



Native Voices



NAU NORTHERN ARIZONA UNIVERSITY

Office of Native American Initiatives

One Tribe, One Earth

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Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals

PO Box 15004
Flagstaff, AZ 86011-5004

Ph: 928-523-9555

Fax: 928-523-1266

nau.edu/itep

Contact Us!

Ann Marie Chischilly

Executive Director

Ann-Marie.Chischilly@nau.edu

Mehrdad Khatibi

Director

Mehrdad.Khatibi@nau.edu

AIAQTP

Christal Black

Program Coordinator, Sr.

Christal.Black@nau.edu

Sharlene Brown

Administrative Associate

Sharlene.Brown@nau.edu

Nashelly Meneses

Instructional Specialist, Sr.

Nashelly.Meneses@nau.edu

Natasha Fulton

Research Specialist

Natasha.Fulton@nau.edu

Lydia Scheer

Project Director

Lydia.Scheer@nau.edu

TAMS Center

Chris Lee

TAMS Co-Director

Christopher.Lee@nau.edu

Hayden Hardie

EPA Co-Director

Hardie.Hayden@epa.gov

Welcome to the Native Voices newsletter!

The January 2021 issue features information on the 2021 National Tribal Forum on Air Quality, Internships, and various requests of the readers. Thank you for your patience and support as we navigate a new approach to the NV Newsletter. Stay tuned for next month's issue!

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Call for Proposals: National Tribal Forum on Air Quality 2021

The National Tribal Forum on Air Quality (NTFAQ) 2021 call for proposals is now open! Tribes, tribal consortia, US EPA, air quality researchers, and others are encouraged to submit a proposal abstract. **Deadline for submitting abstracts is February 10, 2021. Submit a proposal or short training abstract [HERE](#).**

For over 20 years, the NTFAQ has brought together environmental professionals from Tribes, US EPA, universities, and other agencies to *DISCUSS* current policy initiatives, *EXPLORE* up-to-date technology solutions, and *SHARE* practical knowledge and experience to advance tribal air quality programs.



The NTFAQ planning committee, which consists of representatives from Tribes, US EPA, ITEP, NTA and the TAMS Center, have determined to hold this year's Forum virtually due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. We wish we could meet and be together in-person, but there is just too much uncertainty so we must proceed with caution to make sure our communities and families continue to be safe from the pandemic. **The 2021 Virtual NTFAQ will take place May 17-20, 2021.**

Whether virtual or in-person, our goal for this event is the same: to share knowledge and information to help advance tribal air quality programs nationwide. Proposals for presentations and short trainings may consist of, but are not limited to, the following topics:

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| • Tribal Air Program Case Studies | • Air Monitoring Technology | • Health Impacts & Research |
| • Community Outreach & Engagement | • Climate Change & Air Quality | • Indoor Air Quality |
| • Grants Management | • Air Quality Policy & Regulations | • Innovative Projects |

Submit a proposal or short training abstract [HERE](#). For questions about NTFAQ, please contact Andy Bessler at Andy.Bessler@nau.edu, or Mehرداد Khatibi at [Mehرداد.Khatibi@nau.edu](mailto:Mehrdad.Khatibi@nau.edu). We look forward to hearing from you!

Darlene Santos
Administrative Associate
Darlene.Santos@nau.edu

Melinda Ronca-Battista
Research Associate
Melinda.Ronca-Battista@nau.edu

Angelique Luedeker
Technology Specialist
Angelique.Luedeker@nau.edu

Mike King
Technology Specialist
Michael.King@nau.edu

Josephine Kamkoff
Community Program
Coordinator
Josephine.Kamkoff@nau.edu

[Environmental Education Outreach Program](#)

Mansel Nelson
Project Director
Mansel.Nelson@nau.edu

Josephine Kamkoff
Community Program
Coordinator
Josephine.Kamkoff@nau.edu

For more information:
[ITEP Training](#)

[Indoor Air Quality in Tribal
Communities](#)

[ITEP Climate Change
Program](#)

[National Tribal Air
Association](#)

[ITEP Videos & Media](#)

[EPA Tribal Air and Climate
Resources](#)

Call for Nominations: Virgil Masayesva Environmental Excellence Award and TAMS Steering Committee

The TAMS Center is requesting nominations for the *2020 Virgil Masayesva Tribal Air Programs Excellence Award* and membership for the TAMS Steering Committee. Please consider nominating tribal environmental program professionals whom you feel are doing great work for tribes for the Virgil Masayesva Award and/or TAMS Steering Committee membership.

[Nominations are accepted online](#) until February 26, 2021. The TAMS Steering Committee selects the recipient of the VM Award and the incoming TAMS Steering Committee members at the Spring TAMS Steering Committee Meeting. The VM Award is usually presented at the annual National Tribal Forum on Air Quality (NTFAQ). New TAMS SC Members will begin their terms at the Fall 2021 TAMS SC meeting.

For more information, visit www7.nau.edu/itep/main/tams/ or contact Christopher Lee, TAMS Co-Director, at Christopher.Lee@nau.edu.

Respond to the TAMS Technical Needs Assessment

The Tribal Air Monitoring Support (TAMS) Center developed an online Technical Needs Assessment form to identify the technical support requirements of tribal air quality programs nationwide. The goal of this Needs Assessment is to aid in the development of services that better meet tribal air program goals and objectives. The form asks for specific information related to both ambient air quality and indoor air quality concerns that affect Tribes. Input obtained through this online questionnaire will help identify focus areas and support needs so that future technical training and support can be tailored to Tribes.

The link to the online form is: <http://www7.nau.edu/itep/main/tamsNA>. We appreciate your input and request your help in getting this shared widely so that we may receive feedback from as many Tribes as possible. Please respond by April 30, 2021.

If you have questions, feel free to contact either of the TAMS Co-Directors, Christopher Lee (Christopher.Lee@nau.edu, 702-784-8278) or Hayden Hardie (Hardie.Hayden@epa.gov, 702-784-8232).

Student Internships for Summer 2021

With growing concern for the health of our landscapes and integrity of our cultural resources, we look to our college students as the future staff to fill positions at Tribes, the Environmental Protection Agency, and other organizations. Professional development opportunities, such as internship programs, are valuable to the growth of our future leaders. ITEP offers such opportunities through the Environmental Education Outreach Program (EEOP) summer internship program. The EEOP Internship program has supported more than 300 internships over the past 26 years.

One Summer 2020 intern was Josette Vigil. She continued her internship into the school year and accepted a student position as a lead instructor with the Environmental Education and Outreach Program.

Josette shares her summer internship experience in her own words:

“Hi! My name is Josette Vigil, a mechanical engineering student at Northern Arizona University. My interest in tribal work was sparked by my Ute Mountain Ute heritage, and my professional interest lies with sustainable agricultural design. As an ITEP intern working with the Nez Perce host site, I learned so much about professionalism, remote outreach, and collaboration. I developed my professional communication skills through interagency, and even international meetings regarding air quality, education, sensor networks, and equipment. While I am very passionate about tribal work and environmental issues, I was concerned about the literal application of my work to my personal career goals. However, these doubts were quickly lifted. Not only is any professional experience for a student valuable, but I gained hands-on experience with crucial professional skills that are valuable in any discipline. Practicing community outreach, writing, and effective communication on projects are just a few examples of what this internship entailed.

My mentors and superiors were all extremely positive and helpful. Their support and model of professionalism strongly encouraged me to pursue my passion of tribal environmental work. Also, they helped make this a very enjoyable summer. I loved working on outreach projects and getting hands-on experience with an air sensor. My favorite part of the internship was learning about the Nez Perce Tribe, or Nimiipuu, ways of life. Getting to know more about the Nez Perce Tribe was a really enlightening experience for me, since most of my previous tribal exposure has been in the Southwest. I got to learn about different cultural practices and traditions, and even a little bit of language! I would highly recommend this experience to anyone looking to get involved with tribal environmental work. Gaining new insight into the professional world and exposure to the issues facing different regions has inspired and motivated me to persist in my educational and professional efforts, and through this position I was able to spark connections for future research and work.”

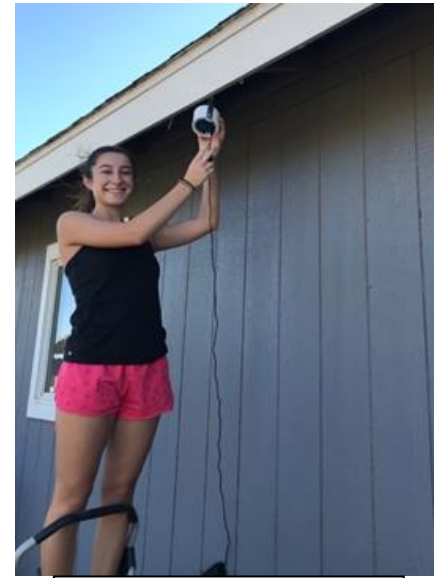


Image: Josette Vigil installing a Purple Air Monitor

If you know a college student that might be interested in a summer internship, please contact our Internship Coordinator, Josie Kamkoff at eeop-intern@nau.edu. **The deadline for student internship applications is February 26, 2021.**

Eligible students must meet the following:

- Be a full-time Native American student with satisfactory academic standing.
- Major in an environmental or a related field.
- Possess proficient verbal and written communication skills.
- Have a strong interest in working with Native American tribes or projects benefiting Native American tribes.

More information about the ITEP-EEOP Summer Internship program can be found at nau.edu/itepinterns.

Upcoming Events

Webinar: Estimating Non-Point Source Emissions -- February 16, 2021

9 am (Alaska), 10 am (Pacific), 11 am (Mountain), 12 pm (Central), 1 pm (Eastern)

This webinar will present potential methods to estimate emissions for common nonpoint sources located on Tribal Lands. We will discuss in detail what data needs to be collected to use these methods, and how to enter the data into calculators and spreadsheets. The primary focus of this webinar is on estimating emissions using original data gathering, rather than summarizing emissions data already calculated at the county level in the National Emissions Inventory (NEI) database.

Register: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2752778405357615884>

If you have questions, contact: Christal.Black@nau.edu.

In case you missed it...

[Webinars hosted by the Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals:](#)

- September 23, 2020: ITEP Research Education on Air and Cardiovascular Health (REACH)
- September 29, 2020: Planning an Air Quality Project
- October 13, 2020: Emission Inventories, Your Questions Answered
- October 26th to November 20, 2020: Reviewing Air Quality Permits
- November 11, 2020: Road Dust Webinar #4: Sharing Community Experiences (Part 2)
- November 12, 2020: Introduction to Air Monitoring and Remote Professional Assistance

Let us know what you think!

[Submit your comments or suggestions about the Native Voices Newsletter.](#)

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