

2019

ANNUAL

REPORT



**American
Indian Policy
Institute**

**Arizona State
University**



DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Chukma!

Thank you for taking the time to read through our 2019 annual report. We hope this reflection on our work in the past year reveals a glimpse of the passion we have for serving Indian Country.

This year, we became a part of the Watts College of Public Service and Community Solutions, where we have been welcomed and feel at home. In the past 12 months, we published over 100 updates in our policy-tracking system. We celebrated our tenth year of the TFMC, which has impacted over 1,100 tribal financial professionals. We strengthened our partnerships and bolstered our external networks, while increasing awareness of the need for broadband access on tribal lands through use-inspired research. And we have been preparing for the future, laying the groundwork to dig into the topics of MMIW data research and indigenous agriculture.

Our mission is, "The American Indian Policy Institute is a leader in tribally-led, informed policy-making." The key phrase there is, "tribally-led." By that, we mean tribes' priorities are our priorities. We work directly with tribes to align our goals with the focus areas that matter to them. Some of those priorities include policy tracking, technology, broadband access, financial expertise, water, agriculture, and MMIW. Read on to learn how we are addressing these issues.

We are grateful to all of our partners and supporters and acknowledge the work of our colleagues with whom we labor alongside to ensure a prosperous future for tribes everywhere. I am particularly grateful for the terrific staff we have that support our mission of service, without them none of this is possible.

Chokma'shki,

Traci Morris

DIRECTOR, AIPI



Top: Traci Morris. Bottom (AIPI staff, L-R): Mikhail Sundust, Brian Howard, Traci Morris, and Pamela Lane.

A NEW HOME

At AIPI, we have long been focused on improving public service and working toward community solutions in collaboration with tribal nations. That is why it only made sense that we would choose to move to the Watts College of Public Service and Community Solutions in 2019. We have been welcomed in with open arms into our new home.

The Watts College and AIPI hosted a welcoming celebration at the Heard Museum of the American Indian on Thursday, September 26, 2019. It featured a stellar panel of experts from Indian Country and AIPI Advisory Board Members, including Geoff Blackwell of Amerind Risk, Patti Hibbeler of the Phoenix Indian Center, Matthew Rantanen of Southern California Tribal Chairman's Association, and VaRene Martin of the Native American Finance Officers Association. The panel was moderated by esteemed journalist Mark Trahant, who recently joined the Cronkite School of Journalism in a move that also brought Indian Country Today to ASU.

ASU **Watts College**
of Public Service and Community Solutions
Arizona State University

AIPI's board president Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis (Gila River Indian Community) delivered the keynote address. He praised the Watts College for making Native American issues a priority in its public service mission. He said AIPI's move to the Watts College is a game-changer and sees AIPI as developing the next generation of policy leaders in Indian Country.

Director Traci Morris said, "I believe we have an excellent opportunity to combine our expertise in tribal policy and the resources of the amazing Watts College to make a positive impact in the communities we seek to serve."

Watts College Dean Jonathan Koppell said he believes the foundational values of the Watts College align with the mission and values of AIPI. "We're going to do fantastic work together," he said.

AIPI is proud to join the Watts College of Public Service and Community Solutions, where we believe we will have a greater opportunity to have a positive impact on Tribal communities. The Watts College is a place where AIPI can #BeTheSolution.



Image on left: Mark Trahant (Editor, Indian Country Today) hosts a panel with AIPI board members at the AIPI welcome event. Image on right (L-R): (Back) Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis, Dean Jonathan Koppell, Matthew Rantanen, Jacob Moore, (Front) Patti Hibbeler, Traci Morris, and Geoffery Blackwell.

PRODUCTION REPORT

POLICY UPDATE

Every month, we publish a policy update, wherein we track the activities of the State of Arizona Legislature, bills introduced and considered by both houses of Congress, and federal regulations and other actions that tribes should be aware of. This is a count of the policies we have recorded in the past year.



SIGNIFICANT ACTIONS

- April 16, 2019** President Donald Trump signs H.R. 2030 — Colorado River Drought Contingency Plan Authorization Act
- May 14, 2019** Arizona Gov. Doug Ducey signs HB2570 — An Act: Establishing A Study Committee on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls
- December 2, 2019** Pres. Trump signs Executive Order 13898 — Establishing the Task Force on Missing and Murdered American Indians and Alaska Natives

NEW PUBLICATIONS



To view our publications, visit bit.ly/aipi-pubs

GRIC Water Management



Mikhail Sundust published an explainer in April 2019 that explores the cutting technology the Gila River Indian Community uses to improve its water management system. With an allocation of more than 300,000 acre-feet of Central Arizona Project water per year, GRIC has designed and constructed a highly sophisticated water management system that runs more than 138 miles.

Article in TribalNet Magazine

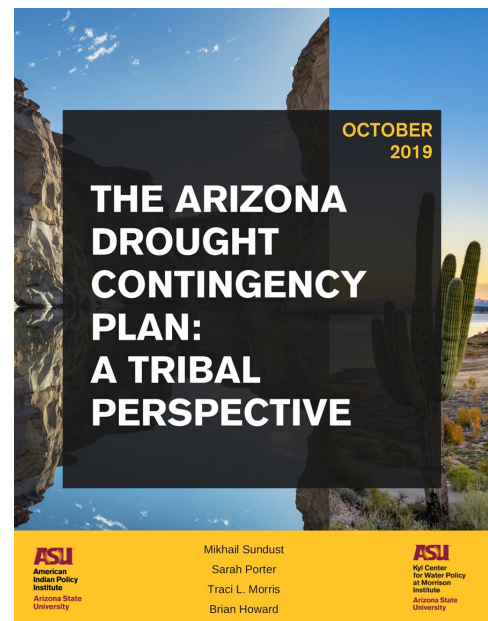
Brian Howard and Mikhail Sundust co-authored an article for TribalNet Magazine making the argument that tribes should not be left behind when it comes to broadband infrastructure development, especially if we are to close the digital divide separating rural tribal communities from municipal populations.

The Arizona DCP: A Tribal Perspective

In October, we published *The Arizona Drought Contingency Plan: A Tribal Perspective* in partnership with the Kyl Center for Water Policy. The policy article outlines Tribal inclusion in the negotiations that led to the Drought Contingency Plan. Historically, Native American tribes have not been included in important water discussions in Arizona, but that changed with the Drought Contingency Plan — a multi-state agreement designed to secure the future of water in the Southwest. The article provides an example of why Tribes are important partners in water policy.

Policy Update on the Music Modernization Act

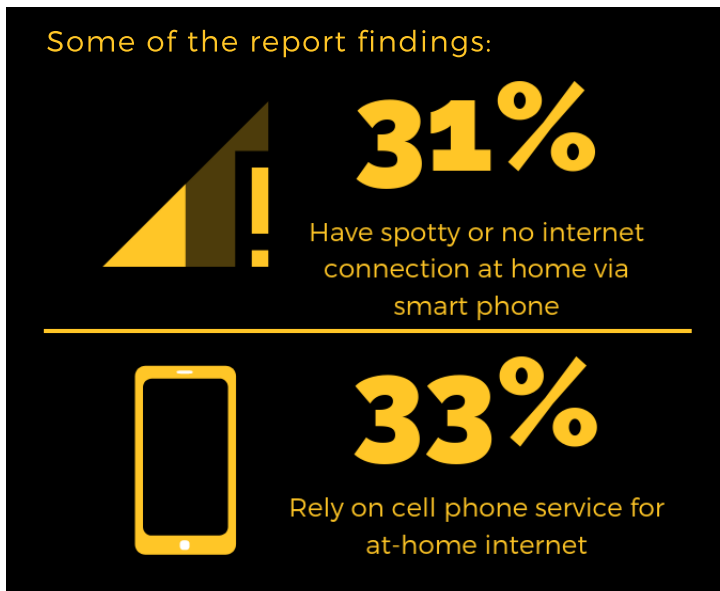
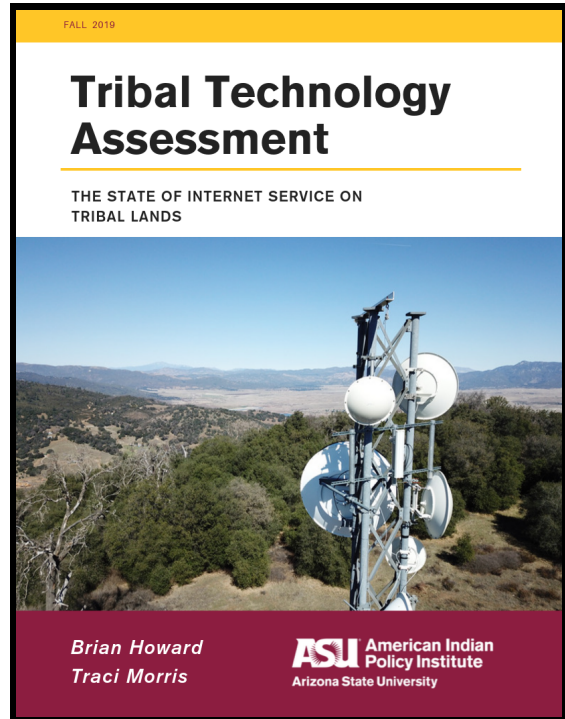
APII Affiliate Scholar Trevor Reed and Indian Legal Program professor published a policy brief on the impacts of the Music Modernization Act of 2018 on tribal interests. The law raised serious concerns regarding public access and use of collections of sound recordings made of Tribal ceremonies, songs, oral histories, and languages.



SPECTRUM SOVEREIGNTY



In September, we published the Tribal Technology Assessment: The State of Internet Service on Tribal Lands. The TTA is the product of years of surveying and analysis. It is the first academic and replicable quantitative study of broadband access, device use, and uses of the internet by tribal peoples on tribal lands. This study extends the limited understanding we currently have. The TTA has created a new baseline for future studies with the expectation of measuring and comparing data in coming years.



Visit api.asu.edu/research to download the TTA and fact sheet.

AIPI presented the TTA at the following opportunities:

September 25-26, 2019

TPRC 47: Research Conference on Communications, Information and Internet Policy, *Milwaukee, WI* hosted at the American University Washington College of Law *Washington, DC*

October 22, 2019

National Congress of American Indians 76th Annual Convention, Technology and Telecommunications Subcommittee *Albuquerque, NM*

October 10-12, 2019

American Indian Science and Engineering Society National Conference

October 8-10, 2019

Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries and Museums Annual Conference *Pechanga, CA*

November 12-13, 2019

Internet Society, Indigenous Connectivity Summit *Hilo, HI*

December 11-13, 2019

Google NextGen Policy Leaders Annual Summit *New York, NY*

Published in November, *Spectrum Airwaves: A Natural Resource Tribes Must Leverage* presented a history of spectrum management and allocations, a background on the proposals to increase tribal access to commercial spectrum licenses, and barriers to tribal participation in spectrum markets. This publication issued an urgent call for tribal access to broadband internet, concluding, "Tribal nation access to spectrum licenses is a critical component to bridging the digital divide in Indian Country."



SPECTRUM AIRWAVES



Spectrum is an important natural resource because it is finite and has economic and public use, purpose, and benefit. Airwave frequencies (spectrum) are used to wirelessly transmit digital television, radio, and voice and data communications (e.g. the internet). For these reasons, they should be viewed as a natural resource like such as water, timber, minerals, and precious metals. However, because they are invisible, it can be difficult to understand the importance of having access to spectrum licenses. We encourage all tribes to find their eligibility and apply for spectrum licenses.

Spectrum Sovereignty Workshop

We co-hosted the Spectrum Sovereignty Workshop on December 19, 2019 at the Cronkite School of Journalism. More than 50 individuals attended the workshop online and in person. Participants from dozens of tribes around the U.S. learned about the tribal priority window, how to check for eligibility, how to apply for licenses, and received background information on both the science and the regulatory history of the 2.5 GHz band, formerly known as Educational Broadband Services (EBS) Spectrum.



The Spectrum Sovereignty Workshop was hosted in partnership with Gila River Telecommunications, Inc. and the National Tribal Telecommunications Association.

The tribal priority window opens February 3 and runs through August 3, 2020.

Videos for two of the workshop presentations are available at <http://bit.ly/aipi-youtube>

10 YEARS OF THE TFMC

This year, we celebrated ten years of serving Indian Country with the Tribal Financial Managers Certificate program (TFMC). In that time, the program has trained over 1,000 tribal financial professionals. We are grateful to our partnerships with Native American Finance Officers Association and The Thunderbird School of Global Management.

2019 Statistics:

72 Tribes and Tribally-Owned Entities Served

95%

of participants
agreed that the
program met
its learning
objectives

112

TFMC
PARTICIPANTS
GRADUATED

98%

of participants
would recommend
the program to
others

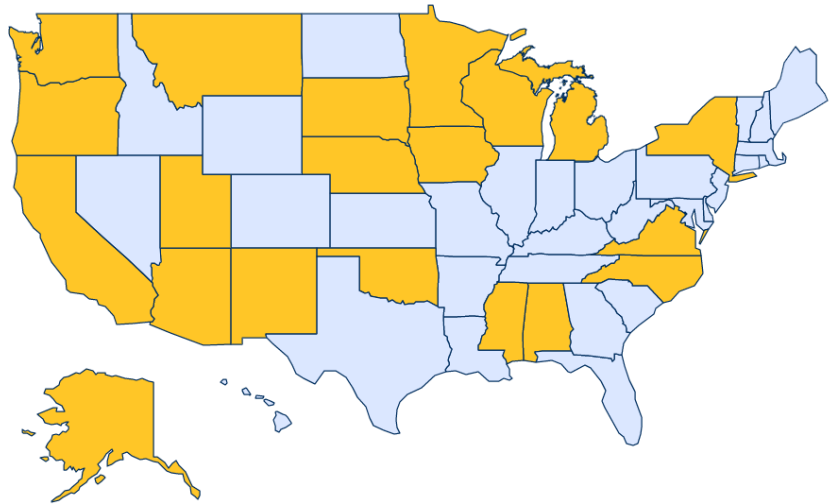
Tribal Financial Managers Certificate Program

June 11 – 13, 2019 | Tempe, AZ



AIPI truly has a national audience. In 2019, the TFMC reached 72 tribes or tribally-owned entities in

20 states and D.C.



The TFMC features expert instruction and interactive lessons for practical application.

Tribal Financial Managers Certificate Program

December 10 – 12, 2019 | Phoenix, AZ



OUR PARTNERSHIPS

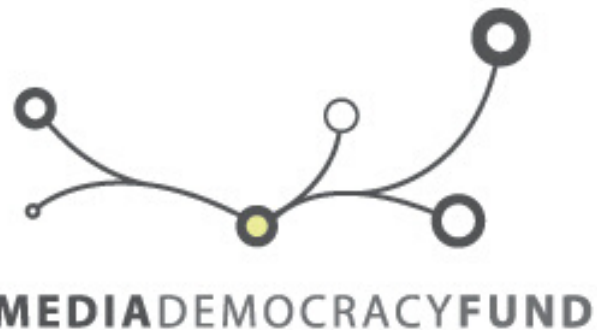
API is proud of the relationships we have built over a decade of service to Indian Country. Our partnerships enable us to remain embedded in community concerns and initiatives while allowing us to remain responsive to changes in tribal affairs and priorities. Our formal partnerships with the Native American Finance Officers Association and the Thunderbird School of Global Management have empowered us to have a significant positive impact on hundreds of tribes in the country via the TFMC.

In addition to our official partnerships, we have worked closely with a number of other organizations, including the Kyl Center for Water Policy, Valley Leadership, Gila River Telecommunications, Inc., the Federal Communications Commission, MuralNet, the National Tribal Telecommunications Association, the Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries, & Museums, American Indian Science and Engineering Society, and the National Congress of American Indians.



OUR FUTURE

In 2020, we are launching a new project called Data Clarity for MMIWG. This is an effort to better categorize and quantify data about missing and murdered indigenous women and girls by reconciling the various data collection methods from police, criminal justice departments, and similar agencies nationwide. The goal is to provide a clear picture of the state of MMIWG through the best data analysis possible. To achieve this goal, AIPI was funded by the Media Democracy Fund to hire a technologist to comb through the data and create a data visualization of the issues of data collections.



Partnering for Indigenous Agriculture

AIPI is excited to join forces with the Indigenous Food and Agriculture Initiative (IFAI) at the University of Arkansas. The IFAI is a leader in tribal agriculture policy research and advocacy. Our goal is to supplement the expertise they already possess with resources for deeper policy analysis and to broaden their reach with policy briefs, case studies, and trainings.





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