



# FULL CIRCLE



Newsletter for Tribes

Waste Management & Tribal Response

## Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals



NORTHERN ARIZONA  
UNIVERSITY

Tribal Solid Waste Education and Assistance Program  
Tribal Waste and Response Assistance Program

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### Welcome to Full Circle Newsletter

#### ■ Wishing John Mead The Very Best As He Starts New Adventures

John Mead will be retiring on November 30. He tried this once before, but we convinced him to come back part-time to continue helping with the Tribal Lands and Environment Forum (TLEF), but this time we think he really means it!

John came to ITEP in 2002 and started a program that provided training and technical assistance to tribal wastewater professionals. When that grant came to end, he took over our Environmental Compliance and Inspection program and also organized a regional conference on sustainable building for tribal staff. In 2009 John joined Todd on the new Tribal Waste and Response Program (TWRAP) and helped create the TLEF. He's served as the cornerstone of every single TLEF since then. Through his work on various programs John has worked in cooperation with tribal professionals from over 250 different tribes and Alaskan Native Villages – and is also a wonderful colleague and friend.

Thank you John, for your dedication, your passion, and your laughter. We wish you all the very best as you begin new adventures!



#### ■ New Tribal Superfund Advisory Council Formed

We have recently formed an advisory council of some wonderful volunteers from the Tribal Superfund Working Group (TSFWG). This advisory council will not only assist us at ITEP with planning Superfund-related trainings, online educational resources, webinars, and events at the TLEF – they will also serve as crucial partners for our TWRAP Steering Committee.

#### Meet Our Staff:

Todd Barnell, Program  
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#### ■ Full Circle Network

Did someone forward this newsletter to you? Send an email to Todd Barnell to subscribe or unsubscribe to the newsletter. Archived issues can be found at:

[www7.nau.edu/itep/waste](http://www7.nau.edu/itep/waste)

As many of you know, the EPA's Superfund Task Force has been considering changes to how the Agency can expedite cleanup and remediation activities at Superfund sites. This task force released a series of recommendations earlier this year. As part of their ongoing work communicating tribal perspectives and priorities, the TWRAP Steering Committee will be discussing these recommendations with their colleagues at EPA. And now they will also be able to draw upon the expertise of the members of this Superfund advisory council as well.

We are very fortunate to have such a diverse and experienced group of volunteers. The members of this advisory council are Dino Chavarria (Pueblo of Santa Clara); Alex James (Yakutat Tlingit Tribe); Tim Kent (Quapaw Tribe); Rebecca Stevens (Coeur d'Alene Tribe); Larry Tippit (Peoria Tribe); Jay Wilkins (Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe); and Melissa Witkowski (Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa).

Thank you to all of them for serving in this way, and ensuring tribal perspectives are heard during this time of change.

### ■ **New Training Courses for 2018**

We will be offering a new course for tribal solid waste professionals – **Strategic Planning for Waste Diversion**. This course will take place January 23-25, 2018 in Reno, Nevada, and will feature two outstanding instructors with many years of experience running tribal environmental programs – Ondrea Barber and Virginia LeClere. In addition to lectures and small group work, attendees will also visit several recycling centers at the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California. Applications for this course are due by December 4 and can be found on our training website at: [http://www7.nau.edu/itep/main/Training/training\\_waste](http://www7.nau.edu/itep/main/Training/training_waste).

We are also in the process of developing several other courses, including our recycling, composting, and solid waste code development trainings, for delivery next year as well. Once dates and locations are finalized we will be sending out announcements about additional courses – both in-person and online.

### ■ **A Very Special Thank You to Our Mentors and Mentees**

At this time of year, our thoughts have been turning to the bounty we've harvested – both figuratively and literally – and how fortunate we are to have the opportunity to work with so many terrific people at tribes, federal agencies, businesses, and non-profits across the country. And this has been especially true lately as in the last few weeks we've heard from several people who have participated in our onsite mentoring project. As they shared their stories we found ourselves so grateful for the many people who have been involved in this project – both the mentors and the mentees.

Over the last several years we have been able to coordinate onsite mentor matches for twenty different tribes across the nation, and we currently have seven more matches in the work, which will be taking place over the next few months.

These matches have proven to be extremely successful, and mentors are consistently telling us that they gain as much out of the experience as the mentees. We are also thrilled to see so many mentees become mentors themselves. But these matches would not be successful if it were not for the dedication and passion of our mentors and mentees. **Thank you** for being such an inspiration to all of us at ITEP!

In addition to offering these onsite mentor matches to tribal solid waste professionals, we are now also coordinating them for those working on Superfund-related projects. If you have any questions about these projects please contact Todd at [todd.barnell@nau.edu](mailto:todd.barnell@nau.edu) or Julie at

[julie.jurkowski@nau.edu](mailto:julie.jurkowski@nau.edu).

### ■ **New Educational Videos Are Now Online for Waste and Response Programs**

We've been quite busy preparing several new videos on solid & hazardous waste, USTs, brownfields, Superfund, and emergency – and we have several more under development. Be sure to check out our new ITEP Videos page at: <http://www7.nau.edu/itep/main/Videos>.

### ■ **Save the Date for the 2018 Tribal Lands and Environment Forum**

The 2018 TLEF will be taking place **August 13-16, 2018 in Spokane**, Washington. We have already started preliminary work on this event, and will be opening up registration in January. Keep your eyes on your inbox and we hope to see you there!



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➡ [www.facebook.com/ITEPnau](http://www.facebook.com/ITEPnau)

#### **Learn more...**

##### ➡ **[Tribal Waste and Response Assistance Program \(TWRAP\)](#)**

**TWRAP is a program focused on assisting tribes with all waste management, brownfields, USTs, contaminated sites, and response programs. This program is funded by the USEPA's Office of Land and Emergency Management.**

##### ➡ **[Tribal Solid Waste Education and Assistance Program \(TSWEAP\)](#)**

**TSWEAP's focus is providing training and assistance to tribes working on solid and hazardous waste management and diversion. This program is funded by the USDA, IHS, and USEPA.**