



American  
Indian Policy  
Institute

Arizona State  
University

# ANNUAL REPORT

## Year in Review

The American Indian Policy Institute (AIPI) is a national level think-tank that focuses on working directly with Tribal Nations in addressing the opportunities and challenges presented in Indian Country today. We work both with and in Indian Country, vetting our work through our partnerships with tribal organizations and enterprises (as mandated by Inter-Governmental Agreements), and through our very active advisory board of directors, whose board membership comprises national tribal leaders and ASU leadership.

AIPI's *policy* focus is substantively on technology, with an expertise in tribal telecommunications, public safety communications policy, and newly emerging systems as they impact sovereign Tribal nations. Towards that end, we publish a *monthly policy update* that goes out to more than 2500 recipients nationally. This publication includes ongoing analysis on bills that affect Indian Country as introduced and considered in the U.S. Congress and the Arizona State Legislature.

Concluding a directive from Tribal leadership to complete a baseline survey of broadband connectivity on tribal lands, AIPI implemented the *Tribal Technology Assessment: The State of Internet Service on Tribal Lands*, a tribally driven and participatory research study.

AIPI's *programmatic* offerings via our profit center are focused on economic development and governance and are revenue generating programs that include:

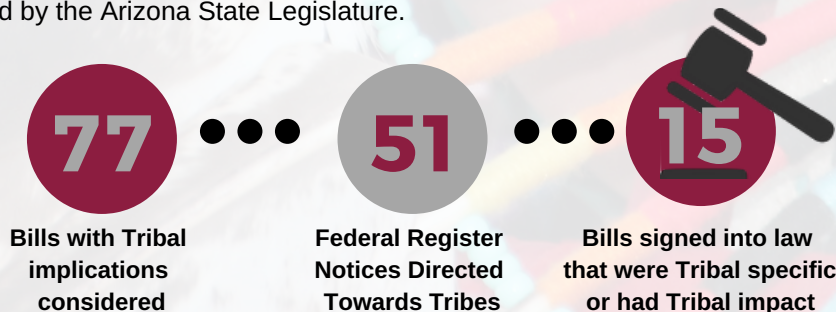
- The Tribal Economic Leadership (TEL) Program - an executive education and training program in partnership with the Native American Finance Officers Association (NAFOA)
- The Inno-NATIONS Initiative - the first urban tribal business incubator in the nation
- Consulting to Tribal Nations in the areas of economic development and policy impact.

Through our TEL program, in partnership with ASU's Thunderbird School of Global Management and NAFOA, we offer the *Tribal Financial Managers Certificate* (TFMC) training twice annually since 2010 and is continually growing in scope through our partners. In 2018, 116 Tribal finance professionals hailing from 22 states and representing 53 tribes participated in TFMC.

Also completed in 2018 was a project working with Gila River Indian Community in implementing an *Economic Development Analysis*. We conducted assessment of the tribe's current economic development organizational framework and made recommendations for future growth and management. The completed work was presented to Executive Leadership and Community Council members.

## Policy

In 2018, AIPI's monthly *Policy Update* covered 77 bills considered by Congress that had Tribal implications. AIPI's updates also notified subscribers of 51 Federal Register Notices that were directed towards Tribes. In 2018, there were 15 bills signed into law that were Tribal-specific or had a Tribal impact. One notable bill signed into law was H.R. 984, the "Tomasina E. Jordan Indian Tribes of Virginia Federal Recognition Act of 2017", which increased the federally-recognized Tribes' count from 567 to 573. During the first and second sessions of the 115th Congress (2017-2018), there were a total of 17 Tribal-specific or Tribal implied bills that were passed. AIPI also revised its policy update to coincide with ASU format standards and developed an internal "How To" guidance document for tracking federal legislation, administrative actions, and legislation considered by the Arizona State Legislature.



## Research

A final draft of the AIPI research paper, *Tribal Technology Assessment: The State of Internet Services on Tribal lands* was completed in September 2018. The report was shared with select AIPI Advisory Board Members with expertise in Tribal telecommunications issues and research to for initial review and feedback. AIPI also developed an infographic of the report's major findings and shared it with attendees at the NAFOA 2018 Fall Finance and Tribal Economies Conference in Tamaya, New Mexico, and the National Congress of American Indians 75th Annual Convention in Denver, Colorado. AIPI will be publishing the findings and policy recommendations of its *Tribal Technology Assessment Report* by mid-February 2019.

## Tribal Economic Leadership



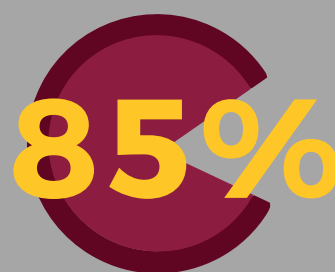
Tribal finance professionals participated



Participants came from twenty-two different states



Fifty-three tribes were represented



Sectors include:  
85% Tribal Government  
6% Non-Profit  
3% Federal/State/Local Gov't.  
2% Tribal Enterprise  
1% Private Sector

## Community Embeddedness

We have been extremely successful at leveraging and expanding our partnerships with other ASU schools programs, centers, and institutes and with external community organizations. Our partnerships have enabled us to expand our capacity on much needed work in areas beyond telecommunications and economic development to include, water, energy, health, and public policy.



American Indian Chamber of Commerce of Arizona



American Indian Science and Engineering Society



American Indian Studies Program at ASU



Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries & Museums



Center for Gender Equity in Science and Technology at ASU



Center for Science, Technology & Environmental Policy Studies at ASU



Department of Homeland Security SAFECOM Executive Committee



Entrepreneurship + Innovation at ASU



Gila River Indian Community



Google Next Gen Policy Leaders



Indian Legal Program at ASU



National Congress of American Indians



Native American Finance Officers Association



Office of American Indian Initiatives at ASU



Phoenix Indian Center



School of Sustainability at ASU



Thunderbird School of Global Management



Valley Leadership



Watts School of Public Affairs



Program Partnership:  
collaboration on program  
or signature event



Representation: service on  
leadership board and/or  
participation in activities



Institutional Partnership:  
support through ASU and/or  
community affiliation