



ASSOCIATION ON AMERICAN INDIAN AFFAIRS

Protecting Sovereignty • Preserving Culture
Educating Youth • Building Capacity

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ASSOCIATION ON AMERICAN INDIAN AFFAIRS WELCOMES NEW OFFICE MANAGER

Native Country, U.S.A., November 15, 2024 - The Association on American Indian Affairs, the longest serving Native nonprofit in the country, is pleased to announce that Cassandra Gilgenbach, a citizen of the Red Lake Nation of Ojibwe, has been appointed to serve as the Association's Office Manager.

Cassie's role as Office Manager is a significant position within the Association and supports the Association's operations, programs, and events. As Office Manager, Cassie is the first person the public will interact with to learn about the organization or request other support. She will also oversee the Association's Legacy Scholarships for Native Undergraduate and Graduate students, Native Youth Summer Camp Grants, and work to support the Association's donors, members, and volunteers.

Cassie says, "Joining the Association and contributing to vital work for Native Nations and their citizens is an honor for me. I am eager to leverage my skills and knowledge to amplify the voices of Native Peoples to address critical issues. Together, we can continue the work towards a future where Native Nations are respected, empowered, and thriving."

"We are thrilled to welcome Cassie to the Association," said Shannon O'Loughlin, citizen of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and Chief Executive and Attorney for the Association. "Cassie's skills and experience, coupled with her dedication to social justice and human rights, will undoubtedly strengthen our organization's foundation, allowing us to focus even more on building capacity as an organization to better serve Native Country. This addition marks an exciting new chapter in our team's growth and effectiveness. I personally hope that Cassie will be our next (and first) Chief Operating Officer!"

Prior to working with the Association, Cassie worked for nearly a decade as a reference librarian at her hometown public library. She holds a B.A. in English from Minnesota State University, Mankato and an M.A. in Library and Information Studies from the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee. Cassie's commitment to advocacy led her to change her career path and guided her to find the Association. Located in southeastern Minnesota, she works from the traditional homelands of the Dakota and Sioux Peoples.

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The Association on American Indian Affairs is the oldest non-profit serving Native 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 more than 100-year history, the Association has provided national advocacy on watershed issues that support sovereignty and culture, while working at a grassroots level with Native Nations to support the implementation of programs that support Native Peoples.

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