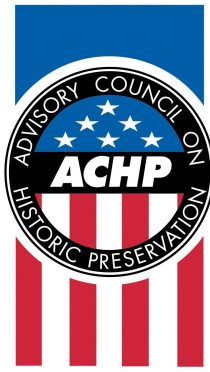


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Preserving America's Heritage

“Working Effectively With Tribal Governments” Training Program Available

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Working Effectively With Tribal Governments, a new online training course, is now available to provide federal workers with better understanding and greater knowledge of the intricacies and issues involved in working effectively with Indian tribes.

In recent years, the federal government has put a great deal of emphasis on the importance of public employees understanding the government-to-government relationship that exists with Indian tribes. The training course provides insights into the legal, historic, and cultural factors that must be understood in order to create successful collaborative undertakings among tribes and federal agencies.

The training course was created by an interagency group that prominently included Monique Fordham, program specialist in the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation’s (ACHP) Native American Program. Other agencies principally involved in the Federal Employee/Workforce Native Education and Training group development of the training were the Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Justice. Other partners in the effort included the departments of the Interior, Housing and Urban Development, Health and Human Services, Energy, Agriculture (Forest Service), Commerce (Small Business Administration), and the General Services Administration.

“It was great that the ACHP was able to play a primary role to create this unprecedented training program,” Fordham said. “There was no single source available to federal employees for this essential information. Before this was created the information had to be found and assembled piecemeal from other sources, and most people don’t have the background or the time that allowed them to do that completely and effectively.”

The training course takes about an hour to complete online and will be offered free to federal employees and the public through April 30, 2008. After that date, there will be a cost to take the training. Visit www.GoLearn.gov. GoLearn is a site administered by the U.S. Office of Personnel Management, which provided technical assistance and program development oversight for the course.

The training course was unveiled at a January 31, 2008 event in the National Press Club in Washington, D.C. that was opened by Joe Garcia, president of the National Congress of American Indians, and Carl Artman, Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs, U.S. Department of the Interior. Also participating in the session were Interior Secretary Dirk Kempthorne; Deputy Assistant to the President and Director of Intergovernmental Affairs Janet Creighton; ACHP Chairman John L. Nau, III; Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Steve Johnson; U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) Deputy Administrator Jovita Carranza; Acting Assistant Attorney General Jeffrey L. Sedgwick; and, William Largent of SBA, who is the narrator of the training module and who demonstrated it at the National Press Club unveiling.

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