

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Water Day Celebration

Prior to this past holiday weekend, the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Utility held their 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Water Day Celebration on Tuesday, May 22, 2018. In an effort to spread awareness in areas of water conservation, sustainable water use practices, and careers in the utility field, students from the Salmon River High School toured the Tribal Water Treatment Plant and spoke with Water and Wastewater Operators. Along with an in-depth explanation of water and wastewater treatment, the high school Juniors and Seniors left with a better understanding of the job and challenges of a Water Operator. These students are studying Advanced Placement Biology, Chemistry 1 & 2, and Environmental Science. With the current aging workforce in the utilities field, it's important to enlighten young adults of this type of career opportunity.



*Students and teachers tour the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe's Water Treatment Plant with guidance from Operators of the water and wastewater systems on the reservation. (Left, Jordan Lauzon, Water Operator / Right, Stan Buckshot, Wastewater Operator)*



*May 21, 2018: Drinking Water Contest held at the Salmon River High School. (Left, Shawn Martin, Tribal Utilities Manager / Right, Andrea Martin, Salmon River High School Counselor)*

In addition to the field trip, a Drinking Water Contest was held the day before, at the High School. Students were given (4) water samples to taste and tasked to choose the best one. The water samples included the school water, bottled water, and tap water. The contest brought in 79 participants during the school lunch periods. Results were then revealed to students before the field trip, on the following day. To our surprise, the tap water received almost as many votes as the winning bottled water option. The event was a team effort, coordinated with the Salmon River High School, Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Utility, and United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc. (USET) Technical Assistance Program.