



ASSOCIATION ON AMERICAN INDIAN AFFAIRS

Protecting Sovereignty • Preserving Culture
Educating Youth • Building Capacity

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ASSOCIATION ON AMERICAN INDIAN AFFAIRS WELCOMES KEY LEADER TO EXECUTIVE TEAM

Native Country, U.S.A., August 29, 2024 - The Association on American Indian Affairs, the longest serving Native non-profit in the United States, is pleased to announce that Reggie Tupponce, a citizen of the Upper Mattaponi Tribe, has been appointed to serve as the Association's Cultural Sovereignty Director. Reggie brings decades of experience in the protection of sacred places and collaborating with Native Nation coalitions for the repatriation of Ancestors and sensitive cultural items.

Reggie will oversee the Cultural Sovereignty Program for the Association, which includes initiatives on domestic and international repatriation policies and laws, illegal trafficking of cultural heritage, protecting sacred places and sacred ecosystem relationships, as well as supporting language, identity, treaty, and subsistence rights. Reggie will develop and implement strategies in these areas to provide training, improve policies and laws, support Native Nation sovereignty, and educate the public to fulfil the Association's vision to create a world where diverse Native cultures and values are lived, protected and respected.

"I have worked with Reggie for many years and have admired his service to his Nation and other Native Nations in Virginia, as well as on boards of Native organizations. I am grateful to have his skills and experience support our Cultural Sovereignty work, which strengthens those things that tie us to our lands and cultures. His credibility as a Native advocate and positive attitude will go a long way to nurturing meaningful relationships with Native Nations, Indigenous Peoples, Native and non-Native organizations, foundations and the public," said Shannon O'Loughlin, citizen of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and CEO and Attorney for the Association.

Reggie's hiring comes at a time of expansion for the Association. Over the last several years, the Association has broadened its focus into new initiatives, achieved major policy victories, and built powerful relationships—all while staying true to its longstanding history as a Native-led grassroots organization. Reggie's expertise and vision will provide valuable momentum as the Association enters its next century of service.

"I am honored to join the Association as its Cultural Sovereignty Director. I look forward to working with the Association's team and board to improve outcomes in Native Country and return home all vestiges of our diverse and magnificent cultures. It is my privilege to continue the Association's century of advocacy for the next generations."

Reggie served as the Administrator for his Nation prior to joining the Association. In addition to managing operations, he was intimately engaged in the protection of sacred places and collaborating with Native Nation coalitions in the repatriation and reinternment of Ancestors, while managing healthy federal, state, and institutional relationships. He holds a B.S. in Business from Virginia Commonwealth University. He is working from the traditional homelands of the Chesapeake and Nansemond 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 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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