations to network, to exchange best practices for water and wastewater utilities, and for operators and laboratory analysts to meet professional training requirements. Highlights of this year's event include hands-on training, annual Drinking Water Contest, Water Line Repair Contest, Wastewater Jeopardy Challenge, and tour of the Miccosukee Tribe's water plant.

In May, Technical Assistance Specialist Carissa Castillo participated in Drinking Water Week sponsored by the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Utility. The weeklong event included a field trip by seniors from Salmon River High School to tour drinking water and wastewater facilities. Students met Shawn Martin, Utilities Director, and utility operators at the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Reservation in Hogansburg, NY. One focus of the field trip was to show students the profession of a treatment plant operator and how operators contribute to public health and safety. The students gained insight into water treatment and distribution, and how clean water is essential to healthy living and quality of life.




Participants at the 2017 Tribal Utility Summit.



Winners of the Drinking Water Contest, Water Line Repair Contest, and Wastewater Jeopardy Challenge.





"[The Tribal Utility Summit is] a great opportunity to see how other Tribes do things. Learning new ways from other Tribes' operators is what I benefit from the most. For example, we were building our home septic systems one way and the Seminole Tribe of Florida showed me another idea by looping our drain/leach lines. This allows for water to have other options for drainage."

—John Williford, Catawba Indian Nation, USET and South Carolina Certified Operator

### Environmental Advocacy in the Region

USET Senior Project Coordinator Steve Terry was a guest speaker at the Water and Health Conference held at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in October. This international conference welcomed participants from all over the world. As a panelist on "Merging Science and Technology with Culture and Tradition," Steve presented the work of the USET drinking water technical assistance program, and the significance of water and wastewater treatment to fulfill cultural imperatives of environmental stewardship and providing water and wastewater treatment for Native American reservations.

USET Senior Project Coordinator Steve Terry served on the "Climate Changes Health—The Roles We Play" panel at the George Washington University Milken Institute School of Public Health in May. The link between climate change and public health has become increasingly apparent, and the panel discussed roles public health professionals can play in climate mitigation and adaptation. The key conclusions are that human need and environmental conservation are intrinsically linked; solutions from a mental health perspective are crucial; no one group or sector can solve climate change; and small actions make a big impact.

USET Senior Project Coordinator Steve Terry and User Interface Designer Harrell French convened a Tribal-FERST workshop and demonstration during the Tribal Land and Environment Forum in Tulsa, OK, in August. Tribal-FERST is a web-based geospatial tool designed to help Tribal Nations assess their environmental health risk and develop sustainable solutions.



USET Senior Project Coordinator Steve Terry speaks at the Water and Health Conference.

### Continued Partnership with the Economic Development Administration

USET continued its successful partnership with the Economic Development Administration (EDA) by continuing work through the Philadelphia Regional Office providing technical assistance for comprehensive economic development strategies and strategic planning. USET and EDA will continue this work in 2018 by continuing technical assistance through the Atlanta Regional Office, servicing North Carolina, South Carolina, Florida, Alabama, and Mississippi. With a clear, defined path forward, Tribal Nations can successfully plan to survive economic conditions.

## Public Health Policy Implementation at the Local Level

Three of USET's five Good Health and Wellness in Indian Country (GHWIC) sub-awardees utilized funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to implement a total of five health promotion policies, directly affecting more than 14,000 individuals. Tribal Nations continue to actively work on policies that promote physical activity, increase healthy eating options, and/or protect the population from secondhand smoke. It is expected that the sub-awardees will continue to sustain health promotion efforts through lasting policy implementation, which protects and promotes the health of nearly 35,000 Tribal Nation citizens.



*The Poarch Band of Creek Indians, a USET GHWIC sub-awardee, established a commercial tobacco cessation policy.*



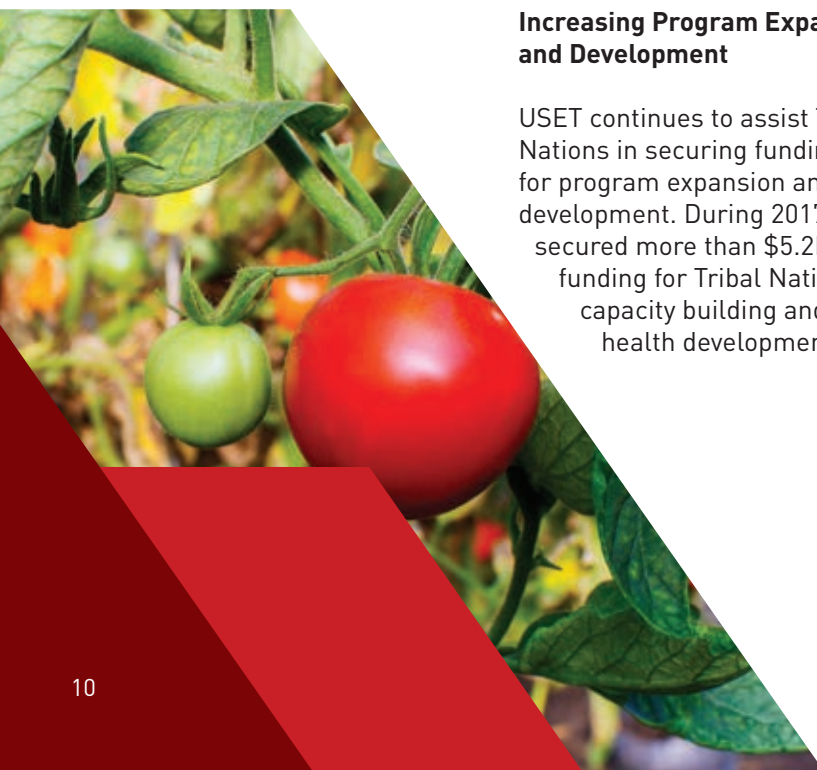
*Through a USET-guided community health assessment, the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas identified low access to healthy foods as a barrier to healthy food choices. With funding from USET's GHWIC, the Tribal Nation established community gardens to increase healthy food options.*

## Increasing Program Expansion and Development

USET continues to assist Tribal Nations in securing funding for program expansion and development. During 2017, USET secured more than \$5.2M in funding for Tribal Nation capacity building and public health development.

## USET Telehealth Program Expansion

As professional development needs at Tribal health clinics increase and the demand for essential healthcare services—particularly psychiatric and behavioral health—rise, technology is playing a more prominent role. Through an innovative, technology-driven program, USET established a group of Tribal Nations to pilot a telemedicine initiative. USET will provide consultation and education directly to patients through telemedicine. Health professionals located at USET will support Indian health clinic medical staff with patient care plans associated with chronic disease most prevalent in Native American populations, specifically diabetes and hypertension.



### Special Diabetes Program for Indians

Since 1998, USET has served as the primary grantee for 20 USET member Tribal Nations for the Special Diabetes Program for Indians grant. This collaboration started due to Tribal Nations' limitations in the staff time and administration required to successfully compete for grants. In 2017, USET received \$6.5M and a majority of this funding went directly to Tribal Nations for program development.



Through the Penobscot Diabetes Program, Bem Galipeau, Penobscot Nation triathlete, learns about the importance of feeding your body healthy foods.



Saint Regis Mohawk Diabetes Program provides nutrition information to community members during their Tribal Health Fair.

"As a triathlete, I learned that eating healthy, getting plenty of rest, and staying hydrated are important for my body and help me achieve goals. During the 2017 Indigenous Games, after weeks of training and healthy choices, I received two bronze medals for canoeing."

—Bem Galipeau, Penobscot Indian Nation

### Building Local Capacity through Guidance and Training

During 2017, USET provided more than 50 health-related webinars, training opportunities, and/or Tribal Nation-specific training visits that incorporated public health outreach and education, program planning and evaluation, and diabetes programmatic reviews. USET also provided more than 30 technical assistance and training visits to drinking water and wastewater facilities on various topics including certification training, inventory control and planning, operations and maintenance, grant writing, managerial, financial, capacity building for water quality standards implementation, and Section 401 water quality certification.



USET staff sharing area dental programmatic highlights at the National Indian Health Board Annual Consumer Conference.



USET Senior Technical Assistance Specialist Scott Williams presents to Tribal utility operators.



USET Technical Assistance Specialist Carissa Castillo conducts equipment inventory at the Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah).



USET Technical Assistance Specialist Carissa Castillo provides training on inventory control and planning at the Coughatta Tribe of Louisiana.



USET staff provide onsite training and technical assistance to Tribal Nations.

## USET Strives to Address Opioid and Substance Abuse among USET Member Tribal Nations

In 2012, in response to concerns from the Tribal Nations, USET established its Prescription Drug Task Force. The task force has met several times, trying to determine ways to reduce the rates of prescription drug abuse amongst Tribal communities, yet rates continue to climb. According to 2014 data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, American Indians and Alaska Natives had the highest rates of death from opioid overdose among other ethnicities at 8.4 per 100,000 people.

As demonstrated above, Tribal Nations suffer some of the highest rates of opioid abuse, yet they are often left out of the conversation. Regardless of funding opportunities, however, all units of government must work to better collaborate with Tribal Nations in order to respond to this crisis in a comprehensive manner. Failure to include all impacted communities will result in major gaps, from both a health and a law enforcement perspective, in the ability of the United States to eradicate opioid addiction in this country.

Tribal Nations are trying to address a crisis that is reaching epidemic levels in our communities, with limited resources. Tribal Nations are providing targeted education and increased coordination amongst Tribal, State, and Federal agencies, but more work is needed. Through various USET roundtables and task force meetings, Tribal Nations have identified needs including increased law enforcement/justice programs and treatment and aftercare programs that are culturally specific to meet the needs of American Indians and Alaska Natives. Combating the opioid and substance abuse crisis remains a priority for USET and its member Tribal Nations.



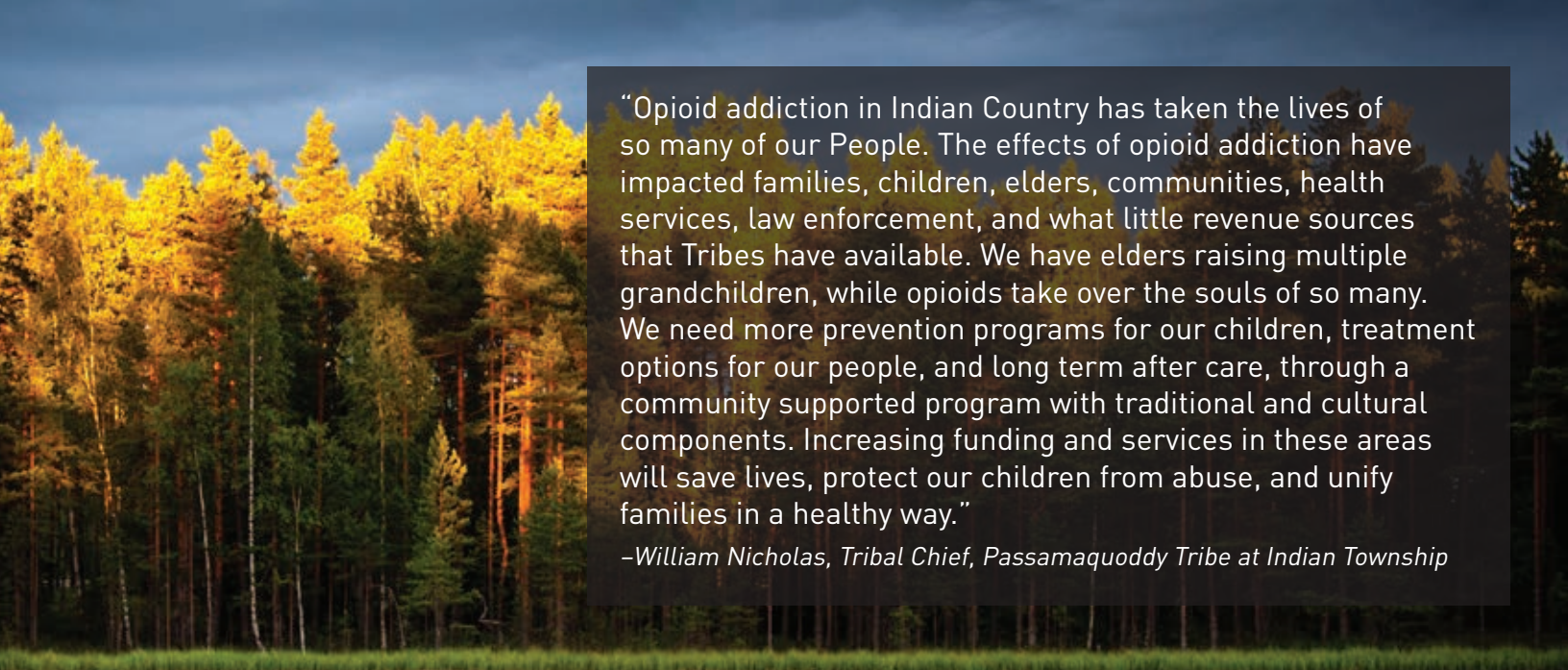
Opioid and prescription drug educational materials.



Tribal Leaders, USET Staff, and federal partners discuss the opioid and substance abuse crisis.



To bring awareness to the opioid and substance abuse crisis ravaging Tribal communities, the Passamaquoddy Tribe at Indian Township holds a vigil to bring the community together in hopes of reducing abuse and accidental deaths.



“Opioid addiction in Indian Country has taken the lives of so many of our People. The effects of opioid addiction have impacted families, children, elders, communities, health services, law enforcement, and what little revenue sources that Tribes have available. We have elders raising multiple grandchildren, while opioids take over the souls of so many. We need more prevention programs for our children, treatment options for our people, and long term after care, through a community supported program with traditional and cultural components. Increasing funding and services in these areas will save lives, protect our children from abuse, and unify families in a healthy way.”

–William Nicholas, Tribal Chief, Passamaquoddy Tribe at Indian Township

## IMMEDIATE ACTIONS

Advocacy – Tribal set-asides

Drug take-back programs

Connecting to culture

Gathering anecdotal data

Utilizing drug court models

Community education campaign

- Adult/Elders
- Youth (video messages)

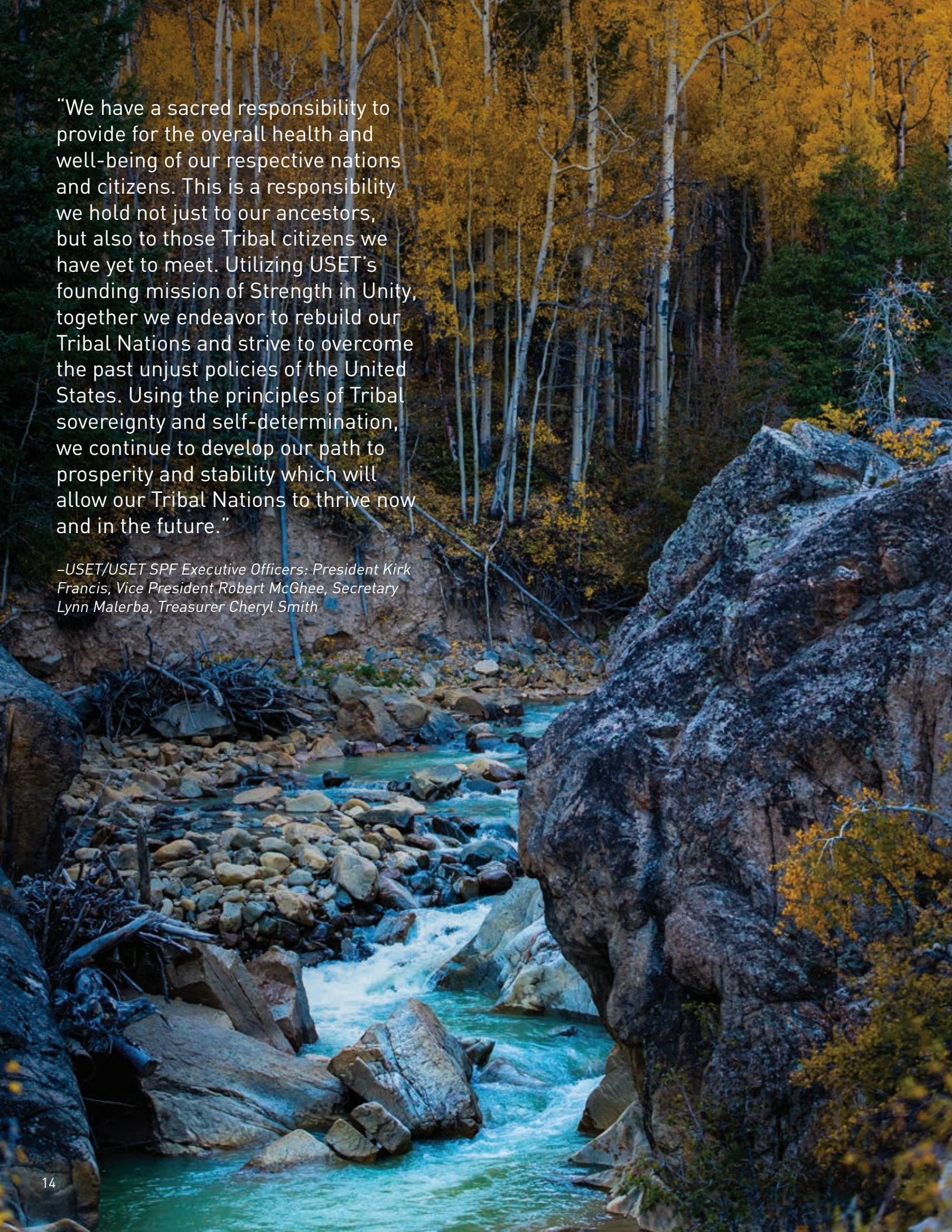
Commitments from USET Committees and Board of Directors

- Monthly status update teleconferences
- Joint Committee meetings
- Provide policy updates and grant opportunities to Tribal Nations

## LONG-TERM ACTIONS

Advocacy – Tribal set-asides

Aftercare treatment programs

A scenic photograph of a river flowing through a forest. The river is surrounded by large, dark rocks and is filled with white water rapids. The trees in the background have yellow and orange autumn foliage. The sky is not visible.

“We have a sacred responsibility to provide for the overall health and well-being of our respective nations and citizens. This is a responsibility we hold not just to our ancestors, but also to those Tribal citizens we have yet to meet. Utilizing USET’s founding mission of Strength in Unity, together we endeavor to rebuild our Tribal Nations and strive to overcome the past unjust policies of the United States. Using the principles of Tribal sovereignty and self-determination, we continue to develop our path to prosperity and stability which will allow our Tribal Nations to thrive now and in the future.”

*–USET/USET SPF Executive Officers: President Kirk Francis, Vice President Robert McGhee, Secretary Lynn Malerba, Treasurer Cheryl Smith*

### Engagement with Federal Agencies

The Natural Resources Committee held meetings during Impact Week with two U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) divisions: the Office of Water and the Office of Air and Radiation; and also with two agencies of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA): the U.S. Forest Service and the Rural Utilities Service. EPA discussions centered on recent changes to the Clean Water Act that provide Tribal Nations with a straightforward path to obtaining “treatment as a state,” also known as TAS; adopting water quality standards; and facilitating Tribal designations for impaired waters and total maximum daily loads. USDA discussions centered on the emerald ash borer in the Northeast, hemp production, and assistance to Tribal Nations for their drinking water and wastewater treatment facilities.

At the Annual Meeting, the Natural Resources Committee visited the Cherokee Trout Farm located in the Big Cove Community at the headwaters of Raven Fork, and were briefed about the 15-month process of raising rainbow trout from eggs to fish prior to being released into the Oconaluftee River and other streams on the Cherokee Reservation.



*USET Natural Resources Committee meets with EPA during Impact Week.*



*USET Natural Resources Committee visits Cherokee Trout Farm.*



*USET THPS Director Dee Sabattus represents USET Tribal Nations at the CDC Tribal Advisory Committee meeting with former CDC Director.*

### USET Represents Tribal Nations on Various National Committees and Workgroups

USET maintained representation on various regional and federal committees, workgroups, and task forces to influence action to support positive change.



*Seneca Nation staff and USET THPS Assistant Director Kate Grismala meet with CDC leadership.*

## Native American Business Month

A month-long outreach initiative across USET social media platforms, Native American Business Month highlighted each USET member Tribal Nation and their economic development efforts each day in November. This initiative emphasized the economic development opportunities within the USET membership and educated the larger population about economic development initiatives of Tribal Nations. Each post averaged 276 unique views across all of USET social media platforms, equating to 276 opportunities for business orders, purchase contracts, and increased visits to Tribally owned properties. Developing and strengthening economic opportunities allows Tribal Nations to become less dependent on federal grant funds and invest in activities and areas that are most beneficial to the needs of Tribal citizens.



Native American Business Month promotional material on display during the 2017 USET SPF Annual Meeting in Cherokee, NC.

## USET PROGRAMS & SERVICES LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

### USET Supports Youth Participation in Vanderbilt University Summer Internship

USET and Vanderbilt University's Aspirnaut Program continued their partnership during 2017 to support Tribal youth interested in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) work. Through this standing partnership with Aspirnaut, two USET member Tribal Nation youth spent 6 weeks at Vanderbilt University Medical Center conducting hands on research, with hopes that they continue their educational aspirations within STEM fields. Throughout the 6 weeks, students completed guided discovery learning and research, professional and individual discovery activities, including communication skills and navigating and preparing students for school entrance exams, career planning, and social activities.

Through the Aspirnaut partnership, USET hopes to increase the number of American Indian and Alaska Native health scientists and medical professionals so that they can take their skills home to their communities.



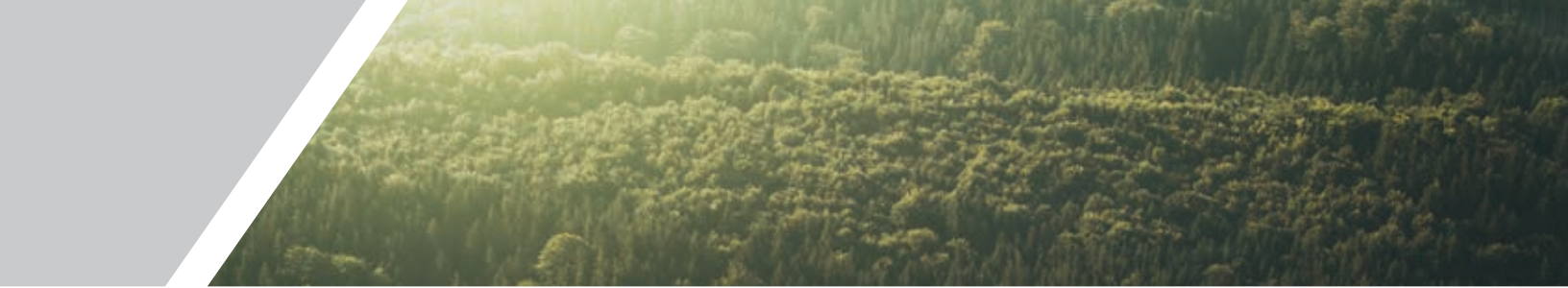
Sydney Farrar, Passamaquoddy Tribe, and family during final internship presentations.



Sydney Farrar, Passamaquoddy Tribe and Arrow Scott, Mississippi Choctaw, participate in the 2017 Aspirnaut Internship.



Arrow Scott, Mississippi Choctaw, and family during final internship presentations.



*USET Economic Development and Entrepreneurship Committee Chair Chris Thompson.*

### **Economic Development Trainings Conducted**

Providing technical assistance and training opportunities to foster leadership development has been and will continue to be a priority for USET. This year saw professional development on numerous topics including data collection and data resources available to help illustrate the economic impact of Tribal Nations. In addition, “Economic Development 101” training helped to broaden the current definition of economic development to include other concepts like community development, entrepreneurship, and the finance/banking industry. These topics will be expanded next year, along with creating new professional development opportunities for economic development practitioners and Tribal Leaders.

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### **USET Participates in Center for Native American Youth Roundtable**

The Center for Native American Youth, which was established by former Senator Byron Dorgan (SD) hosted a meeting that focused on strengthening data pertaining to mental health disorders and youth suicide in Tribal Nation communities. Participants discussed the latest indicators of mental health outcomes for Native youth and the importance of robust and culturally-informed data in developing successful interventions and community programs. Featured speakers included Dee Sabattus, Director of Tribal Health Program Support (THPS), United South and Eastern Tribes; Mary Cwik, Associate Scientist at Johns Hopkins University Center for American Indian Health; Victoria Chau, Public Health Analyst at the Office of Policy, Planning and Innovation at the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration; and Rory Wheeler, a youth leader from the Seneca Nation of Indians.



*USET THPS Director Dee Sabattus joins former Senator Byron Dorgan and other data advocates for discussion on strengthening American Indian and Alaska Native mental health and suicide data.*

## USET Partners with Close Up Foundation for Youth Leadership Development

USET continued its 20-year partnership with the Close Up Foundation that brings Tribal Nation youth to Washington, D.C. during USET SPF's Impact Week to explore and to learn firsthand the impacts of policy and legislative advocacy. During Impact Week 2017, USET produced a nine-minute video (available at [www.usetinc.org](http://www.usetinc.org)) that highlights the work of Tribal youth involved with the Close Up Foundation. In the introduction, USET Secretary Chief Lynn Malerba says, "We are fortunate to be following in the footsteps of our ancestors in terms of leadership and making sure that our culture and our Tribal Nations remain vibrant."

The youth express that "DC is our classroom" and how much they learn during Impact Week: "We're able to learn about how our Nation came to be. It opened my eyes to the history, the politics, and the legislative process and how it affects myself, my Tribe, and Indian Country altogether." The importance of sovereignty and Tribal involvement is expressed, with comments such as "I would like to see the council listen to us more," and "We're working on getting a Youth Council."

USET Executive Director Kitcki Carroll spoke to the youth at Impact Week: "Be proud of who you are. You have dual citizenship—you are citizens of your Tribal Nation and you are citizens of the United States. That's a very special thing."

Several Close Up Alumni from USET member Tribal Nations were also in attendance and spoke about their experience with Close Up and how these experiences shaped their careers and lives. Everyone enjoyed their time.



*Pictured (l-r): USET Treasurer Cheryl Smith, Vice-President of Close Up Development Mia Charity, Christian M. Jock, Herbi Tatro, Rochelllda Sylestine, Elle Bradley, Sara Sawyer, Daniel "Brice" McGhee, Darcy Russell, USET President Kirk Francis, USET Secretary Lynn Malerba, USET Vice President Robert McGhee.*



*Youth from USET member Tribal Nations bring in Tribal Nation Flags during opening ceremonies.*



*Youth exploring the National Museum of the American Indian as part of their Close Up experience.*



*Rebecca Naragon, USET  
Economic Development Director.*

### **USET Hires Economic Development Director**

As part of the commitment to build out the economic development core competency, USET introduced a new member to the leadership team with the Economic Development Director position in April 2017. Rebecca Naragon, a citizen of the Poarch Band of Creek Indians, joined USET to provide leadership for the implementation of the organization's comprehensive economic development strategy (CEDS) by providing technical assistance and programmatic services in areas of business and community development. One of the areas identified in USET's CEDS is the lack of access to capital for Tribal Nations and Tribal enterprises for community projects. As a result, Rebecca will also oversee the development of the USET CDFI, a separate organization that will act as a private financial institution dedicated to delivering responsible, affordable lending to assist Tribal Nations in the economic mainstream that they previously were not able to participate in or could not secure reasonable rates and terms.

### **Utility Forum Partnership**

One of the most exciting opportunities for the continued build out of the economic development competency is collaboration with other USET departments. In July, USET's Office of Environmental Resource Management (OERM) and Economic Development worked together to present the first Tribal Utility Finance Forum. This forum brought federal partners and industry experts together to update the paradigm of how Tribal utilities can also be considered important opportunities for community economic development. USET looks forward to providing more of these collaborative programmatic events in the future.



*Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Chief Beverly Cook presents at the Tribal Utility Finance Forum.*



### **Collaboration to Educate on Blood-Borne and Water-Borne Pathogens**

To increase the understanding of blood-borne and water-borne pathogens and decrease the risk of exposure and infection among waste water treatment plant workers in USET Tribal Nations, OERM teamed up with THPS to host a session at the USET Tribal Utility Summit.

The session included a presentation on the most common blood-borne and water-borne pathogens that a wastewater treatment plant worker may encounter. The presentation also focused on preventative measures, modes of transmission, personal protection equipment, prophylaxis post-exposure and the importance of select vaccines in their field of work.

## USET CDFI Incorporated, Board Established

USET CDFI, Inc. was incorporated on September 12, 2016. Since that time, a full nine-member Board of Directors has been secured and has met regularly in coordination with other USET meetings. The full Board has representation from Native CDFI leaders, Tribal Leaders with financial and lending expertise, and USET.

## USET CDFI

During their first meeting, the Board of Directors voted to adopt bylaws governing the Board and any committees in their work to implement all documents needed for the CDFI's successful build out. The Board also passed a lending policy that dictates the kind of projects that will receive lending and how proposals will be reviewed for risk. With a fully seated Board of Directors and the development of organizational documents, USET CDFI is on track to become certified by the CDFI Fund in late 2019.



*USET CDFI holds first Board of Directors Meeting.*



*USET CDFI Board of Directors during the 2017 Semi-Annual Meeting (from left to right): Secretary Susan Hammond, Vice-Chairman Chris Thompson, the Honorable Rob Porter, Chairman Owen Herne, Russ Seagle, and Treasurer Kitcki Carroll.*

*Not pictured: the Honorable Michell Hicks, Cyrus Ben, and PBCI Tribal Chairwoman Stephanie Bryan.*

## CDFI Continues Work with Oweesta

In the endeavor of establishing an emerging Native CDFI, USET has partnered with the First Nations Oweesta Corporation, a subsidiary of the First Nations Development Institute, to provide training, guidance, and contractual work. This partnership has continued throughout the past year by training the USET Economic Development Director, acting as the USET CDFI Director, and providing technical assistance on numerous documents. Working with Oweesta has also led to introductions to new organizations and opportunities within the community lending industry. USET CDFI was represented at the 15th Annual Native Gathering, coordinated by Oweesta, as part of the Opportunity Finance Network (OFN) Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C.



*USET Economic Development Director Rebecca Naragon with Oweesta Staff.*

## USET Provides Revenue Cycle Management Services

Through a funding opportunity with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), USET established the Tribal Health Solutions Group (THSG) in 2016 and continued efforts to assist USET Tribal Nations with healthcare revenue cycle management throughout 2017. THSG completed an education campaign through USET meeting presentations and individual Tribal Nation site visits to assess each Tribal Nation's individual needs. THSG is working with Tribal Nations across the USET area to streamline revenue cycle processes and increase healthcare reimbursements.



*USET THSG Manager Patti Seaberg meets with Jill Sain from the Cherokee Indian Hospital to assess revenue cycle needs.*

## USET SOVEREIGNTY PROTECTION FUND

In October 2014, USET received approval from the Internal Revenue Service to form a 501(c)4 not-for-profit sister organization—the USET Sovereignty Protection Fund (SPF). Following its third year, the USET SPF continues to provide strong advocacy for member Tribal Nations within all branches of the federal government. USET SPF strives to protect, promote, and advance our inherent sovereign rights, and to elevate the voices of Tribal Nations in our region at the federal level.

## COMPREHENSIVE POLICY & LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS AGENDA

### USET SPF STRATEGIC GOALS & OBJECTIVES



### New Administration

As the Trump Administration took office and began to formulate its federal Indian policy, USET SPF worked to advocate for the priorities of Tribal Nations in the east. Throughout the first year of the Trump Presidency, USET SPF conducted extensive outreach to the transition team, White House, and Department of Interior, among other entities. Priorities and issues raised include economic development, health and tax reform, infrastructure permitting, and the restoration of Tribal lands. USET SPF remains committed to working with the Trump Administration to ensure the federal trust obligation to Tribal Nations is advanced and upheld.

*Mohegan Chief Lynn Malerba advocates for USET SPF Tribal health priorities with former HHS Secretary Tom Price at a White House meeting on Tribal healthcare.*



*USET SPF Vice  
President Robert  
McGhee.*

## White House Hosts Tribal Economic Development Meeting

On July 26, the White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs hosted a small meeting with Tribal Leaders regarding economic development, financing, and access to capital. Representatives from the Departments of

Treasury, Commerce, Interior, and Housing and Urban Development joined the conversation. USET SPF Vice President and Vice Chairman of the Poarch Band of Creek Indians, Robert McGhee, represented the organization at the meeting. He was joined by Mashantucket Pequot Chairman Rodney Butler, as well as Miccosukee Chairman Billy Cypress.

## Infrastructure and Tribal Review

As interests outside of Indian Country seek the expedited deployment of new technologies and other infrastructure across the United States, USET SPF maintains that any buildout cannot come at the expense of Tribal consultation, sovereignty, sacred sites, or public health. USET SPF remains committed to protecting vital Tribal historic and cultural reviews, as well as Tribal consultation requirements, as streamlined federal permitting processes are being considered. This includes working toward a model that seeks Tribal Nation consent for federal action in recognition of sovereign equality.

## The Federal Budget

USET SPF continues its advocacy for the fulfillment of the federal trust responsibility—this includes full funding for federal Indian programs. During testimony before the House and Senate, USET SPF urged appropriators and other key Congressional leaders to reject the deep cuts proposed in the President's Budget Request for Fiscal Year (FY) 2018, and instead preserve and increase funding for federal Indian programs. Federal spending in fulfillment of trust and treaty obligations is not responsible for the federal deficit and must be held harmless as our nation seeks to reduce its debt. USET SPF envisions a future in which federal funding to Tribal Nations is no longer a discretionary choice and all dollars are contractable and compactable.



*USET SPF advocates for Tribal tax reform at a listening session hosted by the Department of Treasury in Washington, D.C. Pictured (l-r): Former Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Councilor Mark Harding; Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Treasurer Jean Swift; Mohegan Chief, USET SPF Secretary, and member of the Treasury Tribal Advisory Committee, Lynn Malerba; and USET SPF Executive Director Kitcki Carroll.*

## Economic Development

Economic sovereignty is essential to Indian Country's ability to be self-determining and self-sufficient. Rebuilding our Tribal Nations includes rebuilding our Tribal economies as a core foundation of healthy and productive communities. USET SPF has identified and seeks action on a number of barriers to economic development in Indian Country, including access to capital, lack of parity in the tax code, and the indeterminate status of trust lands.

### Taxation

USET SPF remains focused on the advancement of tax reform that would address inequities in the tax code and eliminate state dual taxation. Revenue generated within Indian Country continues to be taken outside its borders or otherwise falls victim to a lack of parity. Similarly, Tribal governments continue to lack many of the same benefits and flexibility offered to other units of government under the tax code.

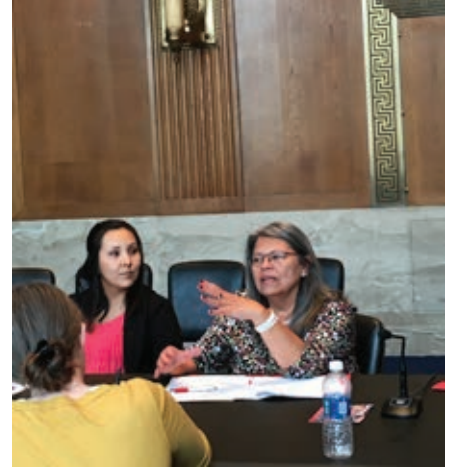


*Chiefs Kirk Francis (Penobscot) and William Harris (Catawba) advocate for the priorities of Tribal Nations in the east at a House Subcommittee on Interior Appropriations hearing on the Fiscal Year 2018 budget.*

## Protecting Tribal Health

Indian Country, including the citizens of USET SPF Tribal Nations, continues to suffer from lower health status and lower health outcomes than the rest of the United States. As long as the Indian Health Service (IHS) is drastically underfunded, this reality will remain. As Congress and the Administration seek to address health care crises in the Great Plains, USET SPF has continued to advocate for the full funding of IHS and the expansion of self-governance, as well as innovative ways to stabilize and extend funding.

USET SPF also worked extensively to preserve access to critical federal health care programs outside the Indian Health Service. As Congress considered legislation to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act, USET SPF strongly opposed proposals that would have resulted in barriers to accessing the Medicaid program, as well as the end of special insurance plans and protections.



*Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Chief Beverly Cook supports Tribal health priorities during a Senate Committee on Indian Affairs health briefing.*



*USET SPF Director of Policy and Legislative Affairs Liz Malerba promotes Tribal priorities to combat the opioid epidemic at a briefing to House of Representatives staffers on public health issues in Indian Country.*



*Aquinnah Chairwoman Cheryl Andrews-Maltis speaks with Senate Committee on Indian Affairs Vice Chairman, Tom Udall (NM) on the importance of Tribal provisions within the Affordable Care Act.*

## Restoration of Tribal Homelands

As a core trust responsibility, and as a matter of justice arising out of the massive land transfer effected to the United States by Tribal Nations under conditions of duress, the federal government has, for nearly 85 years, restored Tribal lands through trust acquisitions. This year saw continued challenges to the land-into-trust process, both from Congress and the Administration. USET SPF strongly opposes any effort to diminish, whether intentionally or unintentionally, Tribal Nation reservations and trust lands, to provide for state management of any Tribal ancestral homelands currently managed by the federal government, or to otherwise undermine the land-into-trust process.

### Carcieri

The erroneous 2009 Supreme Court decision in *Carcieri v. Salazar* calls into question the status of trust lands across the country. Since 2009, USET SPF has engaged in strong advocacy for a legislative fix that would:

1. Reaffirm the status of existing trust lands, and
2. Allow the Secretary of the Interior to take land into trust for all Tribal Nations.

## Sovereign Management of Environment and Natural Resources

Over the last several years, Tribal Nations have made jurisdictional gains when it comes to the protection and management of natural resources on Tribal lands, including mechanisms providing for "treatment as a state" (TAS) in the regulation of these resources. As the new Administration considers rolling back or changing environmental regulations, USET SPF is working to ensure the continued promotion of Tribal sovereignty and self-determination, as well as additional opportunities to extend the TAS designation.

## Trust Modernization

USET SPF, along with Tribal Nations and organizations, continues to seek a modernized, 21st century relationship with the federal government. It is time for a new model that promotes a truly diplomatic, nation-to-nation relationship between the U.S. and Tribal Nations, and that empowers each Tribal Nation to define its own path. This mission should inform each action taken by this Administration affecting Tribal Nations. USET SPF is committed to working in partnership with all branches of government to achieve federal Indian policy reflective of the capabilities of 21st century Tribal Nations, as well as our inherent sovereignty and status as governments.



*Rep. Raul Ruiz (CA) is honored by USET SPF Executive Officers for his work in Indian Country.*

## USET SPF ORGANIZATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE & CAPACITY

## ORGANIZATION DEVELOPMENT



*Sisy Garcia, USET SPF Policy Analyst.*

### Hire of First-Ever USET SPF Policy Analyst and Intern

USET SPF continues to expand its organizational infrastructure and capacity, including through the hiring of additional staff. In 2017, USET SPF developed a funding stream and position description for its first general policy analyst, bringing its second full-time staffer onboard in May. While USET SPF continues to face financial limitations in its ability to hire a full complement of staff, the Policy Analyst provides additional support as the organization sees growth in its agenda and influence.

USET SPF hosted its first part-time intern in 2017. Supervised jointly by USET SPF and the National Congress of American Indians, Josh Bertalotto is a citizen of the Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana and student at Johns Hopkins University. He assisted with USET SPF Impact Week 2017, and provided research and support on issues including health care and federal appropriations.



*Intern Josh Bertalotto gives a presentation summarizing his work with USET and NCAI.*

USET remains committed to defending challenges to our inherent sovereign rights and authorities in the courts. 2017 brought a number of cases with the potential to change the application of federal Indian law, including the fundamental doctrine of Tribal sovereign immunity. USET was a leader on an amicus brief in *Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida v. Lewis Tein*, a case concerning whether sovereign immunity prevents Tribal Nations from being sued in state courts. The USET brief argued that it does, and a Florida district of appeal court agreed. However, in the case of *Lewis v. Clarke*, which examined whether Tribal sovereign immunity applies to Tribal employees conducting Tribal business outside reservation boundaries, the USET position was less successful. The Supreme Court unanimously held that in a suit against a Tribal employee in his individual capacity, the employee, not the Tribal Nation, is the real party in interest, so sovereign immunity is not implicated. As in the *Michigan v. Bay Mills Indian Community* case, the Supreme Court upheld the basic Tribal sovereign immunity doctrine while carving out an exception. USET briefs all push back strongly against any carve outs to the fundamental doctrine that Tribal sovereign immunity is fully intact unless expressly waived by the Tribal Nation or by the Congress.

USET is also working to defend Tribal water rights as well as defend an expansive interpretation of the eastern settlement acts. In the case of *Penobscot Indian Nation v. Mills*, a USET member Tribal Nation is asserting its right to a 60-mile stretch of the Penobscot River in Maine. While the state contends that the Tribal Nation's rights only apply to the islands within the river and not the river itself under its land claim, USET joins Penobscot in protecting its sovereign right to fish and exercise jurisdiction over the waters surrounding its homeland.

Finally, a joint amicus brief submitted in the case of *Redding Rancheria v. Hargan* to which USET was a signatory ended in a positive ruling for Tribal self-insurance programs. The DC District Court decision held that like the Indian Health Service (IHS) and other Tribal health programs, Tribal self-insurance programs have payer of last resort status under the Indian Health Care Improvement Act and cannot be considered an alternate resource for eligibility purposes under IHS programs. This is a significant victory for Tribal sovereignty in the delivery of health care.

### USET Tribal Nations and Citizens Recognized

This year saw a number of USET member Tribal Nations and their citizens be recognized for successful and innovative work as it relates to economic development. In April the Native American Finance Officers Association (NAFOA) recognized Rodney Butler, Chairman of the Mashantucket Pequot Indian Nation, as Tribal Leader of the Year. The award is to recognize a Tribal Leader who has displayed significant foresight and resolve in the financial advancement of his or her Tribal Nation. During the same event the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe was recognized for the “Deal of the Year” award that recognizes a Tribal deal or financial venture that is innovative and that will have a lasting positive effect on the overall economic status of the Tribal Nation and its members, and be beneficial to Indian Country as a whole.

Accolades continued in September, when the Sequoyah Fund, a Native CDFI servicing the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians in North Carolina, received the Circle of Honor Award at the Native Awards ceremony during the Opportunity Finance Network (OFN) Annual Meeting. The Circle of Honor Award recognizes a Native CDFI that is successfully increasing access to capital and financial resources in Native communities by developing innovative loan products, promoting community development, and overcoming challenges. The Sequoyah Fund was selected from a highly competitive group of Native CDFI nominees and was awarded for building and retaining strong partners and enhancing the quality of life and asset building opportunities for members in their community. Sequoyah Fund is led by Russ Seagle, Executive Director, who also sits on the Board of Directors for USET CDFI, Inc.

There was also representation in the latest class of “Native American 40 Under 40” awardees by the National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development (NCAIED). The award is bestowed upon individuals under the age of 40 who have demonstrated leadership, initiative, and dedication, and made significant contributions in business and their community. Members of this year’s class include Lanisha Bell, Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians; Hope Huskey, Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians; Jacob Reed, Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians; and Christian Weaver, Shinnecock Indian Nation.

This year saw recognition of the hard work and dedication of staff in the USET family. Edie Baker, Poarch Band of Creek Indians Health and Elder Services Division Director, was awarded the 2016 Indian Health Service (IHS) Director’s Award at IHS Headquarters.



*Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe (Akwasasne) leadership receives the honor of “Deal of the Year” at NAFOA’s Annual Conference.*



*Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation Chairman Rodney Butler is honored as “Tribal Leader of the Year” during NAFOA’s Annual Conference.*



*The Sequoyah Fund, a Native CDFI located in Cherokee, North Carolina, was awarded the 2017 Circle of Honor Award at the OFN Annual Conference.*



*Edie Baker receives the IHS Director’s Award.*

Chief Lynn Malerba, USET SPJ Secretary, meets with U.S. Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein and other officials with the Department of Justice (DOJ) as the Eastern Region representative to the Tribal Nations Leadership Council. Photo credit: Department of Justice



## Indian Health Service Area Awards

The Nashville Area Office Indian Health Service annual awards ceremony was held December 7 at the Music City Convention Center. The annual awards recognize individuals or groups of employees whose special efforts and contributions have resulted in significant benefits to IHS programs, priorities, or customers and fulfillment of the IHS mission.

The Directors Award for Excellence, Individual, was presented to USET Executive Director Kitcki Carroll, USET President Chief Kirk Francis, and USET Secretary Chief Lynn Malerba, for demonstrated leadership and healthcare advocacy in the region. The award was also presented to Chief Beverly Cook, Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe, for her exploration of innovative health treatment options and her service on multiple health-related workgroups representing Nashville Area Tribal Nations.

Dee Sabattus, USET Tribal Health Program Support Director, received the Special Initiative Award for continued support of the IHS budget formulation team.

A "Shared Spirits" Pendleton blanket and dream catcher were presented to Martha Ketcher, IHS Nashville Area Director, who is retiring in January 2018.

## Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation Donates to USET Scholarship Fund

Through its annual education golf tournament, the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation raised \$10,000 for the USET scholarship fund. This contribution will make a difference to young people who are striving to have more fulfilling and productive lives. Since 2003, the scholarship fund has provided more than 130 scholarships totaling more than \$100,000.



Crystal Whipple, Secretary of the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Council, presents a contribution to USET President Kirk Francis.



Pictured (l-r): RADM Michael Weahkee, Acting IHS Director; Martha Ketcher, IHS Nashville Area Director; USET Secretary Lynn Malerba, Chief, Mohegan Tribe; USET President Kirk Francis, Chief, Penobscot Indian Nation; Kitcki Carroll, USET Executive Director; Beverly Cook, Chief, Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe; Wanda Janes, USET Deputy Director.



USET THPS Director Dee Sabattus.



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# STAFF NEWS



**Rebecca Naragon**, a citizen of the Poarch Band of Creek Indians, joined USET in April as USET's Economic Development Director. Rebecca comes to USET from the Department of Interior, Office of Indian Energy and Economic Development, where she specialized in economic development projects and initiatives throughout

Indian Country. Prior to her service, Rebecca received a Master's in Public Administration from American University in Washington, D.C., and a Bachelors of Art – Political Science from the University of Central Florida in Orlando, FL.



**Casey Thornbrugh** started in September as the Tribal Climate Science Liaison with USET's Office of Environmental Resource Management (OERM). He is a citizen of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe and earned his Ph.D. in Geography at the University of Arizona, with an emphasis on climate education in Native communities.

Casey serves as a liaison between Tribal Nations and the Northeast and Southeast Climate Science Centers to provide technical support and assistance with adaptation planning by Tribal Nations to build resiliency to climate change impacts, and further to collaborate with other Tribal Climate Science Liaisons and partnering organizations. Casey is stationed at the Northeast Climate Science Center in Amherst, Massachusetts, where he also lives.



**Dietrich Taylor** came to USET from the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians where he served as the Program Coordinator/Diabetes Educator and has years of experience in the diabetes management and health arena. As USET's Area Diabetes Consultant, Dietrich works closely with USET's Tribal Health Program Support and

the Nashville Area Indian Health Service staff to advance diabetes treatment, prevention, and management services at the organizational and Tribal Nation level. He is responsible for maintaining a comprehensive profile of diabetes related needs, coordinating training and technical assistance for Tribal health professionals, and assisting in the development of a certified curriculum for diabetes education provided for each Tribal Nation throughout the Nashville Area.



**Jessie Lorenzo** was hired as a Billing Specialist in February of 2017. Jessie's education in Medical Coding and Billing and past organizational skills makes her an asset to the newly formed USET Tribal Health Solutions Group. Jessie has completed the Certified Professional Coder certification course and is working on completing her certification.



**Sisy Garcia**, a citizen of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes, was hired as USET SPF's first Policy Analyst in May. Sisy provides review, advocacy, and analysis on a number of USET SPF priority issues, including health, environment, and economic development. Originally from New Mexico, she was previously employed

by the office of Congressman Ben Ray Lujan (D-NM), where she handled Tribal issues as well as natural resources, energy, environment, and agriculture.



After almost 16 years of dedicated service, Accounts Payable Manager **Gail Meador** retired from USET in August. Gail did an excellent job in the Finance Department and will be missed by the USET family.



Three employees were recognized with service awards in 2017. Liz Malerba and Jerry Pardilla both celebrated 5 years of service and Controller, Steve Adams, celebrated 20 years of service.

### USET Welcomes the Pamunkey Indian Tribe as Its Newest Member

On October 23, 2017, during the USET SPF Annual Meeting, the Pamunkey Indian Tribe became the 27th USET member Tribal Nation. Headquarters for the Pamunkey Indian Tribe are in King William, Virginia.

The Commonwealth of Virginia has recognized the Pamunkey since the seventeenth century, and the United States designated the Pamunkey a federally recognized Tribal Nation on July 2, 2015.

The Tribal Nation has a 1,200-acre reservation located on the Pamunkey River in King William County. In 2012, about 80 Pamunkey Tribal citizens lived on the reservation, with many more residing in nearby Richmond and Newport News.

The Pamunkey have lived in Virginia for 12,000 years. When English settlers founded Jamestown in 1607, the Pamunkey lived in towns and villages along the Pamunkey River. Their language was a dialect of Algonquian. They were one of six core Tribal Nations that comprised the Tsenacomoco, an alliance of Algonquian-speaking Tribal Nations led by Powhatan.

Powhatan appointed his younger brother, Opechancanough, as chief of the Pamunkey. During the 1600s, the Pamunkey were involved in conflicts between the English and Native American communities, referred to as the First, Second and Third Anglo-Powhatan Wars.

In the 1670s, the Pamunkey chief was Cockacoeske. She worked with the colonial government to secure rights for the Pamunkey. In the eighteenth century, many Tribal Nations were pressured to dissolve their reservations and end their relationship with the state. But the Pamunkey resisted, and they maintained their reservation lands, church and school.

In 1979, the Pamunkey opened the Pamunkey Indian Museum on the Pamunkey reservation. The museum collection includes pottery, a craft practiced consistently by the Pamunkey since before the colonial era.

On March 25, 1983, Virginia Joint Resolution 54 reaffirmed the longstanding recognition of the Pamunkey by the state. In 2009, the United States opened the petition process for federal recognition. After an investigation into Tribal laws and practices, the U.S. Department of the Interior granted the Pamunkey Indian Tribe federal recognition on July 2, 2015. The recognition included a statement that "The Pamunkey Indian Tribe has occupied a land base in southeastern King William County, Virginia since the Colonial Era in the 1600s."

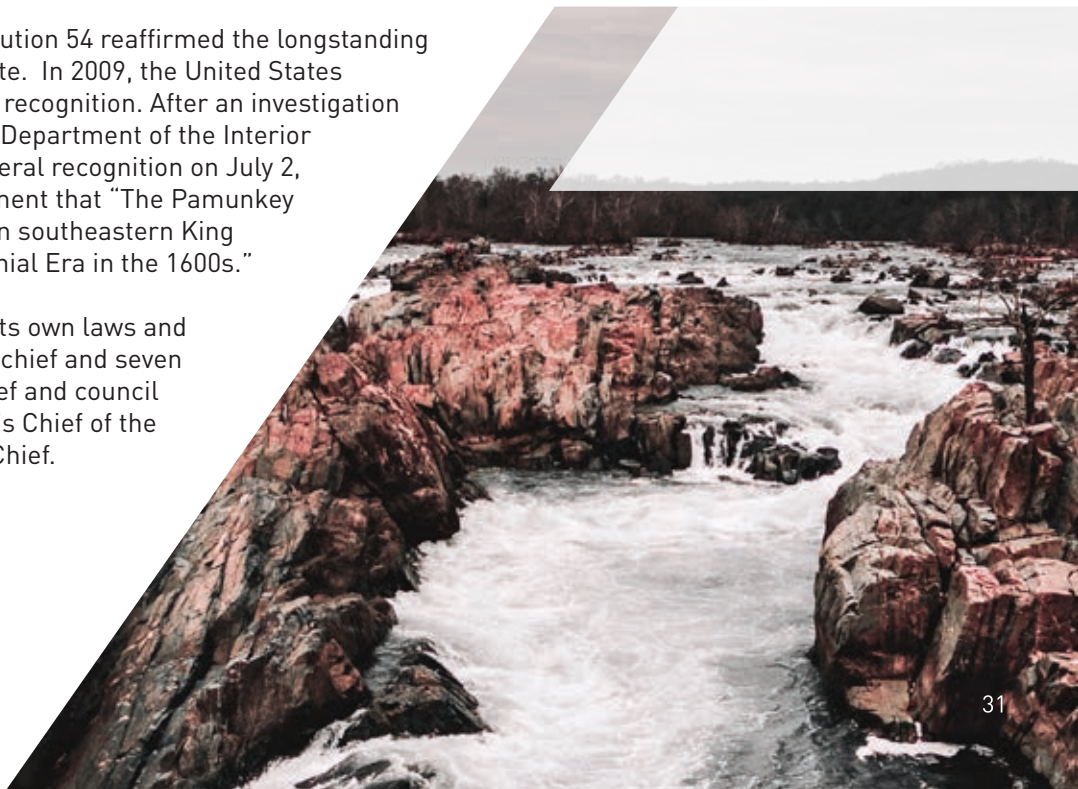
The Pamunkey Indian Tribe maintains its own laws and its own governing body, consisting of a chief and seven council members. Elections for the chief and council are held every four years. Robert Gray is Chief of the Pamunkey, and Bradby Brown is Vice-Chief.



*Robert Gray, Chief, Pamunkey Indian Tribe.*



*Bradby Brown, Vice Chief, Pamunkey Indian Tribe.*



# UNITED SOUTH AND EASTERN TRIBES, INC.

## STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION

SEPTEMBER 30, 2017

ASSETS	2017
<b>Current Assets</b>	
Cash	\$1,580,493
Restricted Cash	60,000
Grants/Contracts Receivable	562,908
Prepays	18,523
Other Receivables	163,752
<i>Total Current Assets</i>	<u>2,385,677</u>
<b>Non Current Assets</b>	
Investment Account (Scholarship Fund)	261,300
Investments (Calumet Office Park)	249,179
<i>Total Non-Current Assets</i>	<u>510,479</u>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<u><u>\$2,896,156</u></u>
<b>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>	
<b>Current Liabilities</b>	
Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses	\$193,055
Deferred Revenue	999,147
Flex Plan Claims Future	2,500
<i>Total Current Liabilities</i>	<u>1,194,702</u>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<u><u>1,194,702</u></u>
<b>Net Assets</b>	
Unrestricted - General Fund	1,106,000
Temporarily Restricted	595,454
<i>Total Net Assets</i>	<u>1,701,454</u>
<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	<u><u>\$2,896,156</u></u>



# FINANCIAL REPORT

## STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES

SEPTEMBER 30, 2017

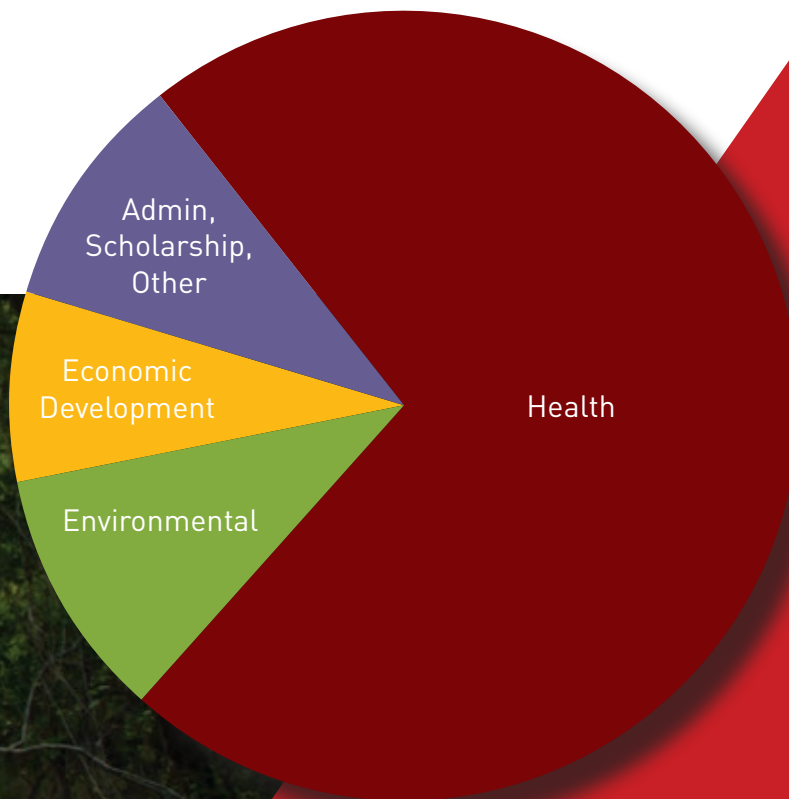
## REVENUES

2017

Grants and Contracts	\$9,818,331.70
Member Dues	13,000.00
Fee for Service	77,520.00
Fund Raising	18,640.20
Other Revenue	1,094,589.85
Shared Services Revenue	185,744.54
<i>Total Revenue</i>	<u>\$11,207,826.29</u>

## EXPENSES

Environmental, Health, Economic Development, Admin, Scholarships, Other	<u>11,245,955.55</u>
<i>Total Expenses</i>	<u>\$11,245,955.55</u>
<i>Change in Net Assets</i>	(38,129.26)





"BECAUSE THERE IS STRENGTH IN UNITY"

## USET TRIBAL NATIONS & LOCATIONS

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. **Saint 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. **Pamunkey Indian Tribe**  
King William, Virginia
28. **USET Headquarters**  
Nashville, Tennessee
29. **USET SPF Office**  
Washington, DC





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