



September 12, 2017
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The AAIA Welcomes Shannon Keller O'Loughlin as its New Executive Director

WASHINGTON – The Association on American Indian Affairs, the oldest non-profit organization advocating on behalf of Native Americans and Indian tribes, has appointed Shannon Keller O'Loughlin, citizen of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, as its new Executive Director.

"We are very pleased to announce this appointment," reported Faith Roessel, President of the Board of Directors of AAIA. "Shannon brings leadership and creativity to the Association's programs and a deep commitment to Indian Country. Shannon's legal, policy and administrative background has served Indian Country at many levels and will provide the strength and stability for the Association that will move our important efforts forward towards AAIA's 100th anniversary."

Shannon was the former Chief of Staff to the National Indian Gaming Commission, where she assisted in the development and implementation of national policy throughout the agency, and oversaw the agency's public affairs, technology, compliance and finance divisions. Shannon has also served Indian Country in the private sector, leading a large national firm's Indian law practice group bringing more than 16 years of Indian Country legal and policy work to strengthen, maintain and protect Indian nation sovereignty, self-determination and culture. Shannon was appointed by Secretary Sally Jewell to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act Review Committee in 2013, and was recently appointed by President Barack Obama to the Cultural Property Advisory Committee within the State Department. She has a history of pro bono and programmatic work with the AAIA.

Shannon stated, "I am humbled by the opportunity to serve as the Executive Director of the AAIA. I hope to continue AAIA's tradition of providing programs, technical assistance and on-the-ground, hands-on work that will support Indian Nations and their citizens in the areas of children, family, education, environmental and cultural protection programs that heal our people and strengthen tribal self-determination and sovereignty."

The [Association on American Indian Affairs](http://www.aaia.org) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that serves and advocates for Indian tribes and Native Americans in areas of education, health, children and youth, environmental and cultural preservation, and tribal sovereignty. AAIA is governed by an all Indian Board of Directors from all regions of Indian Country and works in close cooperation with Native Americans, tribes and other organizations with similar missions. AAIA is unique in that, in addition to providing assistance in areas of national Indian policy, also supports programs on a grass roots level. AAIA was founded in New York City in 1922.

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