

2014 ANNUAL REPORT

UNITED SOUTH AND EASTERN TRIBES, INC.

“Because there is Strength in Unity”



A Letter from USET President, Brian Patterson



Dear Friends,

As we pause to reflect on 2014, I am encouraged to find that USET, Tribal Members and Tribal Leaders have embraced the spirit of engagement and unity with our brothers and sisters across Indian Country.

USET has continued to engage in several fundamental areas over the past year to protect, promote and preserve Tribal sovereignty, recognizing that there are continued challenges and efforts to erode the inherent authority of Tribal nations. USET has worked diligently to dialogue with Indian Country and policy makers to gain a greater understanding of how their priorities, values, and cultural character should define the advocacy, services, and initiatives USET provides to rebuild and strengthen Tribal nations.

As the year draws to an end, we look forward to an even more impactful year in 2015.

Scan ^ - in Peace & Friendship,

A handwritten signature of Brian Patterson in white ink.

USET President
Brian Patterson



USET Mission Statement

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

History of USET

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

Today, United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc. is a non-profit, inter-tribal organization that collectively represents its member Tribes at the regional and national level. USET has grown to include 26 federally recognized Tribes, operating through various workgroups and committees and providing a forum for the exchange of ideas and information amongst Tribes, agencies and governments.



Board of Directors

Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas

Ronnie Thomas - Chairman
Nita Battise - Vice Chairwoman

Aroostook Band of Micmacs

Edward Peter-Paul - Chief
Jennifer Kiandoli - Vice Chief

Catawba Indian Nation

William "Bill" Harris - Chief
Wayne George - Assistant Chief

Cayuga Nation

Clint Halftown - Nation Representative
Sharon LeRoy - Secretary

Chitimacha Tribe of Louisiana

John Paul Darden - Chairman
April Wyatt - Vice Chairwoman

Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana

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

Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians

Michell Hicks - Principal Chief
Terri Henry - Chairwoman

Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians

Brenda Commander - Chief
Linda Raymond - Council Member

Jena Band of Choctaw Indians

B. Cheryl Smith - Chief
Libby Rogers - Council Member

Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation

Rodney Butler - Chairman
Crystal M. Whipple - Vice Chairwoman

Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe

Cedric Cromwell - Chairman
Jessie "Little Doe" Baird - Vice Chairwoman

Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida

Colley Billie - Chairman
Roy Cypress, Jr. - Assistant Chairman

Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians

Phylliss J. Anderson - Chief
Ronnie Henry - Vice Chief

The Mohegan Tribe of Indians of Connecticut

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

Narragansett Indian Tribe

Matthew Thomas - Chief Sachem
Randy Noka - Ambassador

Oneida Indian Nation

Ray Halbritter - Nation Representative
Clint Hill - Nation Liaison

Passamaquoddy Tribe - Indian Township Reservation

William Nicholas - Chief
Leslie Nicholas - Vice Chief

Passamaquoddy Tribe - Pleasant Point Reservation

Frederick Moore III - Chief
Vera Francis - Vice Chief

Penobscot Indian Nation

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

Poarch Band of Creek Indians

Stephanie Bryan - Chairwoman
Robert R. McGhee - Vice Chairman

Seminole Tribe of Florida

James Billie - Chairman
Jim Shore - General Counsel

Seneca Nation of Indians

Maurice John - President
Todd Gates - Treasurer

Shinnecock Indian Nation

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

Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe, New York

Paul O. Thompson - Chief
Beverly Cook - Chief

Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana

Joey P. Barbry - Chairman
Marshall Ray Sampson, Sr. - Vice Chairman

Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah)

Tobias Vanderhoop - Chairman
Richard Randolph - Vice Chairman

USET Officers

Brian Patterson, Oneida Nation – President
Randy Noka, Narragansett Tribe – Vice President
Brenda Lintinger, Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of LA – Secretary
Kirk Francis, Penobscot Indian Nation – Treasurer

Executive Director
Kitcki Carroll

The Fire Within USET

Many Tribal nations have iconic or central fires that literally burn in their communities or they refer to them burning in their spirit. In the months leading to the 2014 USET meetings, Tribal leaders discussed the need to return to some traditional activities, including kindling, maintaining, and passing a fire from meeting location and Tribe to Tribe. The USET fire is burning to remind its Board of Directors, Committee members, and staff of the critical mission to build resources, services, and advocacy to its member Tribes so they may strengthen and promote Tribal sovereignty. Ultimately this fire will build a stronger fire of healthy communities, educated Tribal citizens, thriving economies, protected natural resources, and strong cultural identity.

This year the first fire was started at the Semi-Annual Meeting in Bar Harbor, Maine hosted by the five Wabanaki Tribes (Aroostook Band of Micmac, Houlton Band of Maliseet, Passamaquoddy Tribe – Indian Township, Passamaquoddy Tribe – Pleasant Point, and Penobscot Indian Nation). The fire was passed in ceremony to the Oneida Indian Nation at the Annual Meeting held in Verona, New York.



2014

USET EVENTS

IMPACT WEEK WASHINGTON, D.C.

USET held its 2014 Impact Week in Washington, DC addressing national issues in Indian Country. Carcieri Fix, Farm Bill, Special Diabetes Program for Indian Country reauthorization, federal Contract Support Cost, Taxation, Trust Modernization, Indian Health Service and Indian Budgets were central issues. USET also welcomed and fostered the participation of its elders and youth during the meeting.



USET Semi-Annual Meeting Hosted by Wabanaki Tribes in Bar Harbor, Maine

A new spirit and fire was kindled during the USET Semi-Annual Meeting.

Tribal leadership worked diligently to address issues like Trust Modernization, U.S. Supreme Court and federal court decisions and their impact on Indian Country, Carcieri Fix, Youth and Education, exploring leverage and partnership opportunities, building stronger Tribal economies, and climate change. Attendees at the meeting also witnessed the honoring of women in Tribal leadership, the honoring of retiring Poarch Band of Creek Indian Chairman Buford L. Rolin, the honoring of several Veterans, the roll out of the 2014 Farm Bill, and a light the night ceremony to increase awareness of domestic violence, abuse, and assault.



2014 Annual Meeting Hosted by Oneida Indian Nation, in Verona, New York



Tribal leadership from the 26 member Tribes of USET met at Turning Stone Resort and Casino. The USET Annual Meeting began with a passing of the fire ceremony. USET President Brian Patterson and Oneida Indian Nation citizen asked Tribal leaders to allow the fire to be an icon for the meeting. During the week, USET Board of Directors discussed strategy to educate the 114th Congress, federal budget overview, taxation on Tribal nations, Carcieri Fix, World Conference on Indigenous People, Bureau of Indian Affairs Eastern Regional Office, and economic development efforts by USET.

USET Board of Directors Re-Elected Officers at 2014 Annual Meeting

During its 2014 Annual Meeting in New York, the USET Board of Directors re-elected and installed its officers. These officers will serve as the USET Executive Officers Committee for two years.



President: Brian Patterson
(Bear Clan Representative,
Oneida Indian Nation)



Secretary: Brenda Lintinger
(Councilwoman, Tunica-Biloxi
Tribe of Louisiana)



Vice President: Randy Noka
(Ambassador, Narragansett
Indian Tribe)



Treasurer: Kirk Francis
(Tribal Chief, Penobscot
Indian Nation)

Obama Cabinet and White House officials visit USET Region

U.S. Interior and Education Secretaries visit Passamaquoddy Tribes

This year USET has worked to help coordinate with members of the White House staff or cabinet secretaries to take notice of regional issues and needs. During the late summer, USET worked with the Passamaquoddy Tribes (Indian Township and Pleasant Point) to welcome U.S. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell and Secretary of Education Arne Duncan on a visit to each community where various Tribal and regional issues were discussed.



The White House Initiative on American Indian and Alaska Native Education visits Cherokee

Sedelta Oosahwee, associate director of The White House Initiative on American Indian and Alaska Native Education (WHI-AIANE), visited the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians in early September. Oosahwee's visit to the Tribal education facilities marked the first visit from the WHI-AIANE to any Tribal land in the southeast region of the United States. The visit from Oosahwee was made possible through USET.



Secretary Jewell visits Mississippi Band of Choctaw

As part of the Obama Administration's commitment to ensure all students attending Bureau of Indian Education-funded schools receive a high quality, culturally appropriate education, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell and Bureau of Indian Education Director Dr. Charles 'Monty' Roessel visited Choctaw Central High School on October 28, 2014, to discuss ongoing Indian education reform initiatives. In a published report Secretary Jewell stated, "We have a challenge with Indian education across the country. We are under-performing compared to other students." She praised the hands-on approach the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians is taking with its school system.



POLICY AND LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY

Economic Development

USET is diligently working to educate national and state policy makers about the issues challenging and inhibiting economic development in Indian Country. Among the major challenges facing Tribes today are: difficulties placing and keeping land in trust status (Carcieri Fix); inconsistent or dual taxation by state and federal revenue agencies; and a Tribe or Tribal citizen's inability to gain access to capital or credit. USET has been calling upon Congress to help assist with these issues through the amendment of federal tax code, through the passage of the Tribal General Welfare Exclusion Act of 2014, support for guaranteed loan funds, and a clean fix to the U.S. Supreme Court ruling in the Carcieri v. Salazar case.



• **Fix Carcieri Now!**

During the National Congress of American Indians Executive Council Winter Session held in Washington, D.C. March 11-13, 2014 USET provided a table to inform attendees and participants of the importance of securing a Carcieri Fix. Attendees stopping by the table could pick up a custom-made button urging Congress to Fix Carcieri Now, Protect Tribal Homelands, Protect our Human Rights, and Protect Tribal Sovereignty. USET members spoke to the attendees during a Carcieri session on the importance of a unified effort to secure a Clean Fix.



• **USET Applauds Congress' Passage of H.R. 3043, The Tribal General Welfare Exclusion Act**

During the fall USET and Tribal leadership, including Chairman of the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida and United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc. (USET) Board member and Chair of USET's General Welfare Exclusion Task Force Colley Billie celebrated diligent work to seek Senate approval of H.R. 3043, the Tribal General Welfare Exclusion Act. This is critical legislation stating general welfare benefits as defined by a Tribal government and provided to its members will not be taxed. H.R. 3043 also requires Internal Revenue Service field agents to undergo training in federal Indian law and the government's legal treaty and trust responsibilities, as well as creates a Tribal Advisory Committee to advise the Secretary of the Treasury on Indian tax policy issues.

Environmental Issues

USET has been working to gain clarity and balance with many of the details contained in the new U.S. Department of Interior Tribal Climate Resilience Program. This includes the balance of hiring federal employees in Tribal Liaison positions and providing direct funding to Tribes to conduct planning and assessments, consultations, and addressing the extreme climate change effects that may make an impact on Tribal lands. Finally, USET has been advocating for consultations with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, as well as revisions to agency guidance, to address historic preservation and sacred site protection as gas pipelines are being built across the United States.

Health Care

Chronic disease, historic trauma, domestic violence, and access to affordable health care have been central issues for most Tribal nations. USET has worked tirelessly to advocate for increased funding, development of resources, and policy changes in pursuit of both a healthier Indian Country and fulfillment of the federal Trust Responsibility to provide health care. Through Tribal outreach and education, representation on federal advisory committees, and consultation with policy makers, USET continues to be a driving force in the health care arena. Priority areas in 2014 included comprehensive education on the Affordable Care Act, legislative efforts to stabilize and stretch Indian Health Service appropriations, the reauthorization of the Special Diabetes Program for Indians, prescription drug abuse prevention, and the settlement of contract support cost claims.

Trust Modernization

In response to widespread dissatisfaction in Indian Country with the federal government's implementation of trust responsibility and the resulting impact on Tribal sovereignty, USET has been engaged in the fundamental review of the federal Trust responsibility, as well as its impact on Tribal sovereignty. This year USET has been working with Indian Country to identify priorities to define what Tribal sovereignty should look like, what the federal trust responsibility should look like, and how to make the federal trust responsibility take shape to better reflect Tribal priorities, as well as further Tribal sovereignty.

Indian Budget

Through treaties, laws, and the U.S. Constitution, American Indian Tribes hold a unique status with the United States, where the federal government has an obligation to provide funding for various programs supporting Indian Country needs. A majority of Indian programs, which support health, education, housing, economic development, justice, and agriculture, are not adequately funded. Through its work on the Tribal Interior Budget Council and Indian Health Service Budget Formulation Workgroup, as well as advocacy on Capitol Hill, USET continues to seek full funding for Tribal programs. The USET Board of Directors is supportive of policy solutions that would prioritize the fiduciary responsibilities inherent to the U.S. trust relationship and shield Indian Country from Congressional budget battles.

Litigation

USET continued to be at the forefront of Tribal amicus efforts in 2014 to defeat Carcieri-related challenges to Tribal sovereignty. In 2012, USET filed a leading Tribal amicus brief in support of the Cowlitz Tribe to help it overcome one of the most significant Carcieri-based challenges since the Supreme Court issued its decision. On December 12, 2014, the District Court for the District of Columbia issued a decision in the case rejecting the plaintiffs' Carcieri-based challenges on all counts. The Court's decision was a resounding victory, and vindicated the position USET took in the amicus brief it filed in the case. The Plaintiffs have now appealed the decision to the D.C. Circuit.

USET joined forces with NCAI and the Navajo Nation to file a Tribal amicus brief in the Big Lagoon case. In Big Lagoon, a split panel of the Ninth Circuit allowed the State of California to challenge the trust status of the Big Lagoon Rancheria's trust lands more than 6 years after it had been taken into trust because it argued the Tribe was not under federal jurisdiction in 1934. The USET/NCAI/Navajo Nation joined in an amicus brief to urge the full Ninth Circuit to rehear the decision en banc and overturn the panel decision. The Ninth Circuit granted the petition for rehearing en banc and heard oral arguments on September 17, 2014. A decision is now pending.

USET also filed amicus briefs in three Carcieri-related cases challenging the Poarch Band of Creek Indians. The first case, *Alabama v. PCI Gaming Authority*, involved a Carcieri-based challenge by the Attorney General of the State of Alabama against the Poarch Band in the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals. The second case, *Jerry Rape v. Poarch Band of Creek Indians*, involved a Carcieri-based collateral attack on the Poarch Band's status as a Tribe in the Supreme Court of Alabama. The third case, *Harrison v. PCI Gaming*, involved a similar challenge to the Rape case, also before the Supreme Court of Alabama.

TRIBAL HEALTH PROGRAM SUPPORT

USET Participates in Indian Country Public Health Issues Briefing on Capitol Hill

National Indian Health Board (NIHB) hosted a briefing on public health issues in Indian Country during National Public Health week on Capitol Hill to raise awareness, showcase success stories and highlight the urgent public health needs Tribal communities face. Panelists included Josie Raphaelito, a Program Associate from the Center for Native American Youth (CNAY); Cesareo Alvarez, a Fellow with the National Congress of American Indians; Liz Malerba, (while serving as the) Health Policy Analyst with the United South and Eastern Tribes; and Carolyn Hornbuckle, NIHB's Director of Public Health Policy and Programs.



USET Provides Outreach Education on Affordable Care Act

USET worked to provide education to Tribal leadership, healthcare/medical providers, and Tribal citizens on the benefits and functions of the Affordable Care Act (ACA). While serving as USET's Health Policy Analyst, Liz Malerba and USET's contractor Elizabeth Neptune attended Tribal Council meetings, community meetings, and events like pow wows to provide education on ACA in order to promote its benefit to Indian Country.



CSC Workgroup

This year, Indian Health Service (IHS) announced its final plan for negotiating and calculating contract support costs for Tribes and contractors providing IHS medical services. Several USET member Tribal leaders met in Washington, D.C. to participate in the IHS Contract Support Cost (CSC) Workgroup to develop a long-term plan as requested by Congress. 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. USET Executive Director Kitcki Carroll, THPS Director Dee Sabattus, and Health Policy Analyst Liz Malerba attended the workgroup discussion in February.

USET and the Indian Health Service Nashville Area Office (IHS NAO) work Together to build Stronger Tribal communities!

This year USET and IHS NAO continued to work together on various health related issues:

- ▶ Identifying strategies to combat the prescription drug abuse/misuse epidemic that is hitting Tribal communities.
- ▶ Updating diabetes prevalence data for area Tribes.
- ▶ Hosting and coordinating training and workshops that build Tribal capacity.
- ▶ Showing solidarity by "Rocking Our Mocs," as a commitment to building healthier Tribal communities.



USET Receives Center for Disease Control and Prevention Grant

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Sylvia M. Burwell announced this fall nearly \$212 million in grant awards to all 50 states and the District of Columbia to support programs aimed at preventing chronic diseases such as heart disease, stroke and diabetes. Funded in part by the Affordable Care Act, the awards will strengthen state and local programs aimed at fighting these chronic diseases, which are the leading causes of death and disability in the United States, and help lower our nation's health care costs. USET received approximately \$4.2 million over a five year period to build capacity at the organizational and Tribal levels.



USET's Tribal Health Program Support releases two major health reports during 2014

THPS released two major health reports to member Tribes during 2014, the Mortality at United South and Eastern Tribes 2014 and the Diabetes Report 2014. In June, the USET Tribal Epidemiology Center provided Tribe-specific and USET aggregate mortality reports that highlighted the most common causes of death and provided information regarding potential intervention strategies. In December, the Annual Diabetes Report was issued. This report tracks diabetes prevalence rates, individual Tribal indicators, areas for improvement and includes talking points consisting of statistics and other relevant information for use while preparing presentations, grants and general education purposes.



Diabetes RPMS Training

Healthcare professionals from USET Tribes and across the country came to Nashville during the spring for RPMS/Diabetes Management System training sponsored by Indian Health Service and in partnership with USET. Healthcare providers from Mississippi Band of Choctaw, Saint Regis Mohawk, Narragansett Indian Tribe, Phoenix, and Alaska took part in the training.



USET Hosts Community Health Assessment Workshop in Nashville

During August, USET held a community health assessment workshop in Nashville to help train Tribal healthcare leaders to conduct local assessments through data collection, surveys, and strategic planning. Participating Tribes were Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe, Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe, Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas, Seneca Nation of Indians, Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation, Catawba Indian Nation, The Mohegan Tribe, Poarch Band of Creek Indians, Mississippi Band of Choctaw, and Jena Band of Choctaw. This program was sponsored by the USET Tribal Epidemiology Center and paid for by a grant from IHS.

Tribes Open New Health Facilities in the USET Region

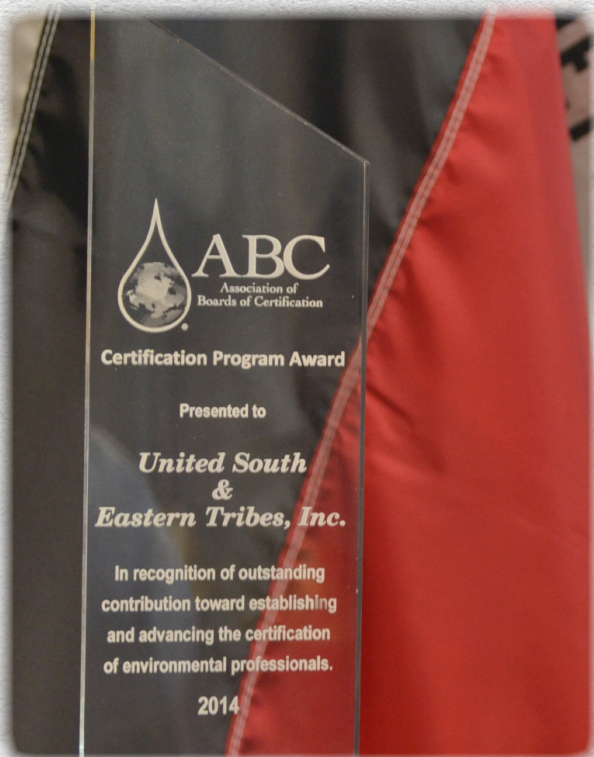
In 2014 USET witnessed the completion and beginning of clinic and hospital construction for its member Tribes. The Poarch Band of Creek Indians in Atmore, Alabama opened the Buford L. Rolin Health Clinic and the Lavan Martin Assisted Living Facility. Near the time those facilities opened, the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians began construction on a new hospital in Cherokee, North Carolina. The Mississippi Band of Choctaw engaged in construction of a new hospital, which is expected to open in 2015. USET provides support services to these and other clinics, hospitals, and medical providers through its Tribal Health Program Support programs.





USET Tribal Utility Summit

The Fifth Annual Tribal Utility Summit (TUS) was hosted this year in Mashantucket, Connecticut by the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation. TUS is a training and continuing educational program for operators and managers overseeing Tribal drinking water, waste water, solid waste utility, infrastructure, and public safety, which is cooperatively supported by the USET Certification Board, 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.



USET Receives award for its Water and Waste Water Certification Program

USET received an award from the Association of Boards of Certification (ABC). The award was in recognition of outstanding contributions toward establishing and advancing the certification of Tribal utility operators. 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, waste water operators and laboratory analysts.

USET and USDA Partner in Plant Health Emergency Response Exercises

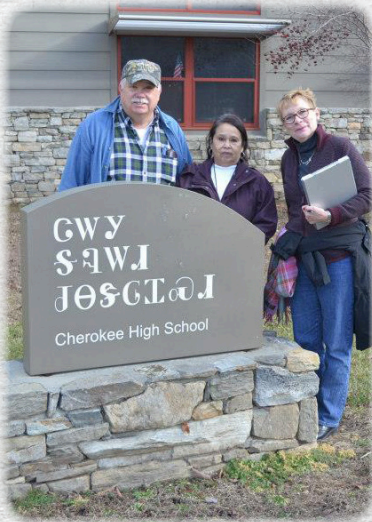
USET participated in a full scale plant health emergency response exercise conducted by the Texas Department of Agriculture, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) and Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ). This exercise was part of an ongoing joint effort between USET and USDA-APHIS-PPQ to emphasize the importance the agency has placed on Tribal training and to increase the cooperation between States and Tribal governments. USET has been working with the USDA to develop a Tribal specific training exercise that will be held at a Tribal location.



2014 Farm Bill Roll Out and Workshop

The United States Department of Agriculture took the opportunity to conduct its roll out of the 2014 Farm Bill and the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service's Working Effectively with Indian Country workshop at the USET Semi-Annual Meeting in Bar Harbor, Maine. The effort was to explain changes and modifications to the new Farm Bill and how they make an impact on Indian Country.





USET's Integrated Pest Management Program

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 continued this work through 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 EPA's Pat Livingston. They worked with Cherokee High School's Hilda Queen to work on the IPM.

USET Coordinates Severe Weather Response Efforts

During the 2014 winter, sub-zero temperatures and heavy snow fall crippled USET's Tribal members in the New England states. USET worked to coordinate communications and relief efforts with federal and non-governmental partners. Nashville Area Indian Health Service's Harold "Rocky" Jones, Bureau of Indian Affairs' Sid Caesar and Patrick Vacha, FEMA's Richard Flores, and USET's Jerry Pardilla and Harrell French worked diligently to coordinate sending resources ranging from generators, chainsaws, manpower, fuel, and food to the affected Tribes. The USET region was very fortunate as this was the only major weather event of the year. As a result of the snow storm, USET developed the Tribal Emergency Relief Fund (TERF) to accept financial contributions, which were used to support response recovery efforts where Tribes suffered damages due to weather.



USET Develops Umbrella Quality Management Plan with EPA

USET, in conjunction with EPA Region 4, developed an Umbrella Quality Management Plan (UQMP) which assists the Tribes in Region 4 with meeting the EPA requirement for a Quality Management Plan. The UQMP outlines the Quality System of Quality Assurance/Quality Control necessary for data collection and data use in documents. EPA Region 4 Science and Ecosystem Services Division approved the UQMP, which is a first in Indian Country.





National Tribal Water Council Meeting Sparks Action for Tribes

At this meeting, four major actions were taken by EPA as a result of National Tribal Water Council (NTWC) input. The NTWC met in Washington, DC during April with Acting Assistant Administrator for EPA of the Office of Water, Nancy Stoner. NTWC and USET have placed a great emphasis on the Treatment As a State (TAS) process with EPA for Tribes to protect and maintain high quality of water standards. The NTWC also held its fall meeting in Florida where priorities were set for FY 2015.

USET and EPA host a pesticide workshop at Poarch Band of Creek Indians Farm

USET hosted a workshop in early August for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 4 Tribes at the Perdido River Farm of the Poarch Band of Creek Indians on commercial application of pesticides. The workshop trained participants on proper commercial application of pesticides, observing label precautions, and the necessary steps they should take to ensure the commercial applicator is correctly applying pesticides and controlling the proper pest.

USET Solid Waste Code Development

During the spring, USET hosted the Institute of Tribal Environmental Professionals (ITEP) Tribal Solid Waste Education and Assistance Program. During their course, various Tribes from across the country researched methods to develop and implement Tribal solid waste codes for their respective nations. The work is a cooperative effort with USET, ITEP, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.





USET Tribal-FERST Train the Trainer

USET is continuing to work with the EPA on the development of the Tribal-Focused Environmental Risk and Sustainability Tool (Tribal-FERST), which focuses on EPA-related environmental issues and information. In October USET held a Train the Trainer session in Nashville for environmental scientists, water and wastewater treatment operators and managers. The training sessions are designed to give Tribal water, wastewater treatment, and environmental health leadership knowledge and skills to train their employees. The workshop sessions included generating environmental issue profiles, prioritizing Tribal issues, exploring solutions to challenges, and assessing any additional cumulative risks.



USET and EPA Region 4 (Atlanta Office) team up to provide grant writing and strategic planning skills to Tribes

USET and the EPA Region 4 office in Atlanta teamed up to present a week-long workshop in September to promote stronger strategic



planning, grant writing, and project administration among Tribes in its region. The courses did not strictly focus on EPA grants. A goal for the week was to show participants how to search for other sources of funding. Environmental and natural resource management planners from Catawba Indian Nation, Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida, Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, Poarch Band of Creek Indians, and Seminole Tribe of Florida attended the workshop.

DEVELOPMENT

USET DEVELOPMENT

USET Creates Resources to Help Boost Tribal Economies

Utilizing two USDA Rural Business Opportunity Grants, USET is working to complete a business plan and a comprehensive economic development strategy (CEDS). The business plan is focused on providing services to Tribal hospitals and clinics as well as aiming to maximize their health profits. The CEDS will guide USET in developing resources and services for member Tribes to utilize in their pursuit of economic development.

USET and U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) Partnership

During the Impact Week Meeting, USET and the SBA signed a Strategic Alliance Memorandum (SAM). The SAM is designed to create a clear partnership between USET and SBA to help bring resources to promote business development, job creation, and eventually the promotion of healthy, well-developed communities. SBA Office of Native American Affairs Assistant Administrator Chris James and USET President Brian Patterson signed the SAM in Washington, D.C.



Procurement Technical Assistance Center

During the spring, USET and the Minnesota American Indian Chamber of Commerce (MAICC) entered into a memorandum of understanding and agreement to create a procurement technical assistance center (PTAC) to assist Tribal nations east of the Mississippi River with developing business and obtaining government contracts for goods and services. The PTAC is now operating at the USET headquarters in Nashville. Pictured are Jeanne Turner of NDN-PTAC, Jon Otto of MAICC, and Barbara Williams of NDN-PTAC.



USET coordinates with FCC on Workshop in Nashville

USET coordinated an FCC Tribal consultation workshop for the region in Nashville during September. The goal of the meeting was to orient Tribal leadership on broadband, broadcast, and wireless issues ranging from economic development, education, environmental and cultural preservation, and emergency management. Tribal leadership from Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas, Catawba Indian Nation, Chickasaw Nation, Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, Passamaquoddy, and Poarch Band of Creek Indians participated. The workshop was also attended by FCC Commissioner Michael O’Rielly, who recently joined the FCC. USET Development Director Brandon Stephens is pictured with FCC Commissioner Michael O’Rielly.



USET’s Brandon Stephens to Serve at FCC

USET Development Director Brandon Stephens (Eastern Band of Cherokee) has been reappointed to serve with the Federal Communications Commission’s Intergovernmental Advisory Committee (IAC). The FCC’s IAC provides guidance to the Commission on issues of importance to state, local and Tribal governments, as well as to the Commission. The IAC is composed of 15 elected and appointed officials of municipal, county, state, and Tribal governments. Brandon is one of three Tribal representatives serving on the IAC. He will also serve on the FCC’s Native Nations Broadband Task Force.

USET participates in its first Big Payback Day in Nashville

USET joined dozens of non-profit organizations for the Big Payback, which is a one day donation drive. Organized by the Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee, the Big Payback was an effort to raise awareness of non-profit organizations in central Tennessee and the work they do for community development. USET raised almost \$2,000 in the 24 hour period and received donations from individuals from various regions nationwide. USET will join the effort again in 2015.



Development makes Tribal site visits

In an effort to learn more about the Tribal activities, needs, and priorities, Development visited with 16 Tribes, including Tribal leaders, program managers, and Tribal citizens. From time to time we were able to enjoy local festivals and cultural events.

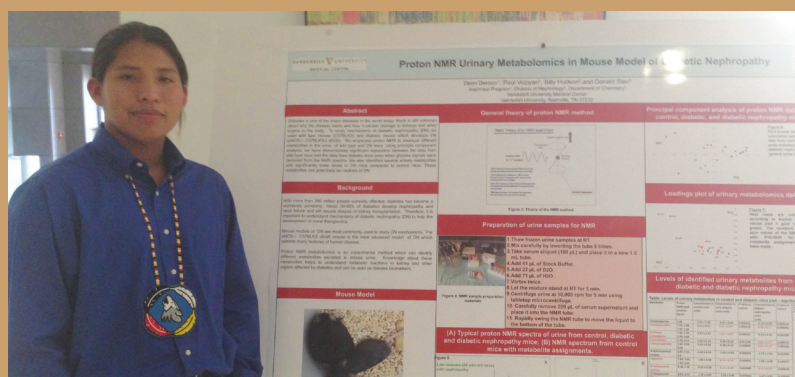


YOUTH ACTIVITIES



Vanderbilt University Aspirnaut Program

USET and Vanderbilt University Medical Center have maintained a strong partnership to provide educational opportunity to rural Tribal youth through the Aspirnaut Summer Research Internship program. Students who participate in the Aspirnaut internship are given a hands-on and mentored laboratory experience for a six week period of research and development. The research can range from developing new drug treatments for diabetes to engineering new devices for medical use. The Aspirnaut Summer Research Internship is designed to give high school and college age students from rural areas with strong academic backgrounds an opportunity to gain greater understanding about science, technology, engineering, and math related fields of research and how they bring benefit to the world.





Close Up Foundation Tribal Youth Summit

The youth are the future leaders. To help foster positive development among the younger generations, USET and the Close Up Foundation developed a Tribal Youth Summit in Washington, D.C. This summit is a meeting, where high school age students can engage in a cultural exchange, develop ideas to help rebuild their Tribal communities, and gain an understanding how current Tribal leadership efforts make an impact on national policy and legislation for Indian Country.





USET Honors Retiring Poarch Band of Creek Indians Chairman Buford L. Rolin

Buford Rolin has been a leader to the Poarch Band of Creek Indians and advocate for American Indian and Alaska Native issues. During the late spring he announced his retirement from Tribal leadership with the Poarch Band of Creek Indians. . . but not quit he says.

“We are mighty glad to be a part of USET. The unity and the sharing from its leadership helped our Tribe gain federal recognition, grow our economy, understand the challenges of gaming, and supported the improvement of our community health. I don’t know if we would be this far along in our development had it not been for USET and its leadership,” Chairman Rolin said during the ribbon cutting for the Tribe’s new health clinic and assisted living facility.



Buford L. Rolin served on the Poarch Band of Creek Indians Tribal Council more than four decades and as a tireless advocate for Indian Country with service on the boards of the Native American Rights Fund, United South and Eastern Tribes (USET), the Tribal Co-Chair of the Tribal Leaders Diabetes Committee, National Indian Health Board (NIHB), and a board member for the National Congress of American Indians. This past March, the Poarch Band of Creek Indians honored Chairman Rolin’s lifetime of work by dedicating its new Health Clinic in his name. USET honored Chairman Rolin for his contributions as a leader to the organization during its Semi-Annual Meeting in Bar Harbor, Maine. USET President Brian Patterson told Chairman Rolin, “It is inspiring to learn from a great leader, like you (Chairman Rolin), who demonstrates confidence and courage to be keenly aware that your accomplishments and good work instilled in the community will carry on a legacy of empowerment and provide for many generations to come.”

USET Staff Service Awards



USET honored Tribal Health Program Support's Project Administrator Vicki French (left) and former Tribal Data Coordinator Alison Sanders (Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians) for five continuous years of service to the organization. Alison has since taken a position with Indian Health Service in the Nashville Area Office.



USET honored Tribal Health Program Support Administrative Assistant Edna Fay (Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians) and Human Resources Assistant Tammy Neptune (Passamaquoddy Tribe – Indian Township) for their years of services to the organization this past quarter during its all staff meeting. Tammy Neptune was honored for 10 years of service. Edna Fay was honored for 15 years of service to USET.

New Faces at USET



USET Welcomes New Dental Support Center Director

During the summer USET hired Jenna Middlebrooks as the new Dental Support Center Director. Jenna comes to USET while working to complete her Dr. Ph. and has recently completed her Master's degree at East Tennessee State University. Prior to beginning her graduate and doctoral work, Middlebrooks worked as a dental hygienist in Florida.



USET adds Policy and Legislative Affairs Director to its team Elizabeth (Liz) Malerba named to the position

Elizabeth (Liz) Malerba, a citizen of the Mohegan Tribe of Uncasville, CT, has been named to the position of USET Policy and Legislative Affairs Director. In her new role, Liz will focus on advancing USET's policy and legislative priorities, as identified by the Board of Directors on Capitol Hill and with the Administration. Prior to accepting this position, Malerba served as USET Health Policy Analyst. Earlier in the year she was given a citation from Nashville Area Indian Health Service for her work to educate Tribal leadership on the Affordable Care Act.



USET's Christy Duke to serve as the Senior Epidemiologist

USET's Christy Duke has been promoted to the position of Senior Epidemiologist for USET's Tribal Epidemiology Center (TEC). In her new role, Christy will serve in a leadership capacity while advancing the TEC's work plan and priorities.



USET welcomes Health Communication Specialist

Chad Beswick has been hired to serve as the new Health Communication Specialist for THPS. Chad will develop and revise reports, patient education tools, and information related to disease prevention programs. USET's goal with this new position is to increase the accessibility of complex health information to specific audiences.



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 completed 20 years of dedicated service to promoting healthy Indian Country Communities.



Wes Cornelius retires from USET

USET SAS Programmer/Statistician Wes Cornelius retired from USET in October. Members of the USET staff honored Wes with a going away present and luncheon on Thursday, September 25th. Wes has worked with USET almost 10 years beginning as a data coordinator.



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Member Tribes



- 1 **Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians**
Cherokee, North Carolina
- 2 **Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida**
Miami, Florida
- 3 **Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians**
Choctaw, Mississippi
- 4 **Seminole Tribe of Florida**
Hollywood, Florida
- 5 **Chitimacha Tribe of Louisiana**
Charenton, Louisiana
- 6 **Seneca Nation of Indians**
Salamanca, New York
- 7 **Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana**
Elton, Louisiana
- 8 **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 **USET**
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