

Participant Directory for Energy Sovereignty Research Workshop

March 12 - 13, 2024

Abbas Akhil



Abbas Akhil is the Project Manager for Picuris Community Solar Phase II. He joined the battery program at Sandia National Laboratories in 1987 when it was in its inception stages and wrote the earliest reports on multiple uses for energy storage in the electric grid. Prior to Sandia Labs he worked in Public Service Company of New Mexico. In 2019 he was elected to the state legislature and is the co-author of the 2020 New Mexico Grid Modernization Act. He is a licensed engineer in New Mexico and is a Board Member of the NM Society of Professional Engineers.

Vero Arguello



Guw'aadzi, my name is Vero, and I am from the Pueblo of Acoma and Kewa Pueblo. I was born and raised in New Mexico. I joined the GRID Alternatives' National Tribal Program in November 2023 as the Tribal Outreach & Engagement Officer. I have an academic background in environmental planning. I have participated in previous Department of Energy Office of Indian Energy Program Review, Sandia National Laboratories Tribal Energy Program, The University of Arizona Indigenous Food, Energy, and Water Security fellowship, and the Ancestral Lands Conservation Corps Individual Placement Program. I am passionate about building renewable energy capacity on Native Country.

Stan Atcitty



Dr. Stan Atcitty received his BS and MS degree in electrical engineering from the New Mexico State University in 1993 and 1995, respectively. He received his PhD from Virginia Tech University in 2006. He is presently a Senior Scientist at Sandia National Laboratories in the Energy Storage Technology & Systems department. He has worked at Sandia for over 25 years. His interest in research is power electronics necessary for integrating energy storage and distributed generation with the electric utility grid. He leads the power electronics subprogram as part of the DOE Office of Electricity Energy Storage Program.

Jeff Atencio



Jeff Atencio (Ohkay Owingeh, Pueblo of Laguna) is from the New Mexico Pueblos of Ohkay Owingeh and Laguna. He has over 20 years of experience working for Pueblos and municipal government, as well as a Navy veteran. He holds a BS in Information Technology from the University of Phoenix. Within Tribal government he has worked at Ohkay Owingeh as a CHR/Fireman/EMT-A, managed an agricultural cooperative that had a line of dehydrated products and farmed 100 acres. The Agricultural Cooperative was recognized as an "Entrepreneur of the Year" by the State of New Mexico. He was a coordinator within Ohkay Owingeh Environment Department where he helped to set up tribal environmental regulations. He was a Housing Department Director at Tesuque Pueblo. He was a board member on the Tribal Housing Authorities for Ohkay Owingeh and Northern Pueblos, where he was able to initiate a housing development at two different Pueblos. Most recently he was a Tribal Administrator at Picuris Pueblo where he was instrumental in setting up a Boys and Girls club, address infrastructure needs, a new senior center, a new adult day care facility, a travel center, upgrade to a transfer station, assisted with establishing class II gaming, and a 1 MW solar array. His work within the City of Santa Fe ranged from accounts receivable, customer service at the water division, water conservation specialist, and IT department as an Applications Software Specialist (Oracle and AS400). His military service was as a Data Systems Technician in the Carrier Intelligence Center, served during Desert Shield/Storm. He created Rainstorm Consulting to bring his experience in economic development, grant writing, program development and management, financing/funding to Pueblos, Tribes, and Nations. He is an artist (JD Rainstorm) and has in the past taken part in SWAIA Indian Market and Native Treasures, We are the Seeds Show (Santa Fe), and has shown his work in galleries in Santa Fe and Massachusetts. He currently is the Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors for a native CDFI, Native Community Capital.

Mayane Barudin



Mayane advocates for inclusive renewable energy policy development and implementation. A proud Indigenous woman and a Tribal member of Kewa Pueblo in New Mexico, Mayane hopes to enable economic prosperity and environmental justice for her community and Indigenous peoples through energy policy reform and statewide solar campaign initiatives. Her work prioritizes environmental and energy justice for historically underserved communities. Mayane started Sovereign Energy as a native-led nonprofit organization to help center Tribal energy sovereignty and Indigenous voices within the renewable energy transition to enable energy reparations and sustainability for Indigenous peoples. Mayane identified her focus on advocating for the just energy transition after working with the United Nations Secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (SPFII) and organizing with local and national non-profits to push a solar transition within Tribal nations and at a state level. She has completed her Master of Science in Environmental Change and Management at the University of Oxford and received her Bachelor's at the University of Colorado at Boulder.

Sandra Begay



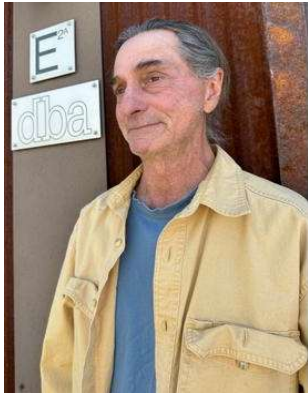
Sandra Begay, the daughter of a Navajo tribal leader and a public health nurse, is a member of the Navajo Nation and she has been an engineer for 33 years. Sandra has worked at Sandia National Laboratories (Sandia) for 30 years, where she is a research and development engineer. Before Sandia, Sandra worked at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory and Los Alamos National Laboratory. Sandra served on the University of New Mexico Board of Regents as the Board's Secretary / Treasurer. Sandra earned an Associates of Science degree in Pre-Engineering, a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering from the University of New Mexico (UNM) and a Master of Science from Stanford University in Structural Engineering with an emphasis in Earthquake Engineering. Sandra has enjoyed 20 years of unique work focused on providing technical assistance to U.S. tribes. Sandra is featured in the American Society of Civil Engineers book "Changing Our World: True Stories of Women Engineers", where she is included in the chapter "Women in Power," describing her research in providing electricity through solar panels to hundreds of Navajo members. Sandra is proud to have mentored 44 technical American Indian and Alaska Native college students, which included 26 women interns (60% of the total were women) and the former interns have become highly regarded technical staff members and leaders within tribal organizations, industry, academia, and non-profit groups. Sandra is a recipient of the 2021 Women in Technology Award from the NM Technology Council.

Stephanie Bostwick



Stephanie serves as a Tribal College and University (TCU) Coordinator for the U.S. Department of Energy Office of Indian Energy Policy and Programs. She liaises with TCUs and supports their navigation of federal energy programs, funding, and financing. Before joining the Office of Indian Energy, Stephanie was a project manager in the Resilient Systems Design and Engineering Group at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, where she worked closely with tribes on resilience and energy sovereignty, energy efficiency, and integration of distributed renewable energy generation. Stephanie continues to teach at Northwest Indian College in Bellingham, WA, where she developed an engineering program that incorporated local tribal interests in renewable energy, smart grids, and microgrids. She earned a B.S. degree in nuclear engineering technology from Thomas Edison State University through the School of Applied Science and Technology. She also earned B.S. and M.S. degrees in aeronautical and astronautical engineering from the University of Washington. Stephanie is a member of the Amskapi Pikuni (Blackfeet Nation).

David Brecker



David Brecker is the founder and President of the Microgrid Systems Laboratory (MSL), a non-profit energy innovation lab and consortium with 19 member organizations worldwide, working in the four programmatic areas of research, innovation, demonstration, and workforce education. David co-Directs the Energy Sovereignty Institute, an MSL initiative supporting tribal communities in their clean energy objectives. He previously served as President and Principal Consultant at David Brecker Associates, specializing in strategies for business, industry, and economic development. He earned his MBA from Harvard Business School in 1982, and has acquired over 30 years of general management experience. His earlier professional background spanned the arts, media, and entertainment industries, including work as a musician, graphic designer, feature film production executive, and screenwriter.

Scott Clow



Scott is the Environmental Programs Director at the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe. He graduated from Lafayette College with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Chemistry and Environmental Science. He has worked for the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe since 1996. His work includes Ute Mountain Ute Tribe's renewable energy projects.

Andrew Curley



Andrew Curley (Diné) is an assistant professor at the University of Arizona. Broadly speaking, his research focuses on Indigenous incorporation into colonial-capitalism, or forms of exploitation linked to resource extraction and underdevelopment. From 2012-2014, he conducted ethnographic fieldwork within the Navajo Nation regarding the future of the Navajo Generating Station. This research is featured in his book, "Carbon Sovereignty," from University of Arizona Press. His current research is more historical and archival. It investigates the colonial nature of Arizona's access to the Colorado River. This work critiques infrastructure like the Central Arizona Project, and legal regimes, such as the Colorado Compact.

Tim Filley



Filley serves as the inaugural Director for Institute for Resilient Environmental and Systems (IREES) in the OU Office of Vice President for Research and Partnerships where he works to develop and support OU's leadership in research at the intersection of energy, environment, and society. IREES, is one of the four new institutes that make up the core of OU's strategic convergence framework provides tools for teaming, ideation, stakeholder engagement, workshops, and innovation grants. Filley also directs the Latin American Sustainability Initiative which catalyzes, supports, and scales collaborations with partners in Latin America to address complex environmental, human health, and societal challenges.

Elmer Guy



Dr. Elmer Guy has served as the president of Navajo Technical University (NTU), which is a member of the American Indian Higher Education Consortium (AIHEC), a community of 37 tribally and federally chartered institutions of higher education. Navajo Technical University offers certificate to PhD programs. Prior to becoming president, Dr. Guy also served NTU as its vice president of academics and student services and its dean of instruction. In 2011 and 2012, under Dr. Guy's leadership, NTU was named one of the top 120 community colleges in the United States by the Aspen Institute's College Excellence Program. Before joining NTU, Dr. Guy was appointed by the Navajo Nation president to serve as both the executive director and deputy director of the Navajo Nation Department of Education. During his tenure with the Navajo Nation Department of Education, several needed programs were successfully developed and implemented, including two trusts for the handicapped (\$7 million) and for vocational education programs (\$6 million); the Navajo Medicine Man Apprentice School; and a comprehensive teacher education program, all of which have been institutionalized and remain in full operation. Dr. Guy earned his undergraduate and doctorate degrees from the University of Arizona, and in between, a graduate degree from the University of San Francisco. Dr. Guy serves on the board of the AIHEC, the World Indigenous Higher Education Consortium, US Presidential appointment to the National Board for Education Sciences, as well as other regional and national associations.

Wafa Hozien



Wafa Hozien, Ph.D. has been an educator, executive leader, global health director for over 30 years. Presently, she is a college executive leader in the United States where she guides college and university presidents and their senior leadership teams on implementing effective strategies to address critical needs, leads the management and development of the senior leadership teams, thereby enhancing organizational impact. In higher education, she brings in millions of dollars in external funding. Dr. Hozien collaborates on successfully improving enrollment, retention and student success rates.

Bethany Klemetsrud



Beth Klemetsrud is a lineal descendent of the Brothertown and Oneida Tribes of Wisconsin and grew up in the White Earth Nation. She graduated from the University of Minnesota-Duluth in 2012 with her B.S.Ch.E. Beth completed her PhD in Chemical Engineering at Michigan Tech in 2016 and is currently an Assistant Professor of Chemical Engineering at the University of North Dakota. Her research focuses on the development of fuels and chemicals from waste materials, conducting sustainability assessments, and developing culturally relevant engineering education. She is passionate about the environment, advocating for equity in higher education, and being the AISES and SWE faculty advisor

Joseph Kunkel



A citizen of the Northern Cheyenne Nation, Joseph Kunkel is a community designer and educator, focused on sustainable development practices for Indigenous communities. As a Principal at MASS Design Group, Joseph directs the Sustainable Native Communities Design Lab in O'ghe P'oghe (Santa Fe, New Mexico). Joseph's work includes exemplary Indian housing projects, such as the the Wa-Di Housing Project, a 41-unit affordable housing development supported by the National Endowment for the Arts and ArtPlace America. His research on affordable housing was developed into emerging best practices, leading to an online Healthy Homes Road Map for tribal housing development, funded by HUD's PD&R Office. In 2019, Joseph was awarded an Obama Fellowship in recognition of his work with Indigenous communities. In 2018, he received a Rauschenberg SEED grant from the Robert Rauschenberg Foundation to expand his work in arts-based community development and a 2019 Creative Capital Award for his work on the Northern Cheyenne Healing Trail. Joseph is a Fellow of the inaugural class of the Civil Society Fellowship, a partnership of ADL and The Aspen Institute, and a member of the Aspen Global Leadership Network. The University of Maryland's Alumni Association awarded Joseph the 2021 inaugural Elaine Johnson Coates Award. Joseph was named a 2022 Rubinger Community Fellow by the Local Initiative Support Corporation (LISC). He is a past recipient of the Enterprise Rose Architectural Fellowship. Joseph holds a Master of Architecture & Urban Design from the University of Maryland and a Bachelor of Science in Architectural Engineering from the University of Hartford, where he graduated magna cum laude.

Darrick Lee



Darrick served in the U.S. Marine Corps as a journeyman electrician before enrolling at NTU in 2013. Since then, Darrick has earned a certificate in Electrical Trades, an Associate of Applied Science degree in Energy Systems, and an Associate of Science in Mathematics. On May 17, 2019, Lee was the first student to graduate with a concentration in Power & Energy in NTU's Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering. Darrick's research area is in solar powered micro grids, which has led him to develop a test system for his senior capstone project that has the potential of being implemented on the Navajo Nation. He has presented his research at international power and energy conferences at Georgia Tech and the University of Illinois Urbana Champagne, as well as at NTU's 7th Annual Research Day. In his free time, Lee volunteers as an animal rescuer and advocate at Soul Dog Rescue, Compassion Corner, and the Blackhat Humane Society. Lee served as a team lead for a community solar project with the Colorado-based company Grid Alternatives to install solar panels on houses in Ojo Encino, NM.

Edwina Leslie



Edwina Leslie is currently an undergraduate student at Navajo Technical University, she's majoring in electrical engineering and minoring in mathematics. Currently working as a student researcher with a concentration of renewable energy projects including competitions. She is the first-generation student and the first female to represent the STEM field. She is originally from Churchrock, New Mexico and lived there her whole life on the Navajo Nation. Edwina has previously interned with Sandia National Laboratories.

Henry Louie



Dr. Henry Louie received his PhD in Electrical Engineering from the University of Washington in 2008. He is presently a Professor in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering at Seattle University. He is President and Co-founder of KiloWatts for Humanity, a non-profit organization providing off-grid electricity access and business opportunities in sub-Saharan Africa. In 2015/2016, Dr. Louie was Fulbright Scholar to Copperbelt University in Kitwe, Zambia. He is involved in collaborative research projects related to off-grid electricity access on the Navajo Nation, and is a member of the Navajo Technical University Master in Electrical Engineering Advisory Board.

Jacob Moore



Mr. Moore’s responsibilities cover a wide range of transformative initiatives, including utilizing Indigenous knowledge, developing partnerships, and aligning research projects with tribal priorities, sustainability practices that incorporate traditional knowledge in a respectful way, collaborations with a wide variety of stakeholders, and social advancements in equity and global health. Mr. Moore was formerly the Associate Vice President of Tribal Relations in the Office of Government and Community Affairs at ASU. His work included intergovernmental affairs between ASU and tribal nations and communities. Prior to his work at ASU, Jacob Moore was managing partner for Generation Seven Strategic Partners, LLC, and also worked as an Economic Development Analyst and Special Assistant on Congressional and Legislative Affairs for the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community. Mr. Moore previously served as a member of the Arizona State Board of Education. He is currently on the board of directors for the Arizona Community Foundation, ASU Morrison Institute, WestEd, Arizona Minority Education Policy Analysis Center (AMEPAC), and Tohono O’odham Gaming Enterprise. Mr. Moore earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Finance and an Executive MBA from the Arizona State University’s W.P. Carey College of Business. He is a senior global futures scholar with the Julie Ann Wrigley Global Futures Laboratory and a health solutions ambassador with ASU’s College of Health Solutions. He is a citizen of the Tohono O’odham Nation.

Darryl Pyawasay



Darryl Pyawasay is a seasoned professional with 33 years of experience in industrial and utility operation, management, safety, and regulatory compliance. Currently serving as the Renewable Energy Manager for the Menominee Tribe, Darryl also holds the position of Plant Operator for the Menominee Tribal Utilities. Darryl's career journey spans various roles in utility management and industrial systems maintenance before returning home to the Menominee Tribe in 2017. His expertise is fortified by multiple certifications and licenses in mechanical and electrical systems, reflecting his commitment to professional development and excellence in his field. In his current role, Darryl is at the forefront of driving sustainable energy initiatives for the Menominee Tribe. As the Renewable Energy Manager, he spearheads projects and programs geared towards long-term energy planning, micro-grid feasibility, solar development, and energy workforce development. Through his leadership and strategic vision, Darryl is instrumental in advancing the tribe's goals of environmental stewardship and energy independence.

Matt Renner



Matt Renner serves as Vice President of Seneca Environmental, a tribally owned renewable energy and Earth-healing solutions company. The company is owned by the Seneca Nation, which has tasked the company with equitably developing renewable energy projects that heal the Earth. Matt has worked as a nonprofit executive in clean energy, climate policy, and journalism for over a decade. He is proud to have been an initiating participant on day one of Occupy Wall Street in New York City, where his attention turned to the intersection between inequality and the unfolding climate emergency. Matt is passionate about creating sustainable and just business models for addressing the climate emergency and inequality.

David Riley



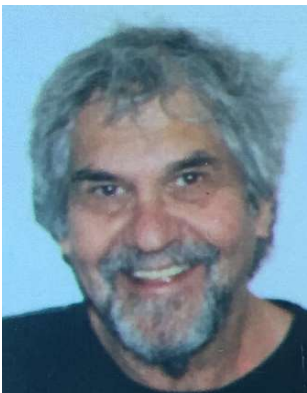
Dr. David Riley is a systems thinker and teacher with expertise in energy, smart grid systems, and leadership. He currently serves as the Director of Strategy for Indigenized Energy. One of his core roles is the translation of Indigenized Energy's work and mission for broad audiences. In 1998 David began working with native communities to adapt and deploy sustainable building methods and renewable energy technology. David served on the faculty of the University of Washington and Penn State University in the field of Architectural Engineering and construction. At Penn State he led the Center for Sustainability from 2005-2013. He has led numerous programmatic energy initiatives including the American Indian Housing Initiative, the National Energy Leadership Corps, the GridSTAR Center, and the DOE Solar-Ready Veteran program. He has published over 100 articles in refereed publications and secured over \$20M in funding from the National Science Foundation, The Department of Energy, and other private and public programs, including over \$6M of funding brought directly to native communities. David currently leads strategic planning and supports the development of Indigenized Energy as a learning organization.

Peter Romine



Peter Romine is Founder and Head of the Electrical Engineering program at Navajo Technical University (NTU), a Tribal College/University (TCU) on the Navajo Nation in Crownpoint, New Mexico. NTU is the First and Only TCU with ABET accreditation for Engineering. A distinction that allows NTU Engineering Graduates to compete for the same jobs and opportunities that graduates of other accredited institutions have long taken for granted. Graduates of the NTU Electrical Engineering program work for federal research institutions, technology industries, agencies across the Navajo Nation, and are pursuing graduate programs in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science. He created and launched the Master of Science in Electrical Engineering MSEE in January 2024, the first graduate Engineering program for a TCU. He has received approval from the NTU President to launch the PhD in Engineering after a student completes the MSEE.

Les Rubin



Les Rubin is the Finance Director for Picuris Pueblo and was involved in the tribe's first Megawatt solar array project completed in 2018. He is also involved in the tribe's second solar project which will be completed in April/May 2024. He has been the CFO for Tribes, Community Health Centers, Community Action Agencies, and the Private sector and a consultant to federal and state governments. He consulted with USAID on projects in Egypt, Eastern Europe, Russia, the Gulf and Africa. His previous position was as the CFO for Relief International, a global humanitarian relief agency across 35 countries.

Mara Schindelholz



Mara Schindelholz joined the U.S. National Science Foundation as a SBIR/STTR program director in 2023. Mara is also a principal research and development staff member at Sandia National Laboratories, where she has developed sensor diagnostics and advanced digital technologies for the Department of Energy and the Department of Defense. Her recent recognitions for her leadership in this area include the 2022 Sandia Mission Innovator Award and DOE's Energy I-Corps Commercialization Award. Prior to joining Sandia, Mara was a senior materials research engineer at Luna Innovations (now Luna Labs) and a consultant for ElectraWatch (since acquired by Austal USA). In both positions, she worked on and led DoD SBIR programs to develop and commercialize diagnostic sensing and predictive materials models. Mara received her master's in materials science and engineering and a bachelor's in chemistry from the University of Virginia.

Sherry Sneezer



Sherralyn Sneezer grew up on the Navajo Nation in the small town of Shonto, AZ. This has shaped her relationship with energy as the Navajo Nation landscape is dotted with coal mines, coal-fired power plants, abandoned uranium mines, and uranium disposal cells. She studied Environmental Studies at Dartmouth College where she wrote a thesis about solar energy, coal, and the Navajo Nation. Sherralyn has interned with Honor the Earth, the Navajo Nation EPA Air Quality Control Program, Sandia National Laboratories, and the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL). While at Sandia National Laboratories, she wrote a report about the utility-scale solar PV potential of the Navajo Nation. Through her experiences, Sherralyn has met wonderful Indigenous scholars and leaders, and she hopes to make a positive impact in Indian Country. Sherralyn is currently a PhD student in the Golisano Institute for Sustainability at Rochester Institute of Technology researching Tribal Energy Sovereignty.

Deb Tewa



Debby Tewa is a member of the Hopi tribe and is from Hotevilla, AZ. She is also the owner/president of Tewa Energy Service, LLC. She provides technical trainings on photovoltaics and residential electrical in the form of hands-on workshops. In addition, Tewa conducts STEM activities for grades 4th – 12th grades. Tewa has over 35 years in the electrical trade industry. She was previously employed with the Arizona Energy Office as a Tribal Energy Coordinator. Tewa was instrumental in setting up and extensive photovoltaic lab at Central Arizona College where she taught both beginning and advance Photovoltaics classes. She is the recipient of the 2021 American Indian Science and Engineering Society Professional Award for Indigenous Excellence.

Carrie Vega



Carrie Vega is a member of the Navajo Nation and a senior executive with the responsibility for ensuring that execution supports NGL's renewable energy strategy . With over 20 years in utility, government and the private sector, Carrie is not only part leader and part doer, she is also an experienced visionary and strategic thinker. By aligning and leveraging resources, motivating and empowering others, embracing change, identifying and evaluating opportunities, and driving growth, Carrie delivers optimal financial and operating results.

Melissa Weatherwax



Okii Niisto Niitaniiko Melissa Little Plume Weatherwax Niitoto Amskapii Piikani. My husband Marvin Jr. and I raised our daughters on the Two Medicine Little Badger Rivers on the Blackfeet Reservation. I have served my community at Blackfeet Community College for 21 years this year. My professional background includes systemic reform, k-12 & secondary informal science, renewable energy developmental and training, facilities development & fundraising. My degree background includes a bachelor's degree in elementary education. My most valued education has come from participating in Piikani ceremony, learning Piikani language, and my experience working with my tribal mentor's and community professionals and mentors.

Richard Wies



Richard Wies is a professor in the electrical computer engineering department at UAF. As an electric power systems expert, he leads research with ACEP on engineering challenges of renewable energy integration in remote islanded microgrids. His current research includes development of 1) models to understand the impacts of inverter-dominated grids on stability, 2) control system strategies for grid-forming operation of stand-alone asynchronous renewable generation, 3) advanced distribution management system strategies for optimizing energy distribution and storage with high renewable energy penetration, and 4) energy distribution models to assess impacts of renewable energy on food, energy and water system infrastructure in remote Alaska communities. Wies received his Ph.D. in electrical engineering from the University of Wyoming and has been with UAF since 1999.

Nathan Williams



Dr. Nathan Williams is an Assistant Professor at the Golisano Institute for Sustainability at the Rochester Institute of Technology. His research focuses on African energy systems with a particular interest in the use of renewable and decentralized energy technologies to expand access to electricity. His work has applied various methods including techno-economic modeling, risk analysis and machine learning. More broadly, he is interested in how infrastructure systems in the Global South can be planned in an integrated and sustainable manner to support social and economic development in underserved communities.

Ann Witmer



Dr. Ann-Perry Witmer is a teaching assistant professor in the Carle Illinois College of Medicine and lecturer in the Electrical & Computer Engineering Department at the University of Illinois Champaign-Urbana. She originated the emerging discipline of Contextual Engineering, which applies the social sciences to improve technical engineering design processes, and leads the Contextual Engineering Research Group. Witmer’s work intersects indigenous communities on five continents, exploring place-based knowledge and applying it to engineering designs that best address user needs. In addition to her engineering degrees from Illinois, Witmer holds degrees in journalism and art history from Boston University.

Wayne Yazza



Wayne Yazza Jr. of the Pueblo of Picuris, Santa Clara Pueblo and the Navajo Nation is the Director of Utilities for the Pueblo of Picuris tribe, which is located in southern Taos County in New Mexico. As the Director of Utilities, Wayne has been instrumental in the creation of the tribe’s Utility Department which is responsible for the following services; water, wastewater, solid waste, electricity (Solar Phase I & II projects), and tribal broadband. Wayne has both a level one Water Treatment Operator and Waste Water Collection certificates. In Tribal Leadership, Wayne served as Lt. Governor of the Pueblo of Picuris from 2017 to 2022. His focus included working with federal and state levels of government. While overseeing a large number of Capital Outlay projects such as the renovation of the Tribal Administration Offices and the Interpretive/ Museum. Also, new construction of the Tribal Health Station, Senior Center, Solid Waste Station, Water Utilities/Pump House, Tribal Works building, and the Travel Center.