



Association on American Indian Affairs

Protecting Sovereignty • Preserving Culture
Educating Youth • Building Capacity

Media Contact: Kaitlin Lenhard
Kaitlin@Indian-Affairs.org

ASSOCIATION ON AMERICAN INDIAN AFFAIRS WELCOMES JAMIE MARQUEZ-BRATCHER AS NEW OFFICE MANAGER

May 4, 2021 - The Association on American Indian Affairs, the oldest non-profit serving Indian Country, is excited to welcome Jamie Marquez-Bratcher, who is a citizen of the Oglala Lakota Nation, to serve as its new Office Manager.

While working as the Office Manager, Ms. Marquez-Bratcher will work to make the Association's vision - creating a world where diverse Native American cultures and values are lived, protected and respected - a reality through her ability to develop efficient and effective systems to increase and support our grassroots efforts in Indian Country.

Ms. Marquez-Bratcher stated: "I'm incredibly honored to have the opportunity to work at the Association on American Indian Affairs. As I've been actively pursuing projects that allow me to serve in Indian Country, I've prayed to my Ancestors and asked for blessings from my family. I am looking forward to an intimate view of the impact the Association has on the new *wichóuŋčhaŋe* (generation) on Turtle Island as they heal our communities and gain strength to carry us on to what's to come. It is clear we are entering a time that our Ancestors couldn't have envisioned, and I'm humbled to play a small supporting role."

Before joining the Association, Ms. Marquez-Bratcher worked closely with small and medium sized businesses to manage their communications. With a strong desire to support her family and pursue more creative interests, Jamie left the corporate world in 2014 and pursued various passion projects, including creative planning, beading jewelry and bringing stories to life via podcasting. Since 2017 Jamie has leveraged her extensive experience to help small businesses and non-profits within and outside of Indian Country to optimize their operations and create multi-media projects. In her spare time, she is learning to speak Lakota and enjoys traveling with her family.

"The Office Manager position at the Association is not for the faint at heart," says Shannon O'Loughlin, Chief Executive and Attorney for the Association. "As an all virtual office, Jamie is the gatekeeper and will be the first voice most people will hear when they reach out to us for assistance. Jamie's strength in operations and wearing many different hats, as well as being rooted in her culture and language, positions her perfectly to develop the infrastructure the Association needs to be successful moving forward into its next 100 years."

The Association on American Indian Affairs is 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, to sovereignty, self-determination and self-sufficiency. Throughout its 98-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.