
THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

NATIVE AMERICAN POLITICAL LEADERSHIP PROGRAM



www.naplp.gwu.edu

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The Native American Political Leadership Program (NAPLP) is an academic scholarship program designed specifically for Native Americans, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians. Funded by the AT&T Foundation and run concurrently with The George Washington University's Semester in Washington Politics program, NAPLP offers Native American college students from across the country the opportunity to study in Washington, DC, in order to learn how public policy decisions are made, how power is wielded, how government is run, and how democratic politics functions in a free society. The program involves rigorous coursework in applied politics, hands-on professional internships, development of relationships with mentors, and interaction with Washington's political and policy decision-makers and leaders in the Native American political community.

The objective of the program is to create a corps of trained, sophisticated, young Native American leaders with the

skills, outlook, and contacts necessary to generate and sustain change both in Washington and in their local communities. NAPLP alumni have returned to their communities knowing what it takes to win elections, form coalitions, pass legislation, and influence public opinion. They leave the program better informed about how politics works and how to influence political processes. It is our belief that these future leaders will become highly successful in implementing the government-to-government consultation that is an integral part of the developing relationship between their power structures and the U.S. federal and state governments.

Students accepted to participate receive scholarships that cover tuition and fees for core coursework, on-campus housing, the cost of books, transportation to and from Washington, DC, and a stipend for living expenses. Thus far, sixty students have completed the program. They have come from nineteen states and represent more than

thirty-five Native American and Alaska Native tribes and communities as well as Native Hawaiians.

Our alumni are working in advocacy groups such as the National Congress of American Indians and the National Indian Health Board, as staffers on Capitol Hill, and in law firms specializing in Native American issues. Several have gone on to graduate schools and law schools; two have completed graduate work at Harvard; one is enrolled at Yale; and a couple have run for state office.



NAPLP STUDENTS MEET WITH U.S. CONGRESSMAN TOM COLE (R-OK), MEMBER OF THE CHICKASAW NATION.

COURSEWORK

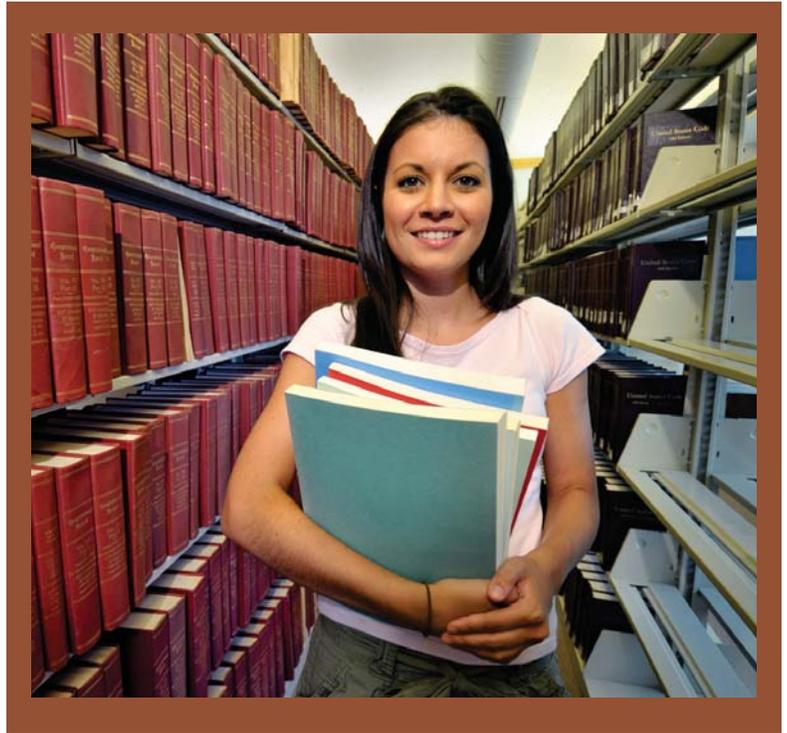
The program is built around two core courses for which students earn academic credit:

Electoral and Legislative Processes

This course explores how political decisions are made in the electoral and legislative arenas and how advocates can successfully influence those decisions as they seek to elect people to public office, move public opinion, or implement a legislative agenda.

Practicum in Political Management and Community Organizing

This course offers a “current events” focus in which students work with a practicum leader drawn from the national professional community as they develop strategic plans for organizing around key issues.



MENTORSHIPS

NAPLP offers each incoming student a mentor, here in Washington, who is not part of the teaching or administrative arms of the program. Drawn primarily from Native American professional circles (including the Native American Bar Association) and alumni of either Semester in Washington Politics or our sister program, the Graduate School of Political Management, these mentors serve as advisors and networking anchors for our students.



“The program opened many doors for me, I witnessed where Native representation is desperately needed and I began picturing different career opportunities that would allow me to serve my tribal community and other Native people.”

—Jessica Koski (Keweenaw Bay Indian, Michigan)

INTERNSHIPS

NAPLP students participate in a variety of internships. We have also made several other opportunities available to students who have the time and interest, including participating in the Annual Legislative Conference of the National Indian Education Association, the Native American Society Inaugural Ball, the Annual Meeting of the National Congress of American Indians, and the Annual State of Indian Nations Address.

Past internships include:

- **Ambassador Charles W. Blackwell, Chickasaw Nation**
- **American Foreign Policy Council**
- **Cherokee Nation Washington Office**
- **Hillary Clinton for President**
- **Meridian International Center**
- **Middle East Institute**
- **National Council of Urban Indian Health**
- **National American Indian Housing Council**
- **National Congress of American Indians**
- **Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement**
- **U.S. Environmental Protection Agency**
- **U.S. House Committee on Natural Resources**
- **U.S. Congressman Louie Gohmert (R-TX)**
- **U.S. Senator Lisa Murkowski (R-AK)**
- **U.S. Congressman Dan Boren (D-OK)**
- **National Indian Education Association**
- **U.S. Senator Patty Murray (D-WA)**
- **U.S. Senator Barack Obama (D-IL)**
- **U.S. Senator Robert Menendez (D-NJ)**
- **U.S. Senator Claire McCaskill (D-MO)**
- **U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA)**
- **U.S. Senator Herb Kohl (D-WI)**
- **U.S. Senator Bill Nelson (D-FL)**
- **U.S. Senator Joseph Lieberman (ID-CT)**
- **U.S. Senator Harry Reid (D-NV)**
- **U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow (D-MI)**
- **U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions**
- **U.S. Senate Committee on Indian Affairs**
- **U.S. Senator Tom Udall (D-NM)**
- **U.S. Senator Jon Tester (D-MT)**
- **U.S. Senator Jeff Merkley (D-OR)**
- **U.S. Senator Edward E. Kaufman (D-DE)**
- **U.S. Senator Christopher Dodd (D-CT)**



CHARLAYNE HOLLIDAY, CLASS OF 2008, WITH THEN-U.S. SENATOR BARACK OBAMA (D-IL).

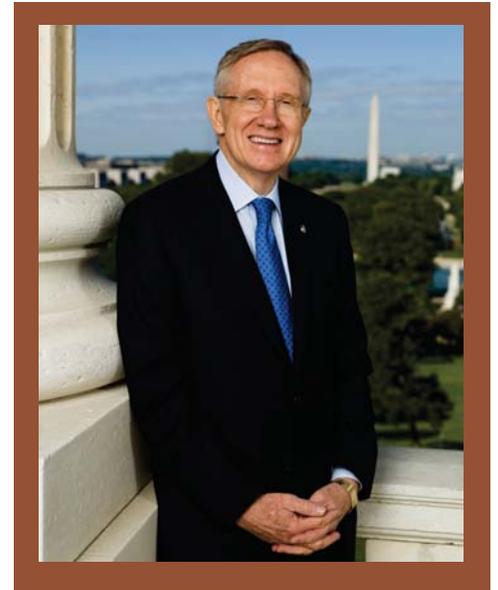
Joint Senate Internship Program

The Native American Political Leadership Program (NAPLP) at The George Washington University and the office of U.S. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) have developed a joint Senate internship program. Senator Reid's commitment to expanding educational opportunities and diversifying Senate staff is longstanding. His office reached out to NAPLP in the fall of 2007 to encourage young Native American leaders to consider careers in government, specifically on Capitol Hill.

Senator Reid's office has placed future Native leaders at internships in various offices and committees on Capitol Hill. As proof of the Senator's visionary leadership, many have begun the process of getting back in those offices full-time upon graduation, including one student who was hired to join Senator Reid's staff. The Native American Political Leadership Program is grateful for the support Senator Reid has shown to our program and the entire Native community. NAPLP looks forward to placing more students in the halls of Congress as this cooperative venture continues.

"I am so pleased with the success of the Native American Political Leadership Program. The participants of this program are some of our most promising young leaders who will combine the lessons they learn through this internship with their rich life experiences to help improve our country. We look forward to welcoming more Native leaders to Senate internships in the future."

— U.S. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV)



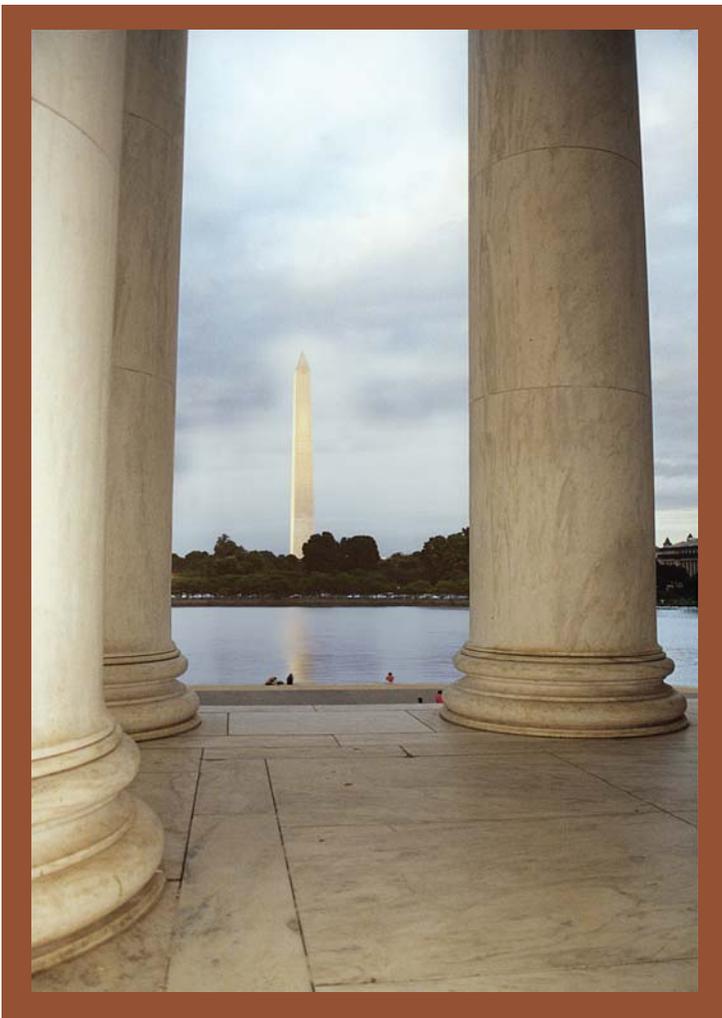
NAPLP STUDENTS MEET WITH U.S. SENATOR LISA MURKOWSKI (R-AK).

Semester in Washington Politics

NAPLP is run in partnership with GW's Semester in Washington Politics program. Like NAPLP, SIWP provides educational experiences in political coursework, internships, and networking but to a broader audience. Together, NAPLP and SIWP reach out across the world to educate and empower our emerging political leaders.

NETWORKING EVENTS

A significant component of the program is a series of professional networking events, held throughout the semester. The goal of these events is to literally introduce our students to the decision-makers and opinion leaders who make Washington work.



Past networking events include:

- **The White House**
- **The Pentagon**
- **Antonin Scalia, Associate Justice, U.S. Supreme Court**
- **U.S. Congressman Tom Cole (R-OK)**
- **Tom McMahon, Executive Director, Democratic National Committee**
- **Chuck Todd, NBC News, White House Correspondent and Political Director**
- **Mike Adams, Deputy Executive Director and General Counsel, Republican Governors Association**
- **Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Associate Justice, U.S. Supreme Court**
- **Barry Jackson, Chief of Staff, Speaker of the House John Boehner**
- **U.S. Senator Pat Roberts (R-KS)**
- **Michael Toner, Former Chairman, Federal Election Commission**
- **U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer (D-CA)**
- **Mayor Adrian Fenty (Washington, DC)**

- National Museum of the American Indian's Cultural Resources Center
- Tom Brooks, Vice President, AT&T
- U.S. Senator Mark Begich (D-AK)
- U.S. Senator Daniel Akaka (D-HI)
- U.S. Senator Daniel Inouye (D-HI)
- Democratic National Committee Winter Meeting
- Family Research Council
- Human Rights Campaign

"Through my participation in SIWP's Native American Political Leadership Program, I not only became significantly more engaged in politics, but I also gained the confidence, knowledge, and skills that have helped me to become a more effective leader. The experience of being out of my comfort zone and the relationships I built with others from around the nation also contributed to the tremendous amount of professional and personal growth I experienced."

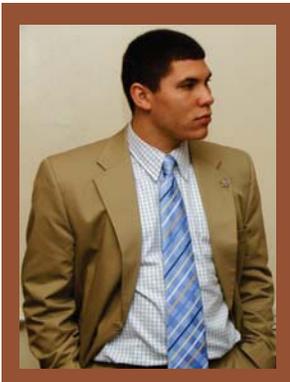
— Krislyn Mossman (Native Hawaiian, Hawaii)



LIZ SHEPARD, CLASS OF 2007, EXAMINES TRIBAL ARTIFACTS DURING A PRIVATE TOUR OF THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE AMERICAN INDIAN'S CULTURAL RESOURCES CENTER.

ALUMNI PROFILES

Several graduates of the program have gone on to study law; two have run for office, many have plans to run for tribal offices; two alumni have received degrees from the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University; and another was awarded a Clinton Global Initiative grant to implement a renewable energy strategy on the Menominee Tribal Regional Transportation System. Several are working full-time in Washington, including the U.S. Congress and Cabinet Agencies. Still others have worked in Native American advocacy organizations. And all have assumed the role of leader and in a variety of ways are using their experience in the Native American Political Leadership Program to promote positive change in the lives and experiences of Native peoples in the U.S. Here is a sampling of alumni biographies:



**RANDALL REED
(CHOCTAW, ALABAMA)**

Randy was one of the first recipients of the Native American Political Leadership Program scholarship. As an active member of his tribe, the MOWA Band of Choctaw Indians in Alabama, Randy wanted to engage his love for education and politics in Washington, DC. Entering his senior year at Troy University with

an internship at the Bureau of Indian Affairs already under his belt, Randall attended NAPLP in the spring of 2006 and interned on Capitol Hill in the office of U.S. Representative Jo Bonner.

Upon completion of the program he went to work on a campaign, leading the Republican candidate for an Alabama state House seat to victory in both the competitive primary and general election. Subsequently, Randall was chosen as the James Madison Memorial Graduate Fellow for the State of Alabama, studied at Georgetown University with the James Madison Foundation, and was awarded the Frank Johnson Jr. Youth Leadership Award by his tribe for recognition of exceptional character and commitment to the community. In 2009, Randall was recognized as graduate student-teacher of the year by the USA College of Education by The University of South Alabama.

Randall is currently teaching 7th grade Civics at North Mobile County Middle School and has recently accepted a position on the federal recognition committee for the MOWA Band of Choctaw Indians of Alabama. Randall recalls his experience with NAPLP as “second to none.”



**STARLYN ROSE TOURTILLOTT
(MENOMINEE, WISCONSIN)**

After graduating with a Bachelor of Science in Education and a Bachelor of Arts in Creative Writing as well as a minor in American Indian Studies from The University of Wisconsin-Madison, Starlyn worked as an Americorps*VISTA member for the Menominee Indian elderly while she lived with her grandparents on the

Stockbridge-Munsee reservation.

Starlyn has always wanted to remain close to the tribes from which she directly descends—Menominee and Stockbridge-Munsee Band of Mohicans. Wanting to be of value to both tribes in a more universal way, Starlyn took a leap of faith and moved to Washington, DC to attend the Native American Political Leadership Program during the spring of 2006. While attending NAPLP, Starlyn interned on Capitol Hill in U.S. Senator Russ Feingold’s office where she attended Congressional hearings and researched legislation.

After completing NAPLP, Starlyn went on to attend the Pre-Law Summer Institute at The University of New Mexico and later enrolled at the University of Wisconsin Law School where she continued her passion for Native American issues by serving as an Executive Board Member of the National American Law Students’ Association and member of the Indigenous Law Students Association. Starlyn’s interest in Native American law began early on with both a maternal aunt and paternal aunt serving as attorneys and eventually tribal judges. Starlyn soon

began her own legal career interning with the Great Lakes Indian Law Clinic for the Stockbridge-Munsee Community in Bowler, Wisconsin. Following her internship, Starlyn was a law clerk at the Menominee Tribal Court in Keshena, Wisconsin. She graduated with her law degree from the University of Wisconsin Law School in 2008. Today, she is employed as a tribal attorney for the Stockbridge-Munsee Community. "NAPLP remains an integral stop in my life journey where I learned about the sacredness of home—that while places like DC were at times wonderfully worlds apart from the reservation, the fires of yearning for home never burned more brilliantly. And eventually, I would return home to the reservation fortified with the skills and insights only NAPLP could propel me to encompass."



**KRAYNAL ALFRED
(NAVAJO, GEORGIA)**

Kraynal attended the Spring 2006 Native American Political Leadership Program during her senior year at Georgia State University. While attending NAPLP, Kraynal interned at the National Congress of American Indians where she served as a legislative intern. Immediately following her internship at NCAI, she was offered

a position at the organization as Communications and Events Specialist where she planned many of NCAI's major conventions and helped develop national campaigns, including Native Vote.

Kraynal also served as a Legislative Assistant at the National Indian Health Board before returning to graduate school. She was accepted to Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government and graduated with a Master's degree in Public Policy in May 2010. While at Harvard, she was actively involved with Native American issues, serving as a Research Assistant for the Harvard Project on American Indian Economic Development and as President of the Native American Caucus and Voting Councilwoman for the University's Native American Student Council. Kraynal continued her work on Native American issues, serving as a Policy Analyst for the Office of Navajo Government Development

in Arizona. "The Native American Political Leadership Program is a guided introduction to the Washington, DC scene. I learned much from the program's approach to teaching theory about politics, practicing political tools in the classroom and applying tools through an internship. Since completing the program, I continually utilize tools like messaging and campaign planning which were taught by GW professors."



**JOSH PITRE (UNITED HOUMA
NATION, ARIZONA)**

Josh, a member of the United Houma Nation, attended the Native American Political Leadership Program during Spring 2007 as a student at the University of Arizona where he was obtaining his Master's degree in American Indian Studies. As an undergraduate at Louisiana State University, he conducted research on his tribe for the

Native American Rights Fund and was a Cultural Consultant for the Local Public School Board Indian Education Program. He also served as Human Services Administrative Director for the Inter-Tribal Council of Louisiana.

Prior to attending NAPLP and interning at the U.S. House Committee on Natural Resources, Office of Indian Affairs, Josh interned with the U.S. House Natural Resources Committee as a participant in the Morris K. Udall Native American Congressional Internship Program. Upon completion of NAPLP and graduation from the University of Arizona, Josh returned to Washington, DC where he currently serves as staff of the U.S. Senate Committee on Indian Affairs.

"The NAPLP complemented my undergraduate and graduate studies by giving me the invaluable opportunity to work in Indian Affairs on Capitol Hill."



KRISLYN MOSSMAN (NATIVE HAWAIIAN, HAWAII)

Krislyn attended the Native American Political Leadership Program in Spring 2010 and was recently named the Executive Director of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Maui, Hawaii. While participating in NAPLP, Krislyn interned with the U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP), specifically with the

Subcommittee on Children and Families. Not only did she have a rewarding experience on the HELP Committee, but she was able to meet some of the most influential individuals in American politics including U.S. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid.



CHRIS KOLEROK (ESKIMO, ALASKA)

Chris, a Calista Alaska Native, completed the Native American Political Leadership Program in the spring of 2008. Chris came to the program with a Bachelor’s degree in economics from the University of Alaska at Anchorage and held part-time jobs at local law firms and think tanks throughout college. Confronted with the choice of moving to China to teach

English or attend NAPLP, Chris chose the latter and while here interned on Capitol Hill through our partnership with U.S. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid’s office.

After the NAPLP Program, Chris went on to the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, graduating with a Master’s in Public Policy. Chris is currently working for Alaska Growth Capital, a subsidiary of Arctic Slope Regional Corporation-one of the largest Alaska Native Corporations. Chris is a consultant for them and is using the skills he acquired in NAPLP and the Kennedy School in his every day job.

“NAPLP helped to show me that citizen action is possible. I learned that there is a feeling of camaraderie working with Natives from other parts of the country and that together we can make changes that benefit our entire communities.”



JESSICA KOSKI (KEWEENAW BAY INDIAN, MICHIGAN)

Jessica is a graduate of Michigan Technological University and is currently pursuing a Master’s degree in Environmental Management at Yale University. Jessica completed the Native American Political Leadership Program in the spring of 2008, her junior year in college. It was before she attended the program

that Jessica reconnected with her tribe – the Ojibwa tribe of the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community – and discovered her passion for Native American rights and environmental protection. While at the program, Jessica interned in the Office of Indian Affairs in the U.S. House of Representatives, and worked on a national lobbying practicum for Indian education legislation.

Jessica is currently a graduate student/research assistant at Yale University in the Forestry and Environmental Studies Program and also Co-Founder of Oshkinawe Ogichidaag Akiing (New Warriors for the Earth), a non-profit environmental organization dedicated to educating and empowering communities to take action on mining and environmental injustices.



HEATH CLAYTON
(CHICKASAW NATION, TEXAS)

Heath came to the Native American Political Leadership Program in the spring of 2008 fresh off a coveted internship at the White House. Heath's passion for politics included a stint as campaign manager for the reelection of the Chickasaw Nation Legislator Beth Alexander.

As an active member of the

Chickasaw Nation from Texas, Heath always wanted to work in the heart of power, Washington, DC – but in his own words “could never afford it.” NAPLP's full scholarship program offered him that opportunity. Heath went on to work for President Bush at the White House after NAPLP. Upon President Obama's election, Heath left the White House to work as a DC Strategy and Operations Apprentice at Deloitte.

Heath is working on a Master's degree in Public Policy and Management at Carnegie Mellon University in Pennsylvania after being awarded a Tribal Affairs Fellowship. Heath plans on returning to Washington, DC after school to work in tribal education policy. “I got so much out of NAPLP. I walked away with a greater appreciation for the diversity of Indian Country and I'll always be thankful for that.”



MARCUS GRIGNON
(MENOMINEE, WISCONSIN)

Before arriving in Washington, DC, Marcus studied tribal law and sustainable development. He was an active member of his tribe – the Menominee – in Wisconsin, and completed the Native American Political Leadership Program in the spring of 2009. Since finishing the program, Marcus has interned

at the Climate Action Network, participated in the Center for Progressive Leadership's New Leaders Program and has appeared on his first radio program to discuss youth leadership and the environmental movement.

Marcus created a non-profit – Citizens for a Sustainable Future – to highlight renewable energy and sustainable development efforts in his own tribal community. Because of that work, Marcus has been awarded a Clinton Global Initiative grant to implement a renewable energy strategy on the Menominee Tribal Regional Transportation System and to visit local middle schools to give students hands-on experience with renewable energy.

Marcus' long-term goal is to make Indian Country the leader in sustainability efforts – to provide a concrete example for the world to follow. Most recently, Marcus has been awarded the Brower Youth Award; recipients are recognized as young individuals living in North America who have shown outstanding leadership on a project or campaign with positive environmental and social impact. Marcus is completing an internship at the U.S. Small Business Administration Office of Native American Affairs.



KEVIN KINCHELOE
(CHICKASAW NATION, OKLAHOMA)

Kevin was one of the first scholarship recipients in the Native American Political Leadership Program in Spring 2006 representing the Chickasaw Nation. A graduate from Southeastern Oklahoma State University, Kevin studied Business Administration before he attended NAPLP. Since completing

the program, Kevin served as a Legislative Correspondent for U.S. Senator Tom Coburn and is currently a Legislative Assistant for U.S. Congressman James Lankford.

Advisory Council Members 2011

Ms. Kraynal Alfred
NAPLP Alumna
Spring 2006

Mr. Tom Brooks
Vice President for External Affairs
AT&T

Ms. Robin Puanani Danner
President & CEO
Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement

Mr. Ed Gehres
Partner
Patton Boggs LLP

Mr. Marcus Grignon
NAPLP Alumnus
Spring 2009

Ms. Charlayne Holliday
NAPLP Alumna
Spring 2008

Mr. Tim Johnson
Executive Director
Office of Hawaiian Affairs

The Honorable Kevin Killer
State Representative
Pine Ridge, South Dakota

Mr. Kevin Kincheloe
NAPLP Alumnus
Spring 2006

Mr. Colin Kippen
Executive Director
National Indian Education Association

Ms. Julie Kitka
Executive Director
Alaska Federation of Natives

Ms. Jill Norwood
Community Services Specialist
National Museum of the American Indian

Ms. Jackie Johnson Pata
Executive Director
National Congress of American Indians

Ms. Heather Dawn Thompson
Partner
Sonnenschein Nath & Rosenthal LLP

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