

# SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

## **Randall Akers**

*Administrator, Northern Plains*

Office of Native American Programs

Department of Housing and Urban Development

For the last eleven years, Randy has served as the Administrator for the HUD Northern Plains Office of Native American Programs (NPONAP) located in Denver, Colorado. The NAPONAP provides a wide range of housing and community development assistance to 33 Federally recognized tribal governments in a seven state region, comprised of Colorado, Utah, Wyoming, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Nebraska. Prior to taking his current position, for 21 years Randy was Associate Field Counsel for the San Francisco and Phoenix HUD ONAPs, serving as the principal point of legal contact for HUD programs delivered to 172 tribes located in the western United States. Randy is a member of the Comanche Nation of Oklahoma.

## **Philip Belangie**

*Manager, Entrepreneur Development Program*

Montana Department of Commerce

Raised in Montana, a fourth generation descendent of Butte Irish miners and Bitterroot Valley German/Dutch ranchers and bankers, Belangie manages entrepreneurial development for the Montana Department of Commerce. Working with statewide networks of local business resource providers including bankers, business owners, Small Business Development Center directors and community developers, he is responsible for coordinating the Kauffman Foundation's FastTrac NewVenture and GrowthVenture and ONABEN's Indianpreneurship, A Native American Journey into Business education programs for small business owners and entrepreneurs in communities throughout Montana.

Working with the Montana Indian Business Alliance, the Governor's Office of Economic Development, and the State-Tribal Economic Development Commission, he developed and currently coordinates the Department of Commerce's Montana Indianpreneur Equity Fund, a pilot project designed to provide capital for Native American entrepreneurs and small business owners in Indian Country.

Belangie's business background is extensive. He served as vice president of research and on the board of MedRobotics (1979-84), a start-up medical products company in Missoula, owner and CEO of Turner Engineering, Inc., a Department of Defense contractor, completing over \$45,000,000 in work from 1985 to 1991. In addition, he was a partner in Systems Services, Inc., a management consulting firm developing tribally owned businesses in Montana Indian communities. As a social entrepreneur working at the grassroots level, Belangie has worked with a wide variety of clients. Working within highly structured hierarchical organizations, he has developed protocols for clients seeking access to post-secondary education, provided oversight and training at the state level, and at the local level worked with resource providers serving the disabled, youth at risk, pre-release clients, single parent mothers and families in poverty. Belangie serves on the executive committee of the Montana Indian Business Alliance.

## **Cedric Black Eagle**

*Chairman*  
Crow Tribe

Cedric Black Eagle was elected Chairman of Crow Tribe in 2009. He previously served as Vice Chairman for Crow Tribe.

## **Dorothy J. Bridges**

*Senior Vice President*  
Community Development and Outreach  
Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis

The Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis has named Dorothy Bridges its senior vice president responsible for community development and outreach, effective July 29, 2011. Bridges, most recently president and CEO of City First Bank in Washington, D.C., served in the same role at Franklin National Bank in Minneapolis from 1999 to 2008.

Bridges has over 30 years of banking experience, much of it centered on local lending and development markets. Prior to joining Franklin National Bank, Bridges was a senior consultant for Barefoot, Marrinan & Associates, and a bank regulatory compliance firm, where she focused on issues related to the Community Reinvestment Act and the Fair Lending Act. In 1995, Bridges joined the Community Reinvestment Fund, a private nonprofit corporation that securitizes economic development loans for secondary market investments.

While serving as president and CEO of Franklin National Bank in Minneapolis, she received the Women of Achievement Award from the TwinWest Chamber of Commerce in 2000 and was recognized as one of the most influential women in business and finance by local business publications.

Bridges, who began her banking career in 1979, has served on the board of directors of the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis and as a member of the Federal Reserve System's Consumer Advisory Council. She has also served on community banking councils for the American Bankers Association and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation. She is currently chair of the board of directors of the Northwest Area Foundation.

## **Don Chapman**

*Senior Advisor on Native American Affairs*  
Office of the Secretary  
U.S. Department of Commerce

Don Chapman was appointed by Secretary Gary Locke as the Commerce Department's first Senior Advisor on Native American Affairs on November 5, 2009.

Within the Office of the Secretary, Chapman will drive policies that improve the lives of Native Americans, and he is charged with helping to implement Locke's goal of encouraging business development in Indian Country. He

serves as the Secretary's tribal liaison and Indian Country economic development lead and is coordinating the Tribal Consultation Policy implementation across all of the Commerce Department's bureaus.

A member of the Mohegan Tribe of Connecticut, Chapman has worked as a senior executive for numerous tribal companies and outreach organizations.

Prior to his appointment, he served as a senior executive manager with Wyandotte Tribal Corporation, Chenega Advanced Solutions and Engineering (ANC), and TKC Communications (ANC). He was also a senior consultant for the Washington, D.C. National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development Procurement and Technical Assistance Center. In the private technology sector, Chapman worked as an applications engineer in the Ericsson Cell Phone Design group and the General Dynamics Optical Engineering Group, as well as a partner in the Mechtronics Sales technical representative group.

Chapman is a graduate of Norfolk Collegiate and is currently studying Information Systems Management and business administration at the University of Maryland University College. He lives in Leesburg, Virginia, and has two children with his wife, Holly Day Chapman.

### **Deanna Comeau**

*Credit Officer, Loan Guaranty Program*  
Office of Indian Energy and Economic Development  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Deanna Comeau is a Credit Officer for the Department of Interior's Office of Indian Energy and Economic Development Loan Guaranty Program serving Tribes and Tribal Individuals in the Rocky Mountain, the Midwest, and the Northwest Regions. Ms. Comeau has been a Credit Officer for the Department of Interior for 20 years. In this capacity, Ms. Comeau's duties include loan underwriting and servicing direct and guaranteed loans. Ms. Comeau is an enrolled member of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe and a descendant of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa.

### **Pete Conway**

*Director*  
Billings Area Indian Health Service

Pete Conway, M.Ed., a member of the Blackfeet Tribe and a native of Browning, Montana, began his career with the Indian Health Service (IHS), an agency in the Department of Health and Human Services, in 1980 as an Employee Development Specialist in the IHS Billings Area Office of Tribal Activities. Since then, Mr. Conway has held various positions in the Billings Area, including Public Health Advisor, Director of Tribal Health Programs Support, and Associate Director, Office of Tribal Programs. In April 2002, Mr. Conway was selected as the Area Director for the IHS Billings Area Office.

As Area Director for the Billings Area, Mr. Conway manages a varied health care program that provides medical care to more than 65,000 American Indians on seven reservations in the State of Montana; the Blackfeet, Crow, Northern Cheyenne, Fort Peck, Fort Belknap, Rocky Boy's and Flathead, and the Wind River reservation in the State of Wyoming. Facilities range from full service hospitals on the Blackfeet, Crow, and Fort Belknap reservations to smaller service units and health centers. These facilities provide a wide range of services, including inpatient, ambulatory, emergency, dental, pharmacy, nutritional, environmental health, community health, pharmacy, and preventive health services. As part of the national Indian health system of Federal, Tribal, and Urban Indian health programs, the Billings Area also contributes to the support of five Urban health programs located in Billings, Butte, Great Falls, Helena, and Missoula, Montana. These programs provide outreach and referral services, health education, substance abuse counseling and treatment, and limited primary care services.

Mr. Conway is a member of the IHS Director's Executive Council which is a decision-making body for the Agency on broad issues of policy, programs, and public health advocacy. The Council is composed of senior leadership from Headquarters, Area Offices, and the four IHS National Professional Councils.

Mr. Conway earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Eastern Montana College and a Masters degree in Education Administration from the University of South Dakota.

**Dani J. Daugherty**

*Operations Specialist*

Great Plains Regional Office

Bureau of Indian Affairs

Department of the Interior

Dani Daugherty is the Tribal Operations Specialist, Great Plains Regional Office, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Department of Interior. Ms. Daugherty is an enrolled member of the Oglala Lakota Nation and was raised on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. She is also eligible for enrollment with the Oneida Tribe of Wisconsin. She graduated from Oglala Lakota College with her Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration in 2000. Ms. Daugherty went on to receive a joint degree in Public Administration and Law from the University of South Dakota (USD) in 2003. While at USD, Ms. Daugherty was the first Indian Editor in Chief of a Law School's primary law review. After law school, Ms. Daugherty went on to become the first Indian federal judicial clerk for the District of South Dakota. Just prior to her current work at the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Ms. Daugherty was in private practice with a specialty in Indian Law with the firm of Bantz, Gosch & Cremer in Aberdeen, South Dakota. Ms. Daugherty lives in Aberdeen, SD and has five daughters.

**Tanya Fiddler***Executive Director***Four Bands Community Fund  
Cheyenne River Lakota Nation**

Tanya Fiddler is the executive director of Four Bands Community Fund, a Native community development financial institution (CDFI) focused on entrepreneurship and financial literacy development on the Cheyenne River Sioux Indian Reservation located in north central South Dakota. Ms. Fiddler, an enrolled member of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, has served as the executive director of Four Bands since 2002 and has built the organization from the start up phase into a successful, innovative and award-winning organization. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Interdisciplinary Sciences from South Dakota School of Mines & Technology and has 15 years of experience working with Native organizations. Ms. Fiddler is the recipient of several prestigious awards including the 2008 Bureau of Indian Affairs “Entrepreneur Advocate of the Year,” the 2007 Small Business Administration “Minority Small Business Champion for South Dakota and Region VIII,” and the 2007 “Visionary Leader Award for Outstanding Achievement” in recognition of her impact in the CDFI field. She received a Fellowship in the Aspen Institute’s Ideas Festival in 2008 and has been an active voice in Native community and economic development. In addition to her role at Four Bands, Tanya is also the Co-Chair for the Native CDFI Network. The Native CDFI Network is a membership network that was established to create opportunities for Native CDFI peer-to-peer learning and to identify Native CDFI policy priorities. She is a frequent speaker and workshop facilitator at regional and national conferences and is a board member of the South Dakota Indian Business Alliance, Mazaska Owecaso Otipi Financial and CFED, a Washington DC-based policy and advocacy organization.

**Dennis Fitzpatrick***Chief Executive Officer***Siyeh Corporation  
Blackfeet Nation**

Dennis is the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Siyeh Corporation, a for profit business enterprise wholly owned by the Blackfeet Nation that conducts business on the Blackfeet Indian Reservation. He has served in this capacity since the company’s inception in 1999.

Dennis attended Browning High School and graduated in 1986. He began his college course work at Northwest College in Powell, Wyoming and earned his Associate of Arts degree in 1988. He worked in the Browning Public School system as a substitute teacher before enrolling at Montana State University – Billings (MSUB). While at MSUB, he gained an interest in the law which led him to a summer law fellowship at Gonzaga University Law School. He later graduated from MSUB with a Business Administration degree in 1992. Upon graduation, Dennis worked as a Marketing Representative for Winchester Ammunition. He assisted sporting good retailers with the company’s national marketing campaign throughout a three state region. This experience proved rewarding and prompted him to finish his education. Dennis was admitted to the University of Iowa Law School in Iowa City, Iowa where he graduated in 1995. While in law school, he had the opportunity to study the United Nations Draft Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and later attended a working group session on this subject in

Geneva, Switzerland. He is a member of the Montana State Bar, and has been admitted to practice in the state and federal courts in Montana.

Dennis has experience in all facets of tribal enterprise management and development. He currently oversees a work force of 134 individuals, mostly tribal members that work in four different business enterprises. He works closely with a Board of Directors and Tribal Council to set future economic development objectives for the long term growth of the company. In 2005, Siyeh Corporation was honored by the Harvard Project on American Indian Economic Development and the Honoring Nations Board. The company received the "High Honors" award as an outstanding example of tribal governance using best practices to create sustainable economies in Indian Country. Dennis is married and has five (5) children. His oldest daughter is a freshman at Carroll College and is a member of the Saint's Track & Field Team.

### **Rick M. Garcia**

*Regional Administrator*

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

Rick M. Garcia serves as Regional Administrator for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Region VIII in the administration of President Barack Obama. In addition, Mr. Garcia was designated as Senior Policy Advisor to HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan on Sustainability representing the field offices. He also serves as HUD liaison to the Denver Metropolitan's Regional Air Quality Council which advises the Governor and the General Assembly on Environmental Protection Agency's air quality standards.

Mr. Garcia oversees the delivery of HUD's homeownership, affordable housing, community development, fair housing, and Native American housing programs on behalf of HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan. He directs the management of HUD's regional office in Denver, and field offices in Casper, WY; Helena, MT; Salt Lake City, UT; Sioux Falls, SD; and Fargo, ND. Mr. Garcia is HUD's liaison to congressional representatives, governors, mayors, state and local officials, and customers throughout Region VIII. The region, based in Denver, includes the states of Colorado, Utah, Wyoming, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Montana. Mr. Garcia was appointed in March 2010 and is one of 10 regional directors in the United States.

Prior to joining HUD, Mr. Garcia was elected to the Denver City Council in June 2003. Throughout his tenure, he made economic revitalization, access to new transit projects and business development his priorities. Garcia was recognized in 2006 by the Hispanic Contractors of Colorado and the Denver Hispanic Chamber of Commerce as Government/Community Advocate of the Year.

Mr. Garcia was an elected RTD Board Commissioner and is credited for bringing necessary stability and credibility to the RTD board, which led to the voter's successful passage of the FasTracks initiative. In 1985, Garcia founded the Denver Enterprise Center, a small business incubator with the support from then Mayor Federico Pena. He served as State Director of Small Business Development in the Office of Former Governor Roy Romer and started his business development career with the E. W. Hahn Company of San Diego, CA, one of the country's

largest real estate shopping center developers. While living in Pueblo, he also worked for the Pueblo Economic Development Corporation.

He is a former Board Chair of the Colorado Housing and Finance Authority, Vice Chair of the NEWSED Community Development Corporation and is a founding Community Advisor to the University of Colorado's Latino/a Research and Policy Center. Garcia also served as a board member and as chair of the Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG). He served as Chairman of multiple committees, including the Metro Vision Issues Committee, the Neighborhood Community and Business Revitalization Committee, and the Regional Transportation Committee while on the Denver City Council. He served as co-chair of a newly formed Foreclosure Task Force designed to look at the city's growing problem relative to home foreclosures and abandoned properties.

Mr. Garcia served as past chairman of the Council's General Government and Public Safety Committees and as a member of Economic Development, FasTracks, and Blueprint Denver Committees. In 2005, he was instrumental in the passage of the ballot initiative that approved the building of a new Denver Justice Center.

He sponsored legislation that created the City's Crime Prevention and Control Commission, which he chaired. He formed a Redevelopment Task Force with the support of Mayor John Hickenlooper that was responsible for creating a community redevelopment plan for the St. Anthony's Central Hospital's 16 acre campus after the hospital announced its plans to relocate to Lakewood.

Mr. Garcia earned his Master of Public Administration Degree from the Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government and holds a Bachelor's Degree in Business administration from Columbia College. He is married to Loretta P. Martinez, Esq., originally of Pueblo, CO, and they have three daughters.

## **Michael Grover**

*Manager*

Community Development  
Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis

Michael Grover is Manager of Community Development at the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis. Grover's research interests focus on housing, homeownership, urban development, and community development corporations. He obtained a Ph.D. in urban studies from the University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee in May of 2004. Michael has a B.A. in history from Saint Cloud State University and an M.A. in American history from the University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee. Before coming to the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis, he was a senior health workforce analyst with the Minnesota Department of Health.

**Gloria Hawkins***Billings Area Director*

Rural Development

U.S. Department of Agriculture

Gloria Hawkins serves as the Billings Area Director for USDA Rural Development in Montana. With a service area of 23 Counties and three Indian Reservations, Gloria manages a professional staff as she promotes and oversees the financial programs available through Rural Development. Gloria has nearly twenty years of experience working in financial management and customer service. Prior to coming to Rural Development in 2007, Gloria spent a decade working for Countrywide Home Loans in Billings as an underwriter and mortgage loan specialist. She spends her free time adoring her grandchildren.

**Gordon Jackson***Deputy Regional Director**Rocky Mountain Region*

Bureau of Indian Affairs

Department of the Interior

Mr. Gordon Jackson was named the Deputy Regional Director for Indian Services on October 12, 2008. The Deputy position manages the Transportation (roads construction and maintenance); Human Services (social services, housing improvement, self-determination services, tribal operations); and Environmental, Cultural and Safety programs in the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Rocky Mountain Region.

Mr. Jackson also held the following positions in the BIA's Rocky Mountain Region: Regional Forester, Regional Budget Officer, and Crow Superintendent. He served as Osage BIA Superintendent for seven years (1991 to 1998) in the Eastern Oklahoma Region.

Gordon's professional career started in 1977 with the Burlington Northern Timber and Land Division in Kalispell, Montana where he administered timber sales and land use planning. He accepted appointment as a forester at the BIA Blackfoot Indian Agency in Browning, Montana in 1979. He has also held various jobs in the BIA like forester and forest manager (Crow Agency), administrative officer (Crow Agency) and rights protection specialist (Rocky Mountain Regional Office).

Mr. Jackson received a Bachelor of Science degree in forest management from the University of Washington, Seattle, Washington in 1977. He completed graduate level forestry classes in silviculture, forest ecology and forest management in conjunction with the Continuing Education in Forest Ecology and Silviculture (CEFES) training program.

Gordon is a single parent with a 15 year old son and is affiliated with the Chippewa tribes at Grand Traverse and Saginaw in Michigan. Mr. Jackson is a second generation BIA employee following his father's footsteps who served as a BIA forester on the Navajo, Flathead, Klamath, Pine Ridge and Western Washington agencies.



**Christopher L. James***Assistant Administrator*

Office of Native American Affairs

U.S. Small Business Administration

Christopher [Chris] L. James was appointed assistant administrator for the Office of Native American Affairs at the U.S. Small Business Administration in July 2011. James is responsible for coordinating and directing SBA programs within the Office of Native American Affairs, to promote and enhance small business services and opportunities for Native Americans, including reservation-based Native Americans and tribal governments.

Before joining the SBA, James was an associate program manager at the U.S. Department of the Treasury's Community Development Financial Institutions Fund (CDFI). There, he managed Native Initiatives, which included the CDFI Fund's Expanding Native Opportunities capacity and training program and the Native American CDFI Assistance (NACA) Program.

James has more than a decade of experience in the field of small business and economic development on Native American lands. Prior to joining the CDFI Fund, he was associate director and senior loan officer for the Sequoyah Fund, Inc., a Native CDFI on the Eastern Band of the Cherokee Indian's Qualla Boundary in Cherokee, N.C. While there he gained experience in organizational management including the implementation of policies and procedures that benefit Native American communities. James was also responsible for creating initiatives designed to enhance entrepreneurial development and access to capital for Tribal and community members of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians.

James earned a bachelor's degree in Communication Studies from the University of North Carolina at Wilmington, and a master's degree in Entrepreneurship from Western Carolina University. He is a member of the Indian Affairs Executive Working Group and chairs the sub-committee on economic development. He was previously an active member of the Certified Entrepreneurial Council, Blue Ridge Entrepreneurial Council, National Association of Developmental Organizations, and the North Carolina Incubator Association.

James is from Cherokee, N.C. where his family has had small businesses on the Qualla Boundary for more than 50 years. He is married with three children, and resides in Alexandria, Va.

**Matthew Jones**

*Montana State Director*

Rural Development

U.S. Department of Agriculture

Jones is the Director for Economic Development in the office of U.S. Senator Max Baucus. He has worked extensively with USDA Rural Development while coordinating economic development strategies for the state. Previously, Jones worked for the U.S. Senate Finance Committee where he contributed to energy tax policy and worked on transportation issues. He worked on energy and industry issues while an associate at Brickfield, Burchette, Ritts and Stone PC. Jones earned his bachelor's degree in economics at the University of Montana and his J.D. from Georgetown University.

**Jacqueline King**

*Assistant Vice President*

Community Affairs Officer

Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis

Jacqueline King is Assistant Vice President and Community Affairs Officer at the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis. King joined the Minneapolis Reserve Bank in September 2002 after spending several years in the Community Affairs department at the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland and as a Community Affairs Specialist at the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System in Washington, DC.

Prior to joining the Federal Reserve System, King was Vice President of Community Investment for Chase Manhattan in Baltimore, Maryland. She has served on numerous boards and has worked on community development initiatives with a variety of organizations, including Habitat for Humanity, INROADS, Neighborhood Housing Services and Inner City Development. King has a master's degree in public administration from Central Michigan University.

**John Klaman**

*Senior Area Manager*

Montana District Office

U.S. Small Business Administration

John Klaman has thirty years of experience in Finance. Currently he serves as Senior Area Manager for the Small Business Administration District Office in Montana, which covers 23 counties.

Previously Mr. Klaman served as a commercial lender and headed the finance division of the North Dakota Small Business Administration District Office.

**Lyle Konkol**

*Senior Management Analyst*

Helena Field Office

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

Lyle Konkol is a Senior Management Analyst, with the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Helena Field Office. For the past 30 years he has been actively involved in creating and implementing housing opportunities throughout Montana's cities and towns, including Indian Reservation communities, and has been part of HUD's Montana team of specialists since 1988.

He is a National Trainer for the Office of Native American Programs/Office of Loan Guarantee, training lenders, appraisers and tribes on the use of HUD's Section 184 Mortgage Guarantee. Additionally, he works with Office of Loan Guarantee to resolve underwriting, appraisal and technical issues related to Section 184 Mortgage Guarantee's on Tribal trust land transactions.

Mr. Konkol received the National Secretary's Award for his work in creating partnerships in Indian Country with the winning theme called "Creating Housing Opportunities for Underserved Populations. He is also the Montana Field Office Specialist on environmental review for Multi-Family and the Office of Health Care Facilities, working with local government, environmental firms and project developers, developing both hospital and multi-family projects throughout Montana.

He is Montana liaison for disasters and emergency services working with Montana Disaster and Emergency Service, elected officials, Governors Office as well as many state and local government offices. He is a Member of the National Disaster response Team working directly with disaster victims as well as the Federal Emergency Management Agency in locations throughout the United States.

**Stephen Manydeeds**

*Acting Director, Office of Indian Energy and Economic Development*

U.S Department of the Interior

Assistant Secretary - Indian Affairs

Stephen Manydeeds is a geologist and an enrolled member of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe. His passion for wanting to make a positive difference in Indian country led him to his current position.

Manydeeds, a graduate of the University of Wisconsin, oversees a unique, federal office responsible for all energy and mineral activity on Indian Trust lands nationwide.

With over 35 years experience performing geologic and economic studies of energy and mineral resources on nearly all western U.S. reservations, Manydeeds has redefined the Office's mission to include not just assessment of resources, but development of those vast resources found on Indian lands.

Under Manydeeds' leadership, the office has had a long-standing commitment to identify tribal needs and how they best fit with their long-term desires, and to help tribes maximize their resource potential to whatever extent they want.

His expertise in managing nation-wide programs for the development and management of mineral resources on Indian lands has proven beneficial to many tribes. He provides direct assistance to tribal offices in the negotiation of agreements and monitoring compliance with the terms of mineral agreements. He meets regularly with Tribal councils to assist them with numerous endeavors that include lease negotiations, analyzing mineral and energy resources, developing programs and budgets, setting priorities, and identifying potential renewable energy resources. Since taking the helm in 2004 first as division chief of IEED's Division of Energy and Mineral Development and now as acting director, Manydeeds has provided geotechnical assistance to over 70 different Indian Tribes regarding their mineral resources.

### **Brian McDonald**

*Senior Portfolio Manager*

U.S. Department of the Treasury

Community Development Financial Institutions Fund

Brian McDonald is a Senior Portfolio Manager at the U.S. Department of the Treasury Community Development Financial Institutions Fund. He is responsible for underwriting awards, developing policy, and working with certified and emerging CDFIs. Prior to joining the Fund, Mr. McDonald worked to increase assets and issue loans to small business owners as a loan officer at ACCION New Mexico. In addition Mr. McDonald worked at Canandaigua National Bank and Trust as a credit analyst in the commercial lending department.

Mr. McDonald received a Bachelor's degree from Syracuse University in Finance and Entrepreneurship and Emerging Enterprises and an MBA from Georgetown University with a concentration in International Business and General Management. Mr. McDonald enjoys working on several volunteer initiatives including the Adams Morgan Main Street Initiative, STEP tutoring in Columbia Heights, and also serves as the Treasurer of the Executive Committee at Damien Ministries which provides outreach services in the District of Columbia to the homeless and people living with AIDS. A native of Upstate New York, in his spare time he enjoys music, golf, racquetball, and great Washington restaurants.

### **Elsie Meeks**

*South Dakota State Director*

Rural Development

U.S. Department of Agriculture

Elsie Meeks was named State Director of the USDA Rural Development in South Dakota by the Obama Administration on July 27, 2009. In this capacity, she coordinates the efforts of 72 employees to work with others to ensure use of resources and 40 + programs are serving rural South Dakota residents. Through her leadership, communities and rural residents will have the opportunity to develop and grow while also improving their quality of life.

Meeks has several years of experience working to promote economic and community development. In addition, she sits on the board of Northwest Area Foundation. Prior to joining USDA, Meeks was the President/CEO of First

Nations Oweesta Corporation and has over 20 years experience working for Native community economic development.

Before her leadership and work at Oweesta, Meeks was active for 20 years in the development and management of The Lakota Funds, a small business and microenterprise development loan fund CDFI on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. She served as chairperson of The Lakota Funds and was a board member of Corporation for Enterprise Development, Council on Foundations and the Oglala Sioux Tribe Partnership for Housing. She was also an International Advisory Council member of Native Nations Institute and on the Board of Governors for the Honoring Nations program of the Harvard Project on American Indian Economic Development. Meeks recently completed a six-year term on the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights and was the first Native American to serve on the Commission. She was the chairperson for the Native Financial Education Coalition, for which Oweesta serves as the lead organization.

Meeks and her husband Jim make their home on their ranch near Kyle, SD on the Pine Ridge Reservation. Rural Development is committed to helping improve the economy and quality of life in all of rural America by providing financial programs to support essential public facilities and services as water and sewer systems, housing, health clinics, emergency service facilities and electric and telephone service. Rural Development invested more than \$347 million in Fiscal Year 2008 and \$2.2 billion over the past 10 years in South Dakota's economy.

### **Dustin Miller**

*Program Specialist*

*Office of Tribal Relations*

Office of the Secretary

U.S. Department of Agriculture

Dustin Miller is a Program Specialist in USDA's Office of Tribal Relations within the Office of the Secretary. This position focuses on ensuring the implementation of Executive Order 13175 for Tribal Consultation and enhanced technical assistance for American Indian Operators.

Prior to moving to Washington, DC, Mr. Miller was the Director of Development & Marketing for The Harvest Initiative, Inc. The purpose of the organization is to invest locally in native grown ideas and support socially responsible business development to move Crow Creek Sioux Reservation toward a commercially viable, self-sustaining economic environment.

This work led to the creation of an agricultural development project to reconstitute the Crow Creek Tribal Farm in partnership with Pioneer Hi-Bred International a Dupont Company, the first of its kind in the United States. Miller earned a law degree from Drake University Law School in 2008 with certificates in Public Service and Food & Agricultural Law. He is also a licensed attorney in the state of Iowa.

While a law student he spent his summers working with Opportunity International, a microfinance institution in Kisumu, Kenya and at the International Food Policy Research Institute in Washington DC. He also spent time interning with USDA Rural Development in Des Moines, IA.

**Tim Penney**

*Tribal Transportation Program Coordinator*  
Federal Highway Administration

Tim Penney is the Tribal Transportation Program Coordinator for the Federal Highway Administration. He has held that position since December 2000. He has been with FHWA since 1988 in Vermont, Colorado, Utah, Wisconsin, Texas, and California. He has held positions as a construction engineer, operations engineer, safety and traffic engineer, civil rights program manager, and highway research engineer. He began his career with the Oklahoma DOT in 1987. He holds a bachelors degree in Civil Engineering from Oklahoma State University and is a registered Professional Engineer in the State of Colorado. He is an enrolled member of the Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa.

**Elaine Raper**

*Eastern Montana and Dakotas District Manager*  
Bureau of Land Management  
Department of the Interior

Elaine Raper has seventeen years of state government experience with the Wyoming Game & Fish Department, as a wildlife biologist & wildlife management coordinator.

While working for the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management she spent six years in Wyoming at the Rock Springs Office as the District Wildlife Lead & Special Projects Coordinator; as well as nine years in Oregon at the Coos Bay District office as a Natural Resource Staff Administrator & Field Manager, then 2-1/2 years as the Miles City Field Office, Field Manager. Elaine has served as the Eastern Montana/Dakotas District Manager since 2009.

Elaine has worked with the following resources and issues: rangelands and wildlife, oil & gas and wildlife, wetland and riparian restoration, dispersed and non-dispersed recreation, big & small game management, upland habitat restoration, timber harvest and old-growth forest management, borderland security.

Elaine received a BA from UCLA in Zoology, a MS from University of Wyoming in Zoology and Wildlife Management, as well as an AAS in Computer Science.

**John C. Rogers**

*Economic Development Representative, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota*  
Economic Development Administration  
U.S. Department of Commerce

John Rogers is the Economic Development Representative (EDR) for the U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration (EDA), serving the states of Montana, North Dakota, and Wyoming.

John's career in economic and community development began in 1975 when he served as a VISTA Volunteer working as a college intern at the North Central Planning Council, an economic development district located in Devils Lake, North Dakota. In the next several years, John worked as a community development specialist and

planner with two other economic development districts, worked for a County Council of Governments in Mercer County, North Dakota and served as City Planner and City Coordinator with the City of Beulah, North Dakota at a time when that community underwent vast changes resulting from massive energy development projects in the area. These projects included construction of the nation's first full production coal gasification plant, development of two other electrical generating plants and their associated coal mines.

John accepted a position with the Helena Business Improvement District in 1986, serving as its first Manager. The Helena Business Improvement District was the first of its kind in Montana and continues today as a positive force contributing to the economic health of Helena's central business district.

John subsequently accepted his current position with EDA in 1988, serving the State of Montana. In October 2000 was asked to serve the State of Wyoming and in 2004, he was asked to serve North Dakota.

In addition to his regular duties, John was appointed by the Assistant Secretary of EDA to Chair EDA's application reform committee in 1992 and was appointed to represent his counterparts on EDA's Strategic Planning Committee in 1997, chairing one of three working groups that resulted in acceptance of the Plan in 1998. He served in EDA Headquarters, Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs, in 1994 and was detailed to the United States Senate Environment and Public Works Committee to work on EDA Reauthorization. In October 2000, John was awarded a Silver Medal Award for Meritorious Federal Service by the Secretary of Commerce. The Silver Award is the Department's second highest award. John's experience in community and economic development spans more than 35 years.

John is an Army Veteran, having served in Vietnam where he was awarded a Bronze Star and an Army Commendation Medal, among other decorations.

John resides in Helena, Montana with his wife Judy, and their eighteen-year-old daughter, Jillian.

### **Jane Roybal**

*Fish and Wildlife Biologist*  
Fish and Wildlife Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

### **Michelle Sauve**

*Senior Project Consultant,*  
Department of Health and Human Services  
Administration for Children and Families  
Administration for Native Americans

Michelle Sauve (Kaniikehaka/Mohawk enrolled with the St. Regis Band) specializes in human services policy and program administration and nonprofit management with an emphasis on American Indian and Alaska Native populations. As a Senior Project Consultant, she currently provides policy and program advice to the Commissioner

of the Administration for Native Americans (ANA) in the areas of economic development and education and fosters interagency collaboration between ANA and other federal agencies.

**David Scherler**

*CDFI Program, Portfolio Manager*

U.S. Department of the Treasury

Community Development Financial Institutions Fund

David Scherler is a Portfolio Manager at the U.S. Department of the Treasury Community Development Financial Institutions Fund. Mr. Scherler is responsible underwriting awards, developing policy, and managing a portfolio of small business CDFIs and Native-specific CDFIs. He also works with CDFIs that specialize in venture capital. Continuing his role as co-facilitator of the Growing Economies in Indian Country workshop series, Mr. Scherler helped develop the first series in 2010. Prior to joining the CDFI Fund, Mr. Scherler worked for the office of Congressional Representative Frank Pallone Jr. He has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics from Albright College.

**Barbara Stiffarm**

*Executive Director*

Opportunity Link, Inc.

Barbara Stiffarm joined Opportunity Link as Development Director in August 2006. Barb has an extensive background in providing community and economic development services. Previously, Barbara served as a senior staff writer for RJS & Associates, Inc. (RJS), an American Indian-Owned Consulting Firm located on the Rocky Boys Indian Reservation in Montana. Barb's major responsibilities included researching, identifying, and securing sources of funding for public schools, tribal governments, tribal colleges, Indian Housing Authorities, economic enterprises, and private businesses. In addition, she conducted external evaluations, feasibility studies, needs assessments, and market studies. Direct client services included management training, strategic planning, preparing development plans, and providing project management services.

Barb was previously employed by the Fort Belknap Indian Community Council as the Tribal Planner/Community Development Block Grant Coordinator. In her position, she served as the research and development manager for established and non-established Tribal services. The position required the continual collection and analysis of data relating to local manpower, social, economic, and environmental factors to conduct the planning, obtain the funding, and implement tribal projects to support the community development needs of the Fort Belknap Indian Reservation. Projects included housing rehabilitation, building construction, sanitary facility construction, public services, and numerous economic development ventures.

Barb is an enrolled member of the Blackfeet Tribe and has resided in Harlem, Montana since 1982. She is married with three children.



**Maria Valandra***Vice President*Community Development  
First Interstate Bancsystem

Maria has been in the banking industry since 1994 and is currently Vice-President of Community Development for First Interstate Bancsystem. She is responsible for Community Development initiatives across Montana, Wyoming and Western South Dakota for First Interstate Bank. These initiatives include managing and overseeing the bank's Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) performance, partnering in community development activities and projects, seeking business development opportunities, building relationships with community groups and Indian Tribes in Montana, Wyoming and South Dakota and looking for Community Development opportunities for First Interstate BancSystem

Maria is currently the Chair of the Montana Indian Business Alliance and is currently the Secretary of the Board of NeighborWorks Montana. She is past Chair of Rural Dynamics, Inc. but still sits on the board.

Maria is of Cree descent and has dual enrollment in Nekaneet First Nation in Saskatchewan and the Chippewa and Cree Tribes of the Rocky Boy Reservation in Montana. Originally from Great Falls, Montana, Maria graduated from Montana State University in Bozeman with a Bachelor's degree in Business Management. She started her career in Indian Education and Human Resources and has experience in strategic planning, group facilitation and diversity training.

**Edward R. Vaughan***Native American Program Specialist*U.S. Department Housing and Urban Development  
Northern Plains Office of Native American Programs

Mr. Vaughan is a Harvard Kennedy School of Government, Community Builder Fellow on Native American Initiatives, and holds the tenure position of Native American Program Specialist, with HUD's Northern Plains Office of Native American Programs (NPONAP) in Denver, Colorado. Mr. Vaughan is responsible for coordinating the HUD-Section 184 Indian Housing and Title VI Loan Guarantee Program activities in the Northern Plains. He represents the Office in meetings and conferences; develops, implements, and monitors projects and initiatives intended to stimulate the use of HUD programs in Indian country.

**Mary Walks Over Ice***Supervisory Procurement Specialist*Native American Procurement Technical Assistance Center  
Defense Logistics Agency  
U.S. Department of Defense

Mary Walks Over Ice, Supervisory Procurement Specialist, is responsible for the procurement technical assistance program duties for the NADC PTAC program and its service areas which include the reservations in Montana,

Wyoming, North and South Dakota. As part of those duties, she organizes and manages three satellite centers and the Billings office in meeting procurement goals, objectives, and strategic planning necessary for the success of the program.

Mary previously worked for the Native American Development Corporation (NADC) as a Marketing Specialist with the Air Force Outreach Program. As a Marketing Specialist, she was responsible for the development and management of a contract procurement center for the Native American firms in Montana, Wyoming and the Dakotas.

Mary's experience extends to include management of her father's engineering firm throughout most of her adult life. The firm is a 100% Indian owned and has been in business for over 40 years. The firm was responsible for the design and contract administration of over 5,000 housing units on seventeen Indian reservations in six states not to mention multiple commercial facilities including tribal health clinics, community centers, schools, detention centers and entire tribal community college campuses. Mary oversaw project management in the areas of contract administration and compliance review to several funding agencies including HUD, RDA, IHS, BIA, and several tribal entities to name a few.

She brings a myriad of valuable information to the program in terms of marketing, proposal writing and bid evaluation, contract negotiation and administration, procurement/contracting training, organization, project management and small business operations.

Mary holds a Bachelors Degree in Microbiology from Montana State University in Bozeman, Montana and has studied Business Administration at Rocky Mountain College in Billings, Montana.

### **Jay Wilson Preston**

*President*

CommunityTel

Jay Wilson Preston is the President of CommunityTel in Ronan, Montana. He has a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering from Montana State University and an MBA from Columbia University. Jay currently serves on the board of directors of the Lake County Community Development Corporation and the Salish Kootenai College Foundation.

### **Susan Woodrow**

*Community Development Advisor*

Helena Branch

Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis

Susan Woodrow is the Community Development Advisor for the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis, based in the Minneapolis Fed's Helena, Montana Branch. Woodrow joined the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis in 1990 as an attorney. Prior to her transfer to the Helena Branch in 1999, Woodrow served as senior legal counsel for the

Bank, providing, among other things, support to the community affairs division with particular emphasis on Indian Country legal issues. She also traveled twice in the late 1990s to Central Asia to assist the central banks of Kazakhstan and the Kyrgyz Republic in developing electronic payments regulations.

In her current position, Woodrow works extensively on tribal economic development issues, with a focus on commercial legal infrastructure development. In addition to her published articles on tribal commercial law and participation in the Uniform Law Commission's Model Tribal Secured Transactions Act initiative, she has given numerous presentations to and technical assistance for tribes and Native organizations across the country, as well as national legal and other trade associations, and federal and state agencies on these topics. Woodrow helped establish the Indian Business Alliances in Montana, South Dakota, Wisconsin, and Minnesota, and is assisting groups throughout Indian Country to promote sound tribal commercial and business law environments that will encourage private sector Indian business development. In 2007, Woodrow received the Federal Reserve System's William Taylor Award for Excellence in Banking Supervision for her work in developing and promoting tribal commercial law to improve access to credit and capital for consumers and businesses in Native communities. Woodrow is also a co-founder, current board member and former president of the Montana Financial Education Coalition. She received her law degree from the University of Minnesota in 1990, and her bachelor's degree in education from the University of Wales, Cardiff College (United Kingdom) in 1980.

### **Thomas C. Wright**

*Director of Loan Guarantee Programs*  
Office of Native American Programs

Thomas C. Wright is the Director of Loan Guarantee (OLG) Programs for the Office of Native American Programs. The primary purpose of OLG is to promote and facilitate the investment of private capital in tribal communities through an implied social contract wherein HUD assumes the lender's credit and collateral risk in exchange for access to market rate financing in underserved areas. Tom is responsible for the oversight and management of the Native American lending programs and the \$2.4 billion loan guarantee portfolio. This public and private partnership has the loan guarantee authority to finance \$1 billion in Indian Housing loans and affordable housing projects in FY 2011.

Prior to joining HUD, Tom had seven years of hands-on experience work in tribal communities. Mr. Wright has originated HUD Section 184 Mortgages and performed contract based project manager for residential development on Tribal Trust Lands. Tom poses extensive knowledge of trust land lending issues and leverage financing. Prior to his involvement with Tribes, Tom had more than fourteen years of combined experience in the mortgage lending and financial services industries. Tom was a former Fannie Mae/NAIHC Fellow on Native American lending issues.