



## *Welcome to the Full Circle Newsletter*

### **Now Accepting Applications to Serve on the Tribal Waste & Response Steering Committee**

Are you interested in joining one of the greatest groups of superheroes around? Well, we are now accepting applications from people interested in serving on the TWAR SC. The members all work on the front lines for Tribal Nations and Native Villages, and have deep expertise in Superfund, emergency management, USTs, solid waste, and brownfields. They not only work closely with us here at ITEP (helping us plan the annual TLEF – see below), but they also communicate Tribal professional’s concerns and perspectives throughout the year in many meetings with US EPA, as well as through their Priorities Document.

You can [visit their website](#), and click on their “Join Us” page. A downloadable application is there, along with a video from a couple of the members, explaining why they serve. It is a lot of responsibility, and it can also be a lot of work. But this group is also the most caring and dedicated people I’ve worked with. They have made the TWAR SC not only an incredibly effective tool for Tribal professionals – they also created a real family. If you’d like to be considered for one of the positions open this year, be sure to visit their site and fill out your application before the May 31 deadline.

### **Tribal Research Permits: Important Tools to Have in Your Toolbox**

By Rebecca Stevens, TWAR SC Chair and Restoration Coordinator for the Coeur d’Alene Tribe

Research is the pursuit of knowledge, and is a sacred undertaking. Thus, it is the Coeur d’Alene Tribe’s expectation that research conducted within our homeland is done so with **respect** for all members of our community, including people, plants, animals, water and land; that it is done with **reciprocity**, understanding its benefits to both the researcher and our community; that the researcher does so through **relationship** in our community that embraces and upholds the five pillars; and that the researcher carries the **responsibility** of ensuring that his or her research is conducted in an ethical way that benefits the Coeur d’Alene people.

For researchers conducting research on the Coeur d’Alene Reservation, it is essential to understand the beliefs and vision of the Coeur d’Alene Tribal

#### Meet Our Team

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Community. Since time immemorial, the Coeur d'Alene Tribe has been guided by its core values, articulated today in the Tribe's Five Pillars:

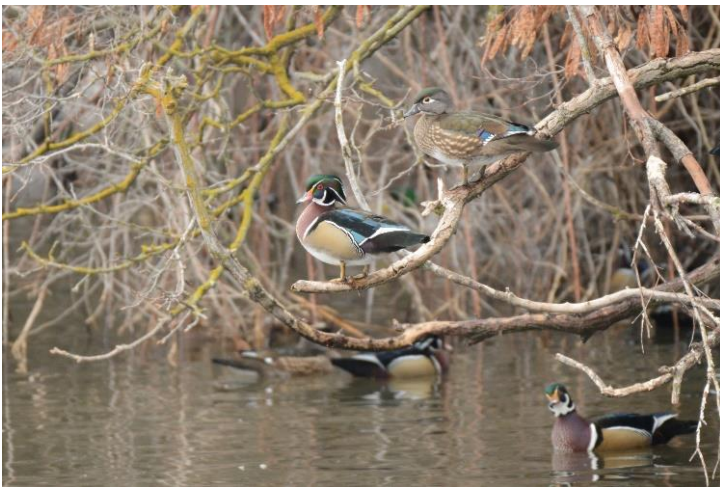
- *t'u'lschint*: (Membership:) Capable, decent, moral, 'a good person', a good citizen in your family, tribal, local and world community. A responsible, accountable and informed citizen in all spheres of relationship. *t'u'lschint* can be translated as, 'capable, decent, moral, a good person.'
- *snmiypngwiln* (Scholarship): Life-long, holistic learning with ideas rooted in tribal values, self-determination, self-government and sovereignty that produces deep knowledge to understand the world and meaningful application within the community.
- *'ats' qhnt' wesh* (Stewardship): To care for all things with integrity, responsibility, accountability and social awareness in all spheres of life, human, animals, natural resources, and the cosmos, looking at each other from the heart.
- *hngwa' yqn; hnshat' qn* (Guardianship): To protect our tribal ways of knowing and being through the protection, care and responsibility for our people, natural resources, culture, history, traditions, language and spirituality.
- *chsnpa'silgwesn* (Spirituality): Faith from which the Creator reveals the connection between all lives. It unites the space between the past, present, and future through the peoples, environment, and land; and is rooted within the ceremonies from which the Tribe celebrates those connections.

In order for individuals, Tribal staff, federal, and state Trustees to collect data within the exterior boundaries of the Coeur d'Alene Reservation, they need to apply for and obtain a Tribal Research and Scientific Collection permit. This application is coordinated with Tribal staff and the applicant and once the details of the research (e.g., purpose, need, Quality Assurance Program Plans, and identification of the benefit the research will bring to the Tribe) are documented, the application is then submitted to the Tribe's Director of the Department of Education and Interdisciplinary Research Review Committee, which includes representatives of the Tribe's Natural Resources, Culture, Education, and Strategic Initiatives departments. The Committee then reviews the application, conducts follow up with the Tribal staff coordinating with the applicant for any clarifying questions, and in most cases, the application is approved by the Committee Chair.

A few things to note of importance to the Tribe: 1) communication and engagement occurs early, during, and often during the application process, 2) Tribal staff and/or biologists are on site during the data collection, and 3) the data/analysis pertaining to the research is provided to the Tribe prior to releasing the findings to the public. Collectively, this approach can benefit all involved, and ensure the positive results of the research are welcomed by the Tribal community.



*Federal, State, and Tribal biologists, working hand in hand on data collection*



*Native wood ducks, relaxing in the distance, as scientists conduct their work*

## **We Are Accepting Proposals for the 2024 TLEF**

We want you to share your stories, successes, and projects with all the attendees at this year's TLEF in Eugene, Oregon, August 12-15 and are now [accepting proposals](#). We'll be opening up registration soon (but for now we have information on registration fees so you can plan ahead). Be sure and visit [nau.edu/tlef2024](http://nau.edu/tlef2024) often as we add more updates. We look forward to seeing you in Eugene!

## **Yes Virginia, There Really Is Another Tribal UST Boot Camp!**

Sorry for the silly allusion to a classic Christmas moment, while we are all eagerly awaiting the arrival of Spring. But Vickie Flowers and Mike Arce of Oneida Nation are once again offering their outstanding training, the Tribal UST Boot Camp. This training has been of amazing help to Tribal staff across the country over the years. Gas stations can be a significant hub for Tribal communities, and often they are absolutely critical infrastructure when disasters

hit. And they can be found in many tracts of land Nations and Villages are trying to remediate. This course is one of the best when it comes to helping you assess, inspect, and evaluate the many aspects of USTs. The deadline to apply for this in-person course in May 17, and I am attaching the course flyer to this issue of *Full Circle*. You can also access the [online application here](#).

## Happy International Women's Day!

Many, many, years back, when I was admin staff at Indiana University, I was very involved in the labor movement. I helped organize a union for admin and tech staff, and was appointed to be our Local's newsletter editor. I always looked forward to the International Women's Day edition, as I wrote special stories highlighting the amazing women from history who fought for workers' rights, as well as the incredible women leaders fighting for justice now.

I consider myself fortunate in the fact that most of my mentors, and closest friends, are women. I find myself thankful every day for their leadership and dedication, and their example. But as today is International Women's Day, and it marks two important milestones for me, I want to take a moment in this edition of *Full Circle* to express a few special thank you's.

This year marks one year since Amanda Kapp joined our team here at ITEP, and ten years since Julie Meikowski came aboard as well. (And yes, you read that right! Julie Jurkowski is now Julie Meikowski.) Both of these wonderful humans have made my life a heck of a lot better. They are a constant inspiration to me, and I can't imagine doing my job without either one of them. Thank you both, for all you do and for who you are.



I also want to call out some exceptional leaders and warriors I have the honor to work with pretty much daily, who serve on the TWAR SC: Joy Britt (Chignik Bay Tribal Council), Kori Eileen (Yurok Tribe), Vickie Flowers (Oneida Nation), Tracy Horst (Choctaw Nation), Summer King (Quapaw Nation), and Rebecca Stevens (Coeur d'Alene Tribe). Thank you for all you've taught me, and for all you do for Native Nations across the country.

I've also been incredibly fortunate to work closely with some truly terrific women leaders in EPA, who have been my project officers over the years – which trust me, is not an easy job. Thank you, Felicia Wright, Janice Sims, Jessica Snyder, and Erika Wilson, for being such inspiring partners, and for letting me do a job that fills my heart.

And finally a heartfelt thank you to all the other women warriors I've grown to know over the years, who dedicate themselves to fighting for justice, fairness, and a healthier world for all our relations. Happy International Women's Day to you all. The world is a better place thanks to you.

## Events, Webinars and, Opportunities

We've been talking with quite a few of our Tribal colleagues about concerns regarding railroad emergency response. While going down a rabbit hole recently, I found myself spending a lot of time on the TRANSCAER website, an outfit that provides free training to first responders of transportation accidents. I highly recommend checking out their [Seconds Count series of short educational videos](#) – which cover topics ranging from identifying different types of train cars in an emergency to dealing with lithium-ion batteries. You can also check out their more in-depth online training options as well as opportunities for in-person training.

The BIA is holding their Tribal Assistance Coordination Group Conference May 6 through 10, in Phoenix, Arizona. This **conference brings together Tribal and federal emergency response managers** and professionals, as well as nonprofit, state, and local staff involved in emergency management. There is no registration fee and you can find out more about it on their [conference website](#).

The **Solid Waste Association of North America** is holding a conference April 15-18 in Pheonix - [SOAR 2024](#) – which stands for Sustainability, Operations, Action, and Resources. There will be over 1,000 solid waste decision-makers, supervisors and managers, technicians, and operational staff attending, and the conference covers collection and transfer of waste, planning and management, landfill operations and landfill gas management, safety, and more. Check out the [SOAR Conference Program](#) for yourself.