



U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
and
American Indian Higher Education
Consortium (AIHEC)
Webinar for Tribal College and University
Students

April 25, 2023
2:00-3:30 pm (ET)

Overview of Today's Presentation

- **Logistics and Welcome:** Angela Hackel, Senior Advisor, EPA's Office of International and Tribal Affairs
- **Welcoming Remarks:** Rafael DeLeon, Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator EPA's Office of International and Tribal Affairs
- **Presentations:**
 - JoAnn Brant and Elaine Robles, OMS
 - Luke Jones, AIEO, OITA
 - Danny Gogal, OEJECR
 - Nikki Bass, ORD
 - Anna-Marie Romero, Region 7
- **Questions:** Facilitated by:
 - Kimberly Varilek, Tribal Affairs Branch Director, Region 8
- **Closing:** Angela Hackel, OITA

Logistics/Welcome

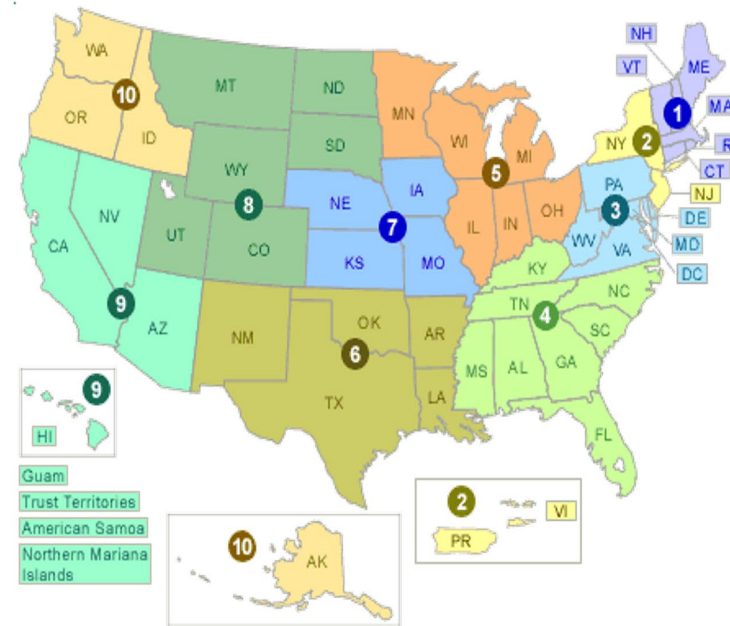
Angela Hackel, Senior Advisor, EPA's Office of International and Tribal Affairs (OITA)

- Logistics
 - To ensure our speakers are the focus of today's presentation, all videos are currently turned off and microphones are muted.
 - We will enable the video, microphone, and the chat features for the question-and-answer portion of this call.
 - To view closed captioning, please click on Live Transcript in the menu on the bottom of your screen and select Show Subtitle.
 - We will be sending around a link once the slides and webinar recording is posted to our website. Please put your email in the chat if you have not registered via zoom.

Map of EPA

- Region 1 – Boston
- Region 2 – New York City
- Region 3 – Philadelphia
- Region 4 – Atlanta
- Region 5 – Chicago
- Region 6 – Dallas
- Region 7 – Kansas City
- Region 8 – Denver
- Region 9 – San Francisco
- Region 10 – Seattle

Workforce and Locations



15,000+ Employees
Over half our employees are engineers, scientists, or environmental protection specialists. The agency also relies on legal, public affairs, financial, and computer specialists.



Nationwide
Our largest office is in Washington, D.C. with approximately 4,500 employees. Additional offices are located across 10 regions, spanning the United States and territories. Wherever you are, there's an opportunity near you!

Welcoming Remarks

- Rafael DeLeon, Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator, EPA's Office of International and Tribal Affairs

Office of Mission Support (OMS)

- JoAnn Brant and Elaine Robles, OMS

Outreach to Tribal Colleges and Universities

AIHEC MOU signed
by EPA Administrator
on
November 23, 2022

Support Efforts to
recruit an AIAN
workforce

Career Pathways
involving TCU's

EPA staff may
participate in career
fairs and outreach to
AIHEC





Handshake Platform

What?

- The largest online recruiting platform available to students and alumni.
- Handshake partners with over 1,400 colleges/universities and 750K employers, including EPA.

Why?

- It's Free! There isn't a cost to students interested in creating their profile on the platform.
- Allows you to present a full picture of your background and experience to employers as well as view opportunities and events that are open to you.

How?

- Sign up for an account and create your profile.
- Engage with EPA and other employers.
- Apply for opportunities and attend events!

American Indian Environmental Office (AIEO)

- Luke Jones, Senior Program Analyst, AIEO

American Indian Environmental Office

- Luke's personal story – sobriety, pan-tribal community
- Rutgers University, BA Political Science (1991)
- Indiana University, MPA (1996)
- Serving the people through public service
- Honoring the promises made to my ancestors, and working for the next 7 generations



Office of Environmental Justice and External Civil Rights

- Danny Gogal, Senior Environmental Protection Specialist
Tribal and Indigenous Peoples Program Manager
- International Human Rights Agreements - EPA Staff Lead
- Interagency Interfaith Collaboration for Vulnerable Communities
Coordinator

Office of Environmental Justice and External Civil Rights (OEJECR)

- Danny's personal story – why work at EPA?
 - From interning, to volunteering, to EPA
- Advancing Environmental Justice Principles of Meaningful Involvement & Fair Treatment
- Implement EO 12898 & new EJ EO (April 21, 2023)
- Implement the “EPA Policy on Environmental Justice for Working with Federally Recognized Tribes and Indigenous Peoples”
 - EJ Webinar Series for Tribes and Indigenous Peoples (since November 2020)
- Administering the EJ Financial and Technical Resources provided through the Inflation Reduction Act and Annual Appropriations

EJ Financial and Technical Resources provided through the Inflation Reduction Act and Annual Appropriations

- Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Centers (TC TACs)
 - 17 centers funded by EPA, 3 nationally and at least one per ten EPA Regions
 - National Indian Health Board is to serve as a national center and focus on providing assistance to tribal governments and indigenous peoples
 - Likely to be up and running within the summer of 2023
- EJ Grantmakers Program
 - EPA planning to fund 3rd parties to develop and manage EJ grants programs to provide smaller grants to vulnerable communities working to address their environmental and human health issues
 - Likely to be up and running by fall 2023
- EJ Change Grants
 - EPA is planning to develop a large grants program to implement well planned, partnership established, and implementation ready projects
 - Likely to initiate the program in the summer of 2023

Office of Research and Development (ORD)

- Nikki Bass, Office of Science Advisor, Policy, and Engagement (OSAPE), Associate Director, Science Policy Division (SPD)



Nikki Bass

- Bachelor's in Chemistry & Physics
- Master's in Environmental Science & Policy
- 15+ years of experience in chemical prioritization, risk assessment, and science policy development for Federal regulatory programs

Office of Research and Development

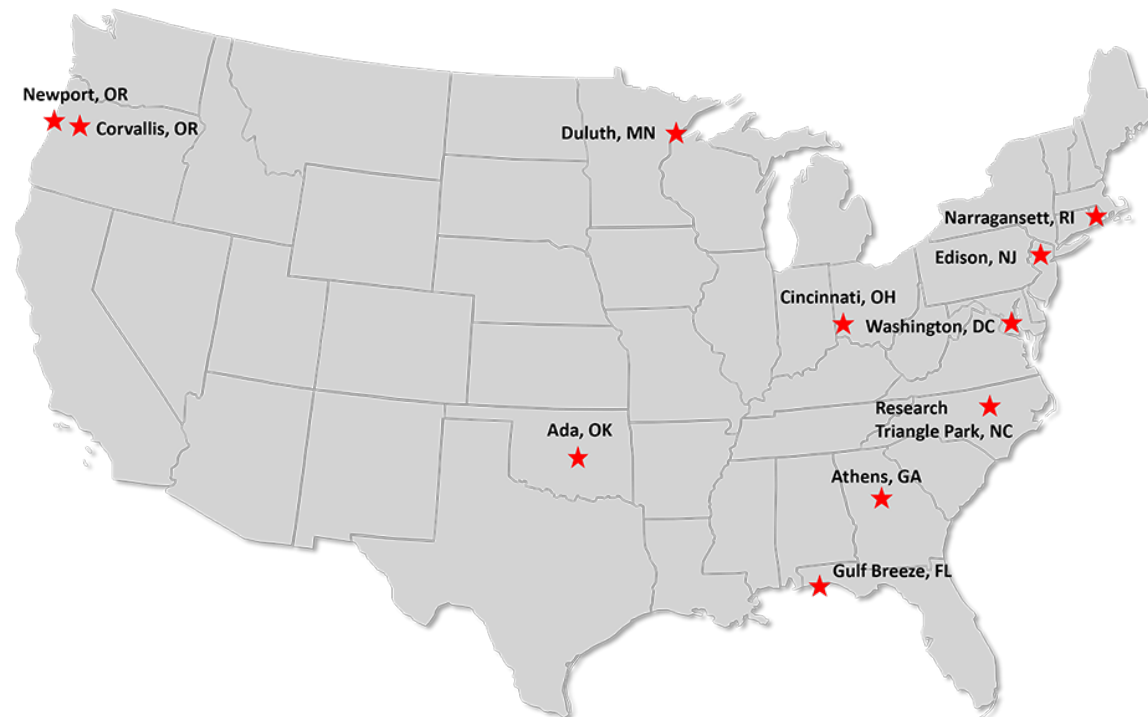
The Office of Research and Development (ORD) is the scientific research arm of EPA. Its leading-edge research informs Agency decisions and supports the emerging needs of EPA stakeholders, including the Agency's state, tribal, and community partners.

Offices

[Office of Resource Management \(ORM\)](#)

[Office of Science and Information Management \(OSIM\)](#)

[Office of Science Advisor, Policy, and Engagement \(OSAPE\)](#)



Research Centers

[Center for Computational Toxicology and Exposure \(CCTE\)](#)

[Center for Environmental Measurement and Modeling \(CEMM\)](#)

[Center for Environmental Solutions and Emergency Response \(CESER\)](#)

[Center for Public Health and Environmental Assessment \(CPHEA\)](#)

Research Programs

[Air, Climate, and Energy](#)

[Chemical Safety for Sustainability](#)

[Health and Environmental Risk Assessment](#)

[Homeland Security](#)

[Safe and Sustainable Water Resources](#)

[Sustainable and Healthy Communities](#)

National EPA-Tribal Science Council

“...provides a forum for the interaction between Tribal and Agency representatives of mutual benefit and responsibility to work collaboratively on environmental science issues...*The Tribal Science Council is committed to the development of sound scientific and cultural approaches to meet the needs of tribes.*”

—TSC Organizational Overview Document

- **Supported by the Office of Research and Development (ORD)**
- Established in 2001 at National Tribal Caucus (NTC) request to provide scientific support in Indian country
- Forum for interaction between tribes and EPA to collaborate on key science issues
- Only Tribal partnership group with both EPA and tribal scientists and expertise
- Coordinates with National Tribal Caucus to integrate science priorities into EPA's annual planning and budget process



Anna-Marie Romero

Environmental Justice Tribal Indigenous Peoples
Advisor



Roles and Responsibilities

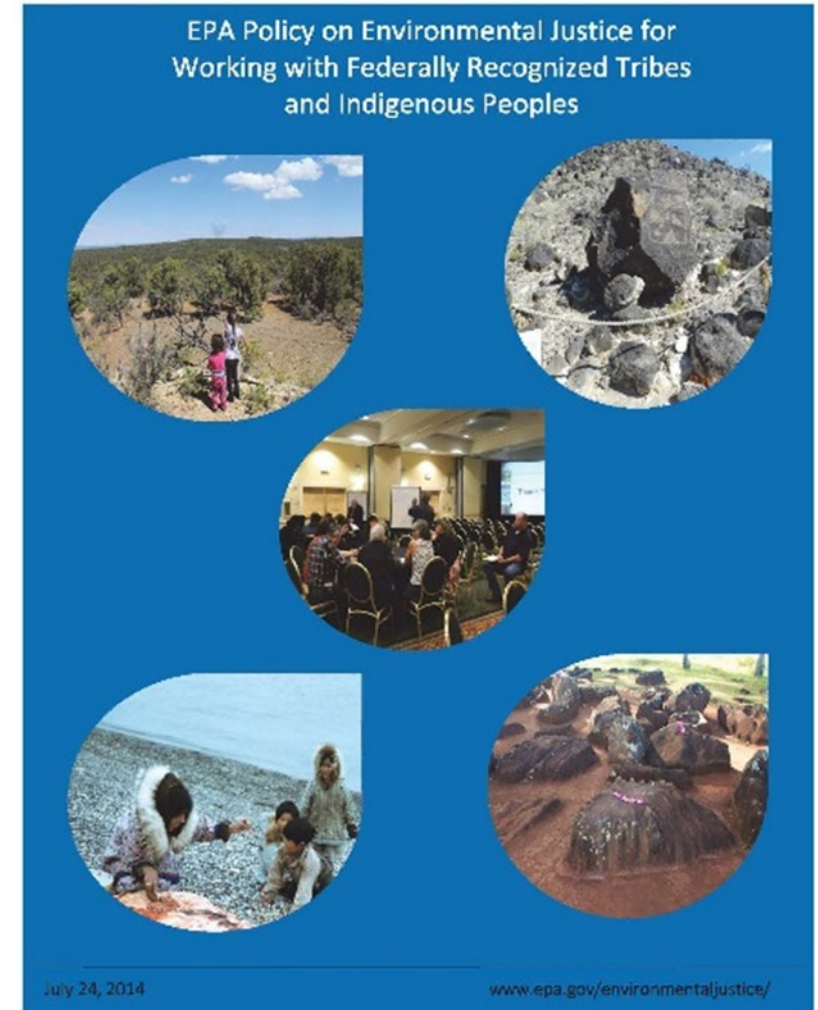
1. EJSCREEN Coordinator
2. Children's Environmental Health Coordinator
3. American Indian/Alaskan Native Program Manager

Background

1. Haskell Indian Nations University Grad
2. Master in Urban Planning from KU
3. EJ Program since 2017
4. Member of Little Traverse Bay Band of Odawa Indians

Environmental Justice Tribal Indigenous People Advisor

- Provide advice to the Regional Administrator on “priorities and plans for integrating environmental justice and for addressing environmental justice concerns and issues” of Tribal Governments and indigenous peoples, as it pertains to the principles of the Policy.
- Serve as liaison to facilitate effective implementation of the Policy, and coordinate with other EJ TIPAs and OEJ.
- Community Engagement Sessions



American Indian/Alaskan Native Special Emphasis Program Manager (AI/AN SEPM)

A formal network of employees based around a protected class that is charged with addressing barriers to equal opportunity and related workplace issues with the goal of enhancing the overall work environment. Activities include:

- Internal Outreach and Education
- EPA Region 7 and Haskell Indian Nations Liaison Pilot Program





Anna-Marie Romero

Little Traverse Bay Band Of Odawa Indians
Haskell Grad 2012-BS Business Administration

Open Office Hours with EPA Staff

Visit with Anna-Marie to
learn all about federal
employment and get
information on internships,
USAjobs, resumes, EPA
careers, and more!

In office
every Friday
Last Friday – May 5

We will be back!
**Starting August 2023! Look
for out for new schedule!**

Stidham Room 106
Office of Career Services
8:00am-4:30pm

Walk in or email for appt.
romero.anna-marie@epa.gov



U.S. Environmental Protection Agency



Questions?

Contact Information

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- JoAnn Brant
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202-564-0375
brant.joann@epa.gov
- Nikki Bass (ORD), Bass.Nikki@epa.gov