



ASSOCIATION ON AMERICAN INDIAN AFFAIRS

Protecting Sovereignty • Preserving Culture

Educating Youth • Building Capacity

SINCE 1922

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THE ASSOCIATION ON AMERICAN INDIAN AFFAIRS ANNOUNCES NANCY DEERE-TURNEY AS ITS NEWEST CULTURAL SOVEREIGNTY FELLOW

WASHINGTON, D.C., June 18, 2019, 1:00 p.m. E.S.T. The Association on American Indian Affairs, the oldest non-profit serving Indian Country, has selected Nancy Deere-Turney as a Cultural Sovereignty Fellow for its second Fellowship class. The Cultural Sovereignty Fellowship is an intensive opportunity for new graduates to gain professional experience in Washington, D.C. advocating for Indian Country at a national and grassroots level.

Nancy is a citizen of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. She is from the bear clan and the Quassarte Tribal Town. Nancy's experience includes working for her Nation in the Community and Human Services Department and Citizenship Office. Nancy also served in the Jenks Public Schools, and interning with the U.S. Department of Energy, the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, and with Senator Brian Schatz (D: HI). She also completed a human rights fellowship in Copenhagen, Denmark. Nancy was recognized by the United National Indian Tribal Youth organization as a 25 under 25 awardee, the Marguerite Casey Foundation as a Sargent Shriver Youth Warrior Against Poverty, and by the Center for Native American Youth as a Champion for Change, where she currently serves as the Chairwoman of the Youth Advisory Board.

"I am thrilled to be working with the Association on American Indian Affairs, and continuing to do my part to protect sovereignty, preserve culture, educate youth and build capacity" stated Nancy. "My goal is not to only uplift my own Nation, but all of Indian Country. I want to see improvements in renewable energy and explore non-gaming economic development. I hope to see these things through for my Nation as a representative and in a supportive role for other Tribes."

Shannon Keller O'Loughlin, Executive Director and Attorney for the Association, said that "Nancy is a true youth champion for change and we are so happy to have her as part of our team. Her skills in governmental affairs and working in Indian Country, especially with youth initiatives, fits in to our efforts to reverse historic trauma and empower Native youth. I can't wait to see her leadership in action!" Nancy hopes that her experience and hard work will lead her to a leadership role for her Nation in its legislative branch and later in her Nation's executive branch. Nancy has received several Associates degrees relating to Pre-Education and Tribal Services and completed her Bachelor's in Political Science from Oklahoma State University in December of 2018, where she served on the President's Leadership Society.

The Association on American Indian Affairs is a 501(c)(3) organization and the oldest non-profit serving Indian Country protecting sovereignty, preserving culture, educating youth and building capacity. The Association was formed in 1922 to change the destructive path of federal policy from assimilation, termination and allotment, towards sovereignty, self-determination and self-sufficiency.

Throughout its 97-year history, the Association has provided national advocacy on watershed issues that support sovereignty and culture, while working at a grassroots level with Tribes to support the implementation of programs that affect real lives on the ground.