



TRIBES TAKING ACTION

NCAIMY19 WRAP UP NEWSLETTER

NCAI 2019 Mid Year Conference & Marketplace | June 24 -27, 2019 | Nugget Casino Resort, Sparks, NV

"We are tribal nations that have tribal inherent rights, they were not given to us, they were acknowledged in the U.S. Constitution."

NCAI President Jefferson Keel, President's Update

MONDAY

The 2019 NCAI Mid Year Conference & Marketplace (NCAI MY 2019) kicked off officially on Monday, June 24, 2019, with a day filled with NCAI-hosted task force meetings, tribal caucuses, and a new member orientation, as well as agency-hosted listening sessions and consultations covering topics such as health, national parks, research, and energy.

Most notable was the inaugural meeting of NCAI's newly-established Climate Action Task Force, a collective of tribal leaders and other key stakeholders from across the country that will work to support and inform the climate action efforts of tribal nations. The Task Force will focus on working with tribal nations, intertribal organizations, and other partners to develop and advocate for consensus-based policy priorities, as well as document and share successful tribal climate action initiatives with Indian Country. The Task Force is being led by four Co-Chairs:

- Melanie Bahnke, President, Kawerak, Inc.;
- Brian Cladoosby, Chairman, Swinomish Indian Tribal Community;
- Beverly Cook, Tribal Chief, St. Regis Mohawk Tribe; and
- Stephen Roe Lewis, Governor, Gila River Indian Community

The day came to a close with a Welcome Reception hosted by the 2019 Mid Year Conference & Marketplace Local Planning Committee.

TUESDAY

Attendees got started bright and early on Tuesday to ensure they got registered before the First General Assembly, while vendors and exhibitors readied their booths for the Marketplace opening at 9:00 am.

Starting promptly at 8:30 am with a packed house, NCAI President Jefferson Keel opened the NCAI MY 2019 First General Assembly. Joining the General Assembly, the Battle Horse Drum Group welcomed a large group of veterans led by the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony Color Guard.. The invocation was given by Darlene Graham (Shoshone) and attendees were welcomed to the valley by Reno-Sparks Indian Colony Chairman Arlan D. Melendez.

Continuing the warm welcome from the host community, attendees heard from Reno Councilwoman Jenny Brechus and Washoe County Commissioner Bob Lucey.

"This is our land and this is our pride. We need to take steps to protect it for the future," said Lucey, also a member of the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony.

NCAIMY19 AT-A-GLANCE

4 DAYS

700+ Attendees

8 Task Force Meetings

15 Breakout Sessions

32 Resolutions Passed

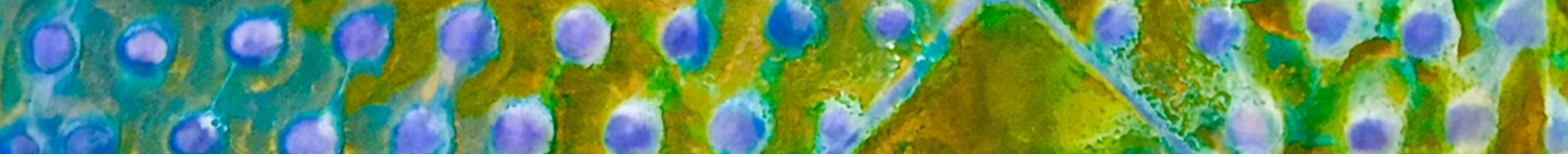
46 Exhibitors/ Arts & Crafts

TLSF19:

3 General Assembly Presentations

6 Concurrent Breakout Sessions

2 Poster Sessions



Taking care of business, NCAI matriarch and Resolutions Committee Chair Juanita Ahtone (Kiowa) joined NCAI Rules & Credentials Committee Chair Yvonne Oberly on stage to set the tone for the NCAI governance process during the week by giving the Rules of the Convention and Resolutions Process Report, which were both accepted by voice vote.

NCAI President Jefferson Keel then gave his President's Report, highlighting several issue areas of great urgency to the organization, including the upcoming 2020 Census and the political status of tribal nations.

"We are tribal nations that have tribal inherent rights. They were not given to us, they were acknowledged in the U.S. Constitution," said Keel.

Following his report, President Keel introduced the first-ever Chief Executive Officer of NCAI, Kevin J. Allis, a member of the Forest County Potawatomi.

Allis gave his first public address to the NCAI membership and conference attendees, speaking of the organization's strength over seven decades, its commitment to Indian Country, and his outlook on the future of the organization.

"Almost single-handedly, NCAI turned federal policy from termination to self-determination," said Allis during his inaugural address to NCAI membership.

Following Allis' address, Mid Year attendees heard from leaders in the Administration, NCAI Task Forces, and key issue area leads in Indian Country.

John Tahsuda (Kiowa), Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs, focused his remarks on the efforts of Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) and Department of the Interior (DOI) initiatives to address Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women (MMIW), collaborating with the Department of Justice (DOJ) to work through cold cases in the hopes to help bring closure to families.

In the Violence Against Women Task Force Update, NCAI Executive Board Secretary and Violence Against Women Task Force Co-Chair Juana Majel-Dixon (Pauma Band of Mission Indians) continued the conversation about MMIW and the need for the passage of the VAWA Reauthorization Bill by the U.S. Senate, following its passage by the U.S. House of Representatives in April 2019. She asked for tribal leaders to advocate for VAWA policy that not only protects women, but child victims as well.

In closing, Majel-Dixon also highlighted the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) current funding appropriated for tribal nations, and encouraged tribal leaders to apply for funding. The VOCA funding application deadline is August 15, 2019. DOJ will host a Tribal Consultation on August 20, 2019 in New Buffalo, Michigan. For more information, contact NCAI Senior Policy Advisor Virginia Davis at vdavis@ncai.org.

Jack Trope, Senior Director of the Indian Child Welfare Program with Casey Family Programs, gave the Indian Child Welfare Act Update, providing an overview of the *Brackeen v. Bernhardt* case currently pending in the Fifth Circuit of Appeals, stating that the case will most likely be pushed forward to the U.S. Supreme Court. He also touched on the data collection requirements for ICWA, the development of six ICWA court jurisdictions that will be meeting in September 2019, and the Family First legislation containing certain types of culturally based prevention – a marked acknowledgement of culture as prevention by law makers.

Mark Fox, Chairman of the Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara (MHA) Nation, took the stage to talk through tax initiatives in Indian Country, touching on case studies within the State of North Dakota involving oil companies in which tribal nations faced dual taxation. Through the advocacy of tribal leaders like Chairman Fox, tribal nations and the oil companies were able to find a compromise and split the taxation on trust lands to an 80/20 responsibility between the state and tribal nations.



Chairman Arlan D. Melendez



Reno Councilwoman Jenny Brechus



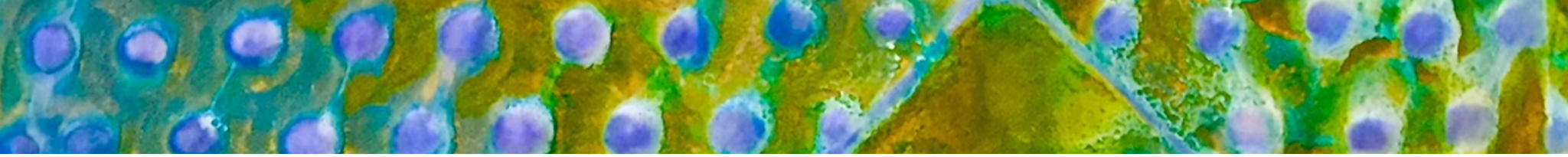
Washoe County Commissioner Bob Lucey



NCAI CEO Kevin J. Allis



NCAI Secretary Juana Majel-Dixon



“Dual taxation is one of the biggest impediments in Indian Country and is one of the most important issues to address,” said Fox. “It forces us to have to get into tax agreements with states.”

Chairman Fox went on to talk about MHA Nation’s economic development initiatives and a recent diplomatic trip to the Netherlands to learn about agricultural production and replication of practices back home on the MHA Reservation.

National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI) Director Kevin Gover gave an update on the Native American Veterans Memorial fundraising efforts and the need to raise the last \$3.5 million to reach the \$15 million goal. The grand opening of the memorial is set for Veteran’s Day 2020, and Gover encouraged tribal leaders to send their Native veterans and their families to participate in the celebration on the National Mall. To learn more about the Memorial, visit <https://americanindian.si.edu/nnavm/>.

Tribal Leader Discussion closed out the First General Assembly with a number of comments from the floor to John Tahsuda who returned to the stage for questions following his remarks earlier in the morning.

Following lunch, the afternoon was stacked to the horizon with critical sessions supporting the Mid Year 2019 theme – Tribes Taking Action – with NCAI breakout sessions, issue area sub-committee and task force meetings, and federal agency consultations and listening sessions.

Breakout sessions featured topics such as Emerging Opportunities for Tribal Control of Federal Programs, Cannabis and Tribal Sovereignty, Tribal Youth and Juvenile Justice, Tribal TANF Best Practices, Tribal Lands, Indian Child Welfare, Broadband and Radio Opportunities, ACA Health Insurance Marketplaces, and the 2020 Census.

Agency consultations included Section 184 Draft Proposed Regulations and DOI Policy on Consultation with Indian Tribes and ANCSA Corporations. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service also hosted a listening session.

The day ended with “The Social” hosted by the NCAI Youth Commission and First Kids 1st – Every Child is Sacred Initiative.

WEDNESDAY

Taking a quiet moment before the day began, attendees were invited to join tribal leaders and elders at the Sunrise Ceremony for blessings and community gathering.

Before proceeding with the day’s agenda, NCAI First Vice President Aaron Payment (Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians) officially called to order the Second General Assembly, followed by an invocation by Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California elder Melba Rakow, and a Welcome Address from Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California Chairman Serrell Smokey.

Following the Assembly opening, Dr. Yvette Roubideaux, Director of the NCAI Policy Research Center provided an update on research and data activities during the past few months. The rest of the General Assembly featured the 14th Annual Tribal Leader/Scholar Forum (TSLF). The purpose of the TSLF is to provide an opportunity for researchers, practitioners, community members, and other to present their findings to tribal leaders, policymakers, and tribal members during the NCAI Mid Year Conference. This year’s theme, Data and Research: Tribes Taking Action, explored how tribal nations are taking action with data and research to help strategically impact the future of their communities.

NCAI Treasurer W. Ron Allen provided an overview for tribal leaders on the importance of tribal nations to allocate resources for the collection of data and tribal-led research. He reiterated the influence of data and its ability to move forward policy agendas.



Chairman Fox & President Keel



NMAI Director Kevin Gover



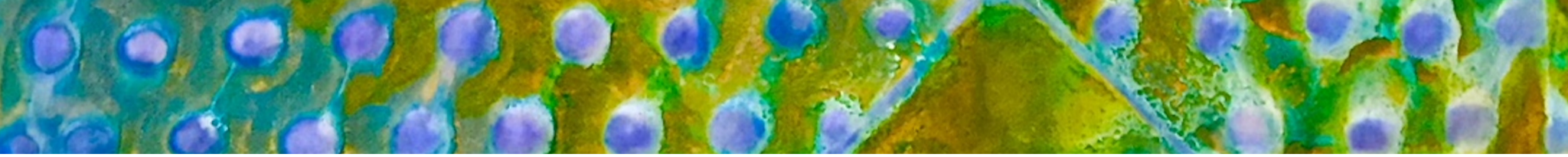
AS-IA Principal Deputy John Tahsuda



“The Social”



NCAI First Vice President Aaron Payment



The next section of the agenda was devoted to Census 2020. Dee Alexander, Tribal Affairs Coordinator, U.S. Census Bureau, emphasized the importance of tribal nations to help Get Out the Count for Indian Country during the 2020 Census. She provided an update on the process for Census 2020, updates on the questions on the 2020 Census form, and described how tribal nations can encourage participation in their communities. Amadeo Shije and Asa K. Washines provided additional remarks to encourage tribal participation.

NCAI External Affairs Director Jamie Gomez provided an overview of the NCAI Census initiative “Indian Country Counts.” She announced that NCAI developed a toolkit for Indian Country on Census 2020 in coordination with the U.S. Census Bureau, and encouraged attendees to visit the initiative’s website www.IndianCountryCounts.org, download materials, take the Pledge, and sign up for the newsletter to keep updated on the latest Census 2020 news and activities.

Dr. Roubideaux then presented on “Diabetes in American Indians and Alaska Natives: Are We Making Progress?” While the answer is a definitive “yes” based on the data, the audience agreed that there is still much more to do to end this epidemic. She reviewed data from the Special Diabetes Program for Indians that has shown great progress in treating and preventing diabetes. She also reviewed results from the SDPI Diabetes Prevention and Healthy Heart Demonstration Projects.

The final TSLF presentation in the General Assembly focused on “Genetic Research: Tribes Taking Action.” Representatives from the Navajo Nation and its Genetic Research Policy Development Working Group talked about the steps they have taking to reclaim genetic research for their people. They are reviewing their previously placed moratorium on genetic research, establishing new genetic policy initiatives, and reviewed the results of a recent community survey.

The afternoon sessions for the TSLF included six concurrent breakout sessions and two poster sessions. The agendas for all TSLF sessions and PowerPoint presentations are now available on the NCAI Policy Research Center TSLF webpage at: bit.ly/2CiUj8t.

In addition to the TSLF 2019 concurrent breakout sessions, there were four NCAI concurrent breakout sessions focusing on International Advocacy, Tax and Financing Tools, Food Sovereignty, and Emergency Preparedness Capacity.

The day ended with NCAI full committee meetings and the Cultural Night reception complete with an intertribal powwow dance group, which got everyone out of their seats in a community round dance.

THURSDAY

On the fourth and final morning of NCAI MY 2019, President Keel brought the Third General Assembly to order, followed by an invocation by Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe elder Ralph Burns, and a welcome by Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe Chairman Anthony Sampson, Sr.

Maryann McGovran, Tribal Treasurer, North Fork Rancheria of Mono Indians of California joined the NCAI Executive Committee on stage to present the TANF Update. During her remarks, McGovran emphasized the differences between Tribal TANF and state TANF and the intent of Tribal TANF to drive tribal self-sufficiency and self-determination. She went on to ask for tribal leader support on two pieces of legislation, H.R. 2940 and the Tribal TANF Fairness Act of 2019 (H.R. 2128). Legislative Update: H.R. 2940 was passed into law as P.L. 116-27. H.R. 2128 is currently in review by the House Subcommittee on Worker and Family Support. For more information on NCAI’s legislative priorities, contact NCAI Government Affairs Director Jacob Schellinger at jschellinger@ncai.org.

Taking a pause, President Keel took the opportunity to address the General Assembly to honor NCAI External Affairs Director Jamie Gomez (Tlingit), for her 20 years of service to the organization. President Keel and NCAI CEO Kevin Allis blanketed Gomez to commemorate



Washoe Tribe Chairman Serrell Smokey



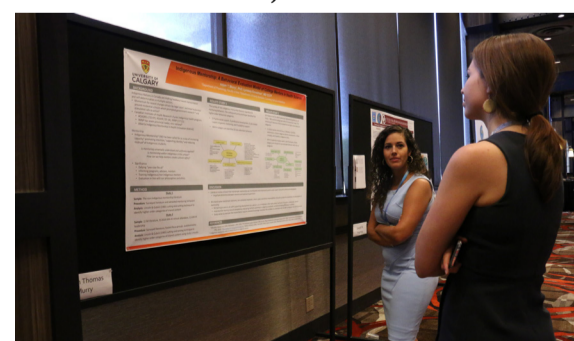
NCAI PRC Director Dr. Yvette Roubideaux



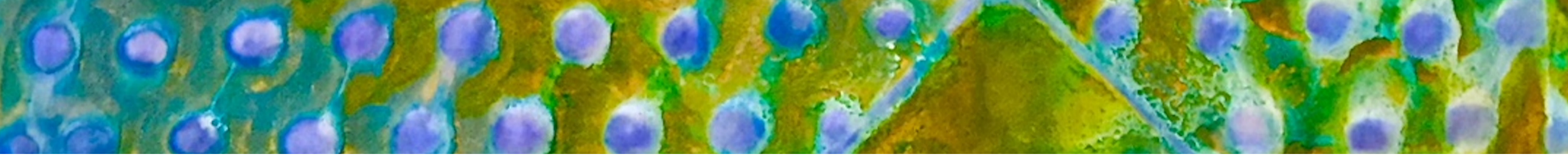
U.S. Census Bureau Tribal Affairs Coordinator Dee Alexander



NCAI External Affairs Director Jamie Gomez



TSLF19 Poster Session 1



the anniversary and thanked her for her commitment to NCAI and Indian Country.

Next on the agenda was a special feature panel – Achieving Racial and Economic Equity: The Value of Cross-Community Collaboration for Census 2020 and Beyond. The panel synthesized the value and power of collaboration between Native American, African American, Latino, Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander American communities in collectively advancing racial and economic equity, specifically through the joint work of the W.K. Kellogg Racial Equity Anchors collaborative. Through a series of questions posed by the moderator, the Anchors spoke about how they are working together to ensure a complete count of people in Census 2020, and how cross-community collaboration can empower each community’s ability to educate the general public and policymakers about the wisdom and need for pro-equity policies. To view the full panel discussion, visit NCAI’s YouTube page here!

The second half of the Third General Assembly featured updates on Immigration and Children by Rachel Joseph and Travis Joseph; the Tribal Supreme Court Project Update by Native American Rights Fund (NARF) Executive Director John Echohawk (Pawnee), NARF Staff Attorney Joel Williams (Cherokee Nation), and NCAI General Counsel Derrick Beetso (Diné); and a presentation about fighting to change the mascot of the Washington Football Team by Shena Matrious (Mille Lacs) and Chad Germann (Mille Lacs).

Following the Immigration and Children Update, Mike Williams (Akiak) made a motion to support and organize an official committee to accept donations for families on the border suffering from the current immigration policies. Chairwoman Cheryl Andrews-Maltais (Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head, Aquinnah) seconded and the motion carried majority voice vote to establish the formal committee.

Chairwoman Cheryl Andrews-Maltais of the, Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head gave the Federal Advisory Committee Act Report. She explained how the June 14, 2019 Executive Order aimed to reduce Federal Advisory Committees by one third, which will severely impact funding to Indian Country, and she reiterated the importance of NCAI MY 2019 emergency resolution REN-19-043.

Committee Reports were then given by the respective Committee Chairs and representatives:

- Economic, Finance & Community Development Committee Report given by AMERIND Risk Chief Strategy Officer/General Counsel Geoffrey Blackwell and National Indian Housing Council Chairman Gary Cooper;
- Human Resources Committee Report given by Colville Tribal Business Council Health & Human Services Committee Vice-Chairman Andy Joseph;
- Litigation & Governance Committee Report given by NARF Executive Director John Echohawk;
- Land & Natural Resources Committee Report given by Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska 4th V.P. Rob Sanderson, Jr.; and
- Veterans Committee Report given by the Gila River Indian Community.

All Committee Reports were adopted. A total of 32 resolutions were passed during NCAI MY 2019. To review and download all of the passed resolutions, visit: <http://www.ncai.org/resolutions/2019-mid-year>.

President Keel closed out the Third General Assembly by announcing the NCAIMY19 app photo contest and NCAI PRC survey winners.

The closing invocation was provided by Reno-Sparks Indian Colony elder Janice Gardipe, who was followed by the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony Color Guard retiring of the colors to the beat of the Battle Horse Drum Group.

The NCAI Policy Research Center hosted a Post Conference Data Institute with the University of Nevada Reno “Holding Space: Strengthening Tribal-Academic Research Partnerships.” During the session, attendees played the Tribal Research Future Game and were provided an overview of the Holding Space Discussion Guide with content on how governance, trust, and culture can strengthen tribal-academic research partnerships.



NCAI External Affairs Director Jamie Gomez Celebrates 20th Anniversary



W.K. Kellogg Racial Equity Anchors



NARF Staff Attorney Joel Williams



Aquinnah Chairwoman Cheryl Andrews-Maltais





2020 CENSUS FEATURED AT NCAI MY 2019



4 SESSIONS

1 TOOLKIT

2 PLEDGES

SESSION OVERVIEWS

Census Tribal Liaison Training

Tribal Liaison Training included a Census Solutions Workshop to brainstorm effective strategies on how best to incorporate a Census awareness campaign in urban and tribal reservation areas.

Indian Country Counts: Census 2020

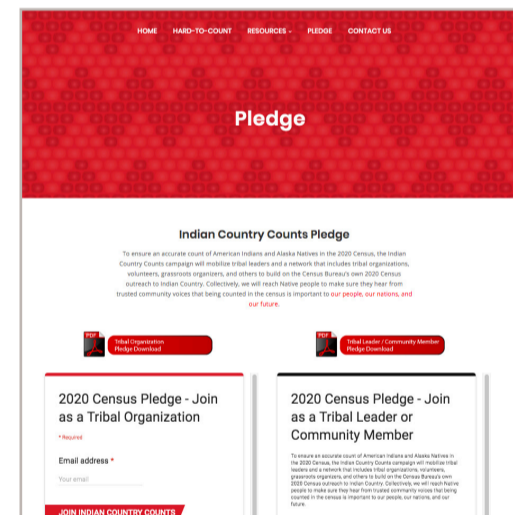
This session talked about why the Census is important, panelists answered questions in responding to the Census, and how to get involved.

TLSF Census 2020: Get Out the Count for Indian Country

This session was held during the Tribal Leader/Scholar Forum General Assembly and featured Dee Alexander, Tribal Affairs Coordinator, Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs, U.S. Census Bureau, Amadeo Shije, Partnership Coordinator (Tribal), Denver Regional Office, U.S. Census Bureau, and Asa K. Washines, Tribal Affairs Consultant, More Equitable Democracy.

Achieving Racial and Economic Equity: The Value of Cross-Community Collaboration for Census 2020 and Beyond

This panel session discussed the joint work of the W.K. Kellogg Racial Equity Anchors to ensure a complete count of people in Census 2020, and how cross-community collaboration can empower each community's ability to educate the general public and policymakers about the wisdom and need for pro-equity policies.



STICKERS, FANS, T-SHIRTS, AND MORE!
ATTENDEES WHO SIGNED THE INDIAN COUNTRY COUNTS PLEDGE RECEIVED THE NEW 2020 INDIAN COUNTRY COUNTS MATERIALS!

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National Congress of American Indians



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RECEPTION HIGHLIGHTS

