



State-Tribal Policy Symposium: Advancing Investments in Indian Country

Tuesday, November 13, 2018
GREAT NORTHERN HOTEL, HELENA, MONTANA

8:30AM **Registration and Continental Breakfast**

9:30AM **Welcome and Opening**

10:00AM **Montana's State Budget Matters to Indian Country**

Learn how the state budget impacts tribal communities, get an overview of the budget process and, and learn the facts about the contributions Indian Country makes to the health of our state's economy.

Presenters:

Jason Smith, Governor's Office of Indian Affairs

Heather Sobrepeña, Indian Country Programs, MT Department of Commerce

11:00AM **Legislative Session 101 – Crash Course**

Get an overview of how a bill becomes law, how to track legislative activity using the LAWS website, and how to get involved in the legislative process.

Presenter: **Hope Stockwell**, Montana Legislative Services

NOON **LUNCH**

1:00PM **Save Bill or Kill Bill? Influencing the Outcome of Legislative Bills**

Panel 1 - Past Successes - CASE STUDY: Medicaid Expansion

Hear first-hand accounts of how the tribal voice can make a difference in securing meaningful investments in Indian Country and how powerful it can be to work with advocacy organizations to achieve these goals.

Moderators: **Tara Jensen and Heather O'Loughlin**, Co-Directors, Montana Budget and Policy Center

Presenters:

Kevin Howlett, Past Director, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes Tribal Health Department and member of the MT HELP Oversight Committee

Sarah Howell, Executive Director, Montana Women Vote

2:00PM **Panel 2 – Current Investments and Future Opportunities**

Hear about the important investments the state is making in Indian Country and get the details on and how they affect American Indians in Montana. Learn how to engage in and influence the direction and creation of these and future state-level policies. Understand how your voice can help policymakers better address important concerns facing American Indians in Montana.

Moderator: **Mark Jette**, Special Assistant Attorney General, Montana Department of Labor

Topics and Panelists:

- Healthcare: Suicide Prevention, Behavioral and Mental Health - **Lesia Evers**, Tribal Relations Manager, MT Department of Public Health and Human Services
- Criminal Justice: Criminal Justice Reinvestment Initiative- **Cynthia Wolken**, Deputy Director, Montana Department of Corrections
- Reservation Economies: Indian Country Economic Development – **Heather Sobrepeña**, Section Manager, Indian Country Programs, Montana Department of Commerce

3:15PM **BREAK**

3:30PM **Get Your Voice Heard!**

During this session attendees will rotate between two highly experienced trainers to learn how to get fellow community members to take action and how to lobby at the state capitol, including methods of building relationships with legislators and how to provide legislative testimony.

Presenters:

Marci McLean, Executive Director, Western Native Voice

Alissa Snow, Field Director and Lobbyist, Western Native Voice

5:00PM **Closing – Next Steps**

5:30PM **Adjourn**

6:00PM **Legislative Reception, Great Northern Ballroom**