

## Presenter Bios

Mansel A. Nelson  
Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals  
Northern Arizona University



For the past twenty-two (22) years Mansel A. Nelson has served with the Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals (ITEP) at Northern Arizona University. He is the Project Director for the Environmental Education Outreach Program (EEOP) and for the Indoor Air Quality in Tribal Communities (IAQTC). Prior to his service with Northern Arizona University, Mansel served in the US Army Chemical Corps for 14 years and taught chemistry on the Navajo Nation for 6 years. Mansel's formal education includes a BS in chemistry and a MS in Chemical Engineering. Through the EEOP Mansel helps youth understand how to apply science and engineering to local environmental issues and conducts internship programs. Through the IAQTC Mansel helps tribal staff develop healthy homes and healthy schools programs.

Santina Gay  
US Environmental Protection Agency



Santina has over two decades of experience working for US Environmental Protection Agency as an Alaska Tribal Coordinator, she has had the privilege of taking part in the evolution and impact that the IGAP program has had on Alaskan communities over time. She has developed and delivered technical training, facilitated consults with Tribal governments in Alaska, and served as a creative springboard for community improvement projects of all shapes and sizes around the state. She is given the confidence of EPA to assist Tribes with day-to-day activities and solutions related to environmental program development. This work has been a practical, but key aspect of advancing the trust relationship. Youth involvement has been a big component of many successful international projects so far, and she has enjoyed taking part in collaborative efforts between ACAP and the Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF) Working Group. Santina attended Arizona State University for her undergraduate education and Northern Arizona University for graduate school.

Ryan Eberle  
Gila River Indian Community



Ryan Eberle is the Air Quality Program Manager for the Gila River Indian Community. After graduating from NAU with a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Engineering, he worked as an engineering consultant for 15 years assisting both the public and private sector clients with air quality permit processing, compliance assurance, and ambient air monitoring. In 2014, as a father of four young children, his passion for rules, fairness, and collaboration helped prepare him to boldly go where no Tribe has gone before.

Larry Carmichael  
Ugashik Village



Life-long Alaskan, currently teaching karate for 33 years Married for 29 years to my lovely wife Laura. Worked in Industrial Gas company for 28 years. Past Certification in welding. Certified in electrical welder repair and O2-Act. Torch repair. Salesman, Manager and Supervisor of commercial store. Experience in Hazard materials and Environmental safety have been focused on commercial transportation, and public safety. I have a get it done perspective.

Stephen Payton  
Seldovia Village Tribe



Stephen Payton- Born and raised in Seldovia, Alaska. Recently received position of Environmental Assistant with the Seldovia Village Tribe (SVT). Shortly after high school I started a career in fisheries, working at several locations for Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association. Began working for SVT in 2014 and have worked on a broad list of projects focused on the health of our community, environment and natural resources.

Michael Opheim  
Seldovia Village Tribe



Michael Opheim, son of Norman and Nancy Opheim (Kodiak) is of Aleut descent, and currently resides in Seldovia, Alaska. As an active community member for almost 40 years, Michael grew up harvesting from the land and sea with family members. He spent many long summer days fishing for pinks on the Seldovia Outside Beach, gathering bidarkis, clams, mussels, china caps, octopus and kelp from the sea. Harvesting berries, other edible plants, and hunting local game off the land in early fall. As most young Alaska men, he spent nine years as a commercial fisherman, and later earned the position of Environmental Coordinator for the Seldovia Village Tribe in 2003. As the Environmental Coordinator, Michael is responsible for the administration and management of the Indian General Assistance Program (IGAP) and other environmental projects. Under his leadership, the SVT Environmental Office has flourished bringing essential environmental projects to Seldovia that benefit the entire community. Michael finds his best days are those days that allow him time in the field doing what he loves best. As the Environmental Coordinator, he has been able to travel throughout the state, which allows him the opportunity to establish many contacts and friends throughout our tribal communities. Michael believes that we are stewards of our natural resources, and works to ensure those resources are available for the coming generations.