



Association on American Indian Affairs

Protecting Sovereignty • Preserving Culture • Educating Youth • Building Capacity

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Association on American Indian Affairs Welcomes Colleen Medicine as New Program Director

WASHINGTON – The Association on American Indian Affairs, the oldest non-profit serving Indian Country, is excited to welcome Colleen Medicine, a citizen of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, to serve as its new Program Director.

As Program Director, Ms. Medicine will assist the organization by leading programs to serve and Indian Country in areas of protecting Tribal sovereignty, preserving cultures, educating Native youth, and building capacity.

"Colleen Medicine has a distinguished career in Indian Country, and is an expert in repatriation issues," said Association Executive Director and Attorney Shannon O'Loughlin. "As we look to the future of our 100-year old organization, Colleen will be an important part of our commitment to creating a world where diverse Native American cultures and values are lived, protected and respected. We are honored that Colleen is joining Association leadership."

Before joining the Association, Ms. Medicine served the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians in the Tribe's Repatriation Office and later as the Director of Language & Culture and NAGPRA Designee. Ms. Medicine has also managed a Perinatal Opioid Grant for the Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan (ITCMI). She is a lifetime Anishinaabemowin language learner, and enjoys working with mothers and families as an Indigenous Breastfeeding Counselor. Ms. Medicine received a MS in International Administration with a focus on International Repatriation from Central Michigan University in 2017, and also holds a BS in Public Administration with a minor in American Indian Studies from CMU.

Ms. Medicine shared: "I am honored and humbled to continue to work within Indian Country at the Association on American Indian Affairs. My spirit name is Waabshkaa Asinekwe (White Rock Woman) and I am Mshiikenh ndodem (Turtle Clan). I come from a really sacred place in the heart of the Great Lakes of Michigan called Mackinac Mnising (Mackinac Island). I am an Ojibwe woman and citizen of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians. I am truly thankful each day that I wake up and step into the arena and fight for Indian Country—for those who have come before me, for those here now, and for those generations to come in the future."

The Association on American Indian Affairs is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that serves and advocates for Indian tribes and Native Americans to build a world where all Native cultures are thriving, respected, celebrated, and protected. 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 was founded in New York City in 1922.

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