



Welcome to Full Circle Newsletter

■ **Thank You For Joining Us for the TLEF: A Virtual Gathering**

We want to thank the nearly 900 people from across the country who attended the TLEF: A Virtual Gathering last month. We sincerely hope you were able to feed both your brain as well as your heart in our first attempt to bring you all together in a virtual format.

And if you were not able to attend you can visit <http://bit.ly/2020TLEF> to watch videos and recordings of many of the sessions at your convenience. You can see Robin Wall Kimmerer's inspiring keynote presentation during our opening, Jason Baldes fascinating closing session on the Inter Tribal Buffalo Council's work, the various videos submitted by Tribes for our cultural event, and dozens of presentations on solid waste, USTs, Superfund, emergency response, and brownfields issues.

We want to extend a heartfelt thank you to the amazing Tribal Waste and Response Steering Committee members, as well as all the terrific presenters and attendees who made this possible. And as we all continue to navigate these challenging times all of us on ITEP's waste and response team want to thank you for your hard work, dedication and passion!

■ **Run – or Walk! – to Help Native Students**

Many of you will remember Riley Smith, who used to work for our team. Riley is now the Water Quality Specialist for the Makah Tribe and is doing fantastic work up in the Pacific Northwest.

What you might not know is that when Riley was working on her graduate degree, she was a recipient of the Virgil Masayesva Native American Scholarship. This scholarship was established to honor the co-founder and original director of ITEP, and has been assisting Native American students pursuing degrees in environmental science since 2006.

One of the things we found especially moving about this year's virtual TLEF is that it allowed more Native American students than ever to participate. As many of you may remember, travel funds can be hard to scrape together when you are pursuing a degree. And so this virtual format allowed many of those who in the next generation, who will be carrying on the work we do today, to attend and network with those already fighting in the front lines.

ITEP is putting on a "virtual run" in order to raise awareness of this scholarship. This special fund is what makes it possible for people like Riley to pursue their educational goals and become ambassadors and protectors of the lands and people across Indian Country. The registration fee for the run/walk is \$25, and we would like to encourage participants and their colleagues, friends, organizations and family members to also donate any amount that is possible towards the fund to directly help Native American students who want to work in the environmental field.

Meet Our Staff:

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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

So, if you enjoy running (or walking), and would like to help raise money to assist Native students, then please visit www.nau.edu/itepcampaigns, and share this announcement with your friends and colleagues. And on this page you can also make a direct donation to the scholarship fund in whatever amount works for you (which works great if you just want to help out and not actually run!). Together we can make a positive and lasting impact and support the next generation of Native American environmental leaders!

■ **To Those Affected By the Current Wildfires – You Are In Our Thoughts and Hearts**

The terrible wildfires in the West are affecting many of our friends and colleagues at numerous Tribal Nations, as well as the lands that support us all. Recently we've found ourselves turning to stories about Indigenous leaders and scientists from around the world who are bringing Traditional Indigenous Fire Knowledge to the forefront.

While this post is two years old, we want to share it with you. Dr. Frank Kanawha Lake, fire ecologist with the US Forest Service, wrote a very inspiring story about fire as medicine, which you can read here: <https://fireadaptednetwork.org/fire-as-medicine-fire-dependent-cultures/>.

All of you affected by these fires are in our thoughts and hearts.

■ **Virtual Trainings, Resources and Other News of Interest**

September 16: Special UST Training Available Online!

Ben Thomas of UST Training, in partnership with the Tribal Convenience Store Association (TCSA), is offering a special online Indian Country Class A/B UST Operator Training. The course open to any and all Indian Country UST operators with Federally regulated USTs. You can register for this course here:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_1PIh52XITxiw8arbox6xQ

Comments on US EPA's National Recycling Goals Being Accepted Until October 2

US EPA has posted their draft national recycling goals here:

<https://www.epa.gov/americanrecycles/us-national-recycling-goals> are accepting comments until October 2. If your Tribe is engaged in recycling efforts, especially during this extra-challenging time, then check out these goals and be sure to send your comments to ORCRMMeasurement@epa.gov.

US EPA OUST Leadership Change

Many of you know Carolyn Hoskinson, Director of OLEM's Office of Underground Storage Tanks. She has been to nearly every TLEF, and has long been a champion of Tribal programs and staff as well as initiating many new approaches to foster communication and cooperation between Tribal professionals and their federal colleagues. She has now taken on a new job at US EPA and will be leaving the Office of Underground Storage Tanks to become the Director of the Office of Resource Conservation and Recovery. While this is a loss for the UST world, it will be a terrific new chapter for Carolyn as well as all of you who work in Tribal solid waste programs.

FEMA's Center for Domestic Preparedness Offering a Variety of Virtual Courses

There are over 20 different courses available covering a multitude of topics of interest for those working in emergency management, as well as those who may find themselves having to respond to unforeseen issues. For information on the course offerings, and to register, visit <https://cdp.dhs.gov/vilt>.

Are You Notified When a Spill Occurs on Your Tribal Lands?

As a government entity, you may receive email notifications of oil, chemical, radiological, biological, and etiological discharges into the environment within your jurisdiction by submitting a completed application to the National Response Center (NRC). You may choose which types of incidents you would like to receive notifications for: aircraft, continuous release, fixed, storage tank, pipeline, platform, railroad, railroad non-release, mobile, unknown sheen, and vessel. The form describes each type of release. For example, a continuous release is an EPA permitted release, from an industrial process, that occurs without interruption or abatement, or that is routine, anticipated, intermittent, and incidental to normal operations or treatment processes of a manufacturing or treatment facility. Tribes with NRC agreements in place receive spill notifications based on provided jurisdictional information and selected incident criteria contained in the agreement application. To apply for an NRC agreement, please email nrc@uscg.mil or fax the following form to 202-267-1322: nrc.uscg.mil/FOIAFiles/ApplicationToReceiveNRCReportsForm.pdf - this form also includes NRC's address, email, and a phone number for any assistance and questions.

US EPA Launches Office of Mountains, Deserts and Plains to Effectively Address Abandoned Mine Lands, Accelerate Cleanup Across the West

US EPA announced the creation of the Office of Mountains, Deserts and Plains located in EPA's office in Lakewood, Colo. This western lands-focused office will address cross-cutting issues unique to the region, and more effectively leverage existing EPA staff, expertise and resources in hardrock mining cleanup. The Office of Mountains, Deserts and Plains will assume oversight responsibilities for federal hardrock mining cleanup sites west of the Mississippi River; serve as a central contact for other federal agencies, states and tribes with responsibility for or impacted by these sites; and develop innovative technologies and adaptive management approaches to address legacy pollution. Additionally, the office will support efforts of conservation organizations to voluntarily undertake projects to improve conditions at abandoned mines (Good Samaritan projects). For more information on the Office of Mountains, Deserts and Plains: <https://www.epa.gov/mountainsdesertsplains>.

September is Preparedness Month

US EPA understands that effective emergency response and recovery is most successful when every person, community, business leader, and government official is prepared. Local governments and community agencies can find suggestions for preparing and protecting water and wastewater facilities on EPA's [September is Preparedness Month website](#). The website also includes information for debris management planning, since storm debris can occur in enormous amounts that overwhelm landfills and can present dangers to human health and the environment. The Federal Emergency Management Agency's website — [Ready.gov](https://www.ready.gov) also has information to help individuals and families with preparedness, including tips on making a plan and an emergency supplies kit.

