



Native Voices



NAU NORTHERN ARIZONA UNIVERSITY

Office of Native American Initiatives

One Tribe, One Earth

December 2020

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Welcome to the Native Voices newsletter!

The December 2020 issue features information provided by the Tribal Air Monitoring Support (TAMS) Center and references other upcoming events. Thank you, readers, 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 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.

Remote Professional Assistance provided by the TAMS Center

Michael King, TAMS Center Technology Specialist III, continues to provide on-site Professional Assistance (PA) technical support, using mobile phone cameras and web-based video conferencing tools such as Zoom and GoToMeeting to support tribal air monitoring projects. On November 19, 2020, Mike presented a webinar, "[Introduction to Air Monitoring and Remote Professional Assistance](#)." This webinar provided information regarding criteria air pollutants, NAAQS, basic theory of operation of air monitors and TAMS remote Professional Assistance (PA). Nicklaus

[TAMS Center](#)

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For more information:

Shumake, Environmental Administrator for the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians (MBCI), highlighted their remote PA support project.

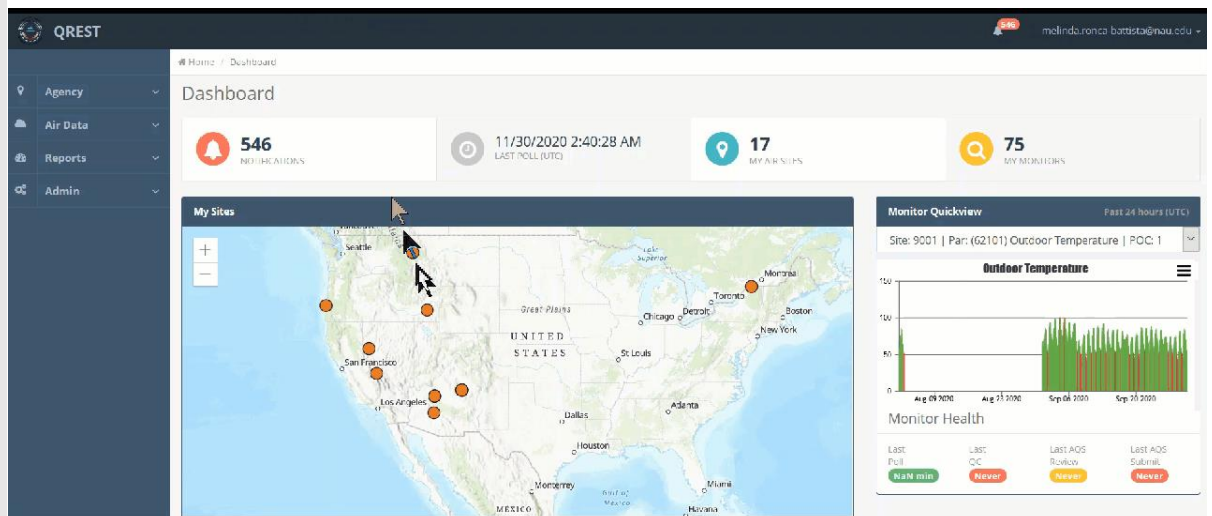


Image: A BAM 1022 Particulate Mass Monitor is located on the MBCI Middle School rooftop. Setup and operation assistance were provided using TAMS remote Professional Assistance. The monitor is on loan from the TAMS Center to the MBCI Office of Environmental Protection and is sited to meet EPA federal siting requirements for neighborhood scale air monitoring.

Michael King is available to provide technical assistance with installation, operation, and troubleshooting of air monitoring and meteorological equipment. Please contact Christopher Lee, TAMS-ITEP Co-Director, at Christopher.Lee@nau.edu or 702-784-8278 for further information on the TAMS Center professional assistance (PA) services.

Quality Review Exchange System for Tribes: Free, open-source, automated air quality data retrieval and AirNow/AQS Submission

In June 2020, the Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals (ITEP), in partnership with several tribes, launched the [Quality Review and Exchange System for Tribes \(QREST\)](#). QREST is a free, open source tool that automatically retrieves data from data loggers, stores it in the cloud for tribal data quality review, and includes an integrated Node Client for data submission to AirNow and AQS.



[ITEP Training](#)

[Indoor Air Quality in Tribal Communities](#)

[ITEP Climate Change Program](#)

[National Tribal Air Association](#)

[ITEP Videos & Media](#)

[Tribal Air and Climate](#)

QREST supports Tribal air monitoring programs through the following features:

- **Data Logger Integration:** Data logger integration, especially for older models, can be an opaque, undocumented world. QREST integrates with Sutron, Zeno, and Weather.com personal weather stations to automatically retrieve tribal air monitoring data.
- **Automated Data Calculation:** As n-minute data are streamed into QREST, hourly summaries are immediately calculated and stored, using calculation logic defined for a tribe's specific monitoring conditions.
- **Automated Data Validation & Alerting:** as data is streamed into QREST, validation checks are automatically performed. Designated tribal operators are notified of exceptions, via email and/or text message.
- **Multi-Phase Data Review:** Fulfill the independent quality assurance function by providing a two-phase data review prior to AQS submission, complete with recorded audit trail.
- **Quality Control:** Manage single-point QC, Annual Performance Evaluations, Flow Rate Verifications, Semi-Annual Flow Rate Audits (for particulate matter), and Zero/Span checks.
- **AQS Integration:** Send data to AQS via an integrated Node Client. QREST also retrieves AQS reference data and other relevant codes and limits when EPA makes changes.
- **AirNow Integration:** tribes can opt to automatically send data from QREST to EPA's AirNow program.
- **Public Data Sharing:** map-based website allowing tribes to share air data with the public, with options to download data reports.

To begin using QREST, or to obtain more information, please contact Melinda Ronca-Battista at Melinda.Ronca-Battista@nau.edu. Programmers are encouraged to browse or download the [QREST Source Code](#) to contribute to this active project.

Upcoming Events

Webinar Series: Woodstoves in Indian Country

December 15, 2020

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

Participants will increase their understanding of health impacts of wood smoke, cultural perspectives of woodburning, and woodstove operation & maintenance. Participants will also obtain ideas, publications, and resources for conducting outreach for operation and maintenance of woodstoves within their own tribal communities.

- *Webinar #1: December 1, 2020 – Recording coming soon!*

--Wood smoke health effects and impacts to Indian Country

--Cultural acknowledgement of fuel wood and fire

- *Webinar #2: December 7, 2020 – Recording coming soon!*

--Types of stoves, basic operation, safety, clearances, ventilation

--Navajo Hybrid stove operation, maintenance, and best burning practices

- *Webinar #3: December 15, 2020*

--Education and Outreach for Tribal Communities

--Risk reduction for COVID – role of wood smoke (Particulate Matter (PM))

Presenters:

- Tony J. Ward, Chair and Professor, School of Public and Community Health Science, University of Montana
- Perry H. Charley, Director & Senior Scientist, Environmental Outreach & Research Institute, Dine College
- Rick Vlahos, Executive Director, Hearth, Patio & Barbecue Education Foundation, & National Fireplace Institute
- Roy Hosteen, Four Corners Project Coordinator, Red Feather Development Group

- Johna Boulafentis, Environmental Outreach Specialist, Nez Perce Tribe
Register: <https://attendeegotowebinar.com/register/8794439766882257677>

2020 Alaska Tribal Conference on Environmental Management (online)

December 14-18, 2020

[More information and registration](#)

Indoor Air Quality Instructor-Led Online Course for Alaska

January 11 - March 12, 2021 (eight-week cohort class with 40-50 hours of content)

Space is limited (max of 20 participants), please apply ASAP

Application Date: December 30, 2020

Apply Now: <https://forms.gle/LZmxPUBGjgujRFpx8>

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

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