

DOE / SANDIA TRIBAL ENERGY – INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Immersion of future leaders into
renewable energy



2014 Update

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Sandia is a multiprogram laboratory operated by Sandia Corporation, a Lockheed Martin Company,
for the United States Department of Energy under contract DE-AC04-94AL85000.



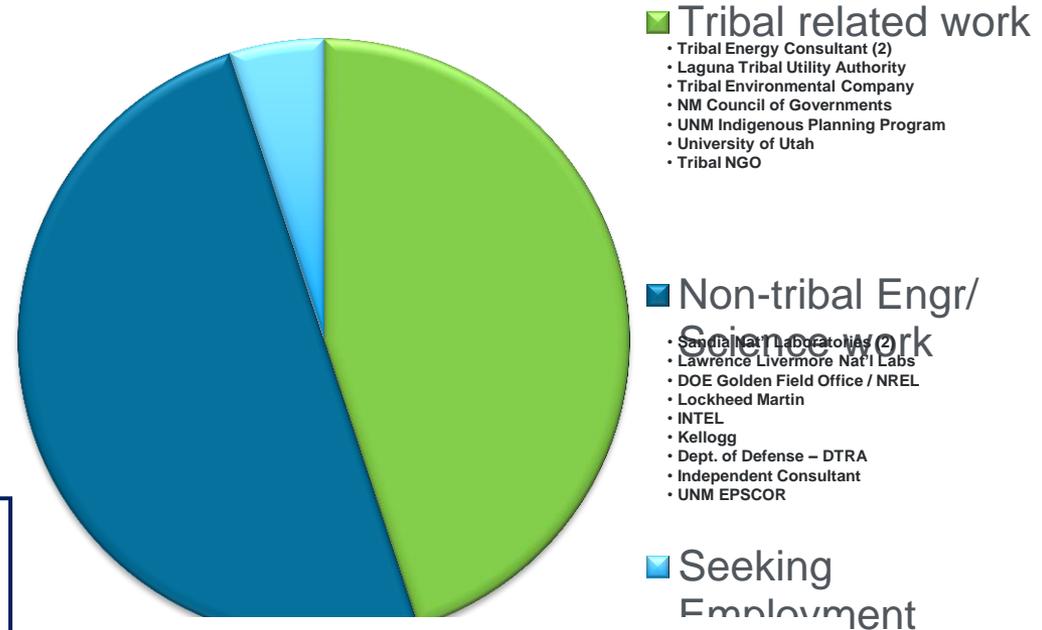


Intern Gathering at Navajo Energy Summit – Flagstaff, AZ
 Pictured: Debby Tewa, Suzanne Singer, Terry Battiest,
 Len Necefer, Carson Pete, Sandra Begay-Campbell, Thomas
 Jones

2002 - 2014

- **31 undergraduate & graduate interns have participated.**
 - **18 different tribal affiliations**
 - **15 different majors**
- **29% of the interns were converted to year-round status (9 of 31)**
 - **13% of the interns were hired as FTEs or Sandia contractor (4 of 31)**
 - **55% female interns (17 of 31)**

Type of Work for Former Interns



Graduation Rate of All Interns





Deborah Tewa (Hopi)

BS - Indigenous Studies, Northern Arizona University

Her research focused on tribal off-grid PV systems and tribal RE systems.

Pictured at Sandia's PV Laboratory, NM:
Deborah Tewa (certified electrician & solar installer)

“While I had worked with photovoltaic systems for several years including my experience at NativeSUN, the internship complemented my prior work ‘in the trenches’ and has been a gratifying experience. “



Pictured at Navajo - Monument Valley, UT:
Keith Candelaria, Velissa Sandoval & Shawn Tsabetsaye.

Keith Candelaria (San Felipe/Jemez), BS - Environmental/Earth Science, Dartmouth College
His paper entitled, *"Native American Renewable Energy Approaches: Navajo Tribal Utility Authority and NativeSun."*

Velissa Sandoval (Navajo/Zuni), BS - Electrical Engineering
Her paper entitled, *"Women Champions in Solar Energy."*

Shaun Tsabetsaye (Zuni) is a graduate student in electrical engineering, University of New Mexico, BS – Electrical Engineering. His paper entitled, *"Navajo Tribal Utility Authority: Electrification Demonstration Program - Developing a Sustainable Tribal and Rural Co-operative Solar Program"*.

“Native Americans believe that the sun, wind, and geothermal waters are all gifts from the Creator. As people use these resources today, they should always remember to give thanks for all that is provided.”



Pictured at Hopi Tribe Petroglyph:
Benjamin Mar, Jennifer Coots, Colin Ben,
Deborah Tewa, & Sandra Begay-Campbell.

Benjamin Mar (Cherokee), BS – Electrical Engineering, Worcester Polytechnic Institute
His paper entitled *"Navajo Tribal Utility Authority: Photovoltaic Hybrid Operation and Maintenance Process for a Sustainable Program"*

Jennifer Coots (Navajo), MBA – Finance, University of New Mexico, BA Finance
Her paper entitled *"A Decade Of Changes To An Alternative Power Source For A Rural Utility."*

Colin Ben (Navajo), MA – American Indian Studies, University of Arizona. His paper entitled *"Researching Renewable Energy Systems Available to Indian Country"*

Deborah Tewa (Hopi), BS - Indigenous Studies, Northern Arizona University.
Her research focused on DOE's Solar Reliability Database for Off-grid PV systems.

“With our diverse backgrounds, we shared our perspectives as well as analyzed situations through different points of view whether cultural, technical or financial.”



Pictured at Hopi Old Oraibi Village: Tanya Martinez, Deborah Tewa, Sandra Begay-Campbell, and Jennifer Coots.

Tanya Martinez (Mi'KMaq) Power Engineering graduate student, University of Massachusetts – Lowell, BS - Electrical Engineering.
Her paper entitled *"Remote Monitoring System Design - Sustainable Systems For The Navajo Tribal Utility Authority"*.

Deborah Tewa (Hopi) BS - Indigenous Studies, Northern Arizona University.
Her paper entitled *"NativeSUN: A Model for Sustainable Solar Electric Systems on Indian Lands"*.

Jennifer Coots (Navajo) MBA - Finance, University of New Mexico.
Her research focused on the tribal housing mortgage finance for renewable energy systems.

“Tribal Nations do have unique cultures that must be considered for any government project and it increases the success of the project when that awareness is there.”



Pictured at Navajo Nation - Monument Valley, UT:
Thom Sacco, Terry Battiest, Jonathan Biron,
Sandra Begay-Campbell, Lani Tsinnajinnie & Debby Tewa

Terry Battiest (Choctaw)

MS – Telecommunications, University of Colorado – Boulder, BS - Industrial Engineering
His research focused on the Navajo Nation's Internet-to-the-Hogan Project.

Jonathan Biron (Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa)

BS – Biosystems Engineering, Michigan State University
His paper entitled, "*Tribal Renewable Energy Integration: An Analysis of Current Tribal Infrastructure*"

Lani Tsinnajinnie (Navajo/Filipino)

BS – Environmental Science & Native American Studies, University of New Mexico Her paper entitled "*Benefits of Renewable Energy for Native Nations from the Environmental and Native Perspectives*"

“...it has given me insight to what I want to do professionally...”



Pictured at Navajo Nation's Canyon De Chelly, AZ:
Debby Tewa, Thom Sacco
Cherylin Wilson, Nick Johnson & Terry Battiest

Terry Battiest (Choctaw)

MS – Telecommunications, University of Colorado – Boulder
BS Industrial Engineering
His paper, "*Navajo Tribal Utility Authority Solar Program System Data and O&M Initiative*"

Nick Johnson (Three Affiliated)

BS – Mechanical Engineering
University of Colorado – Denver
His paper, "*Sustainability of Small Wind Turbines on Native American Tribal Lands*"

Cherylin Wilson (Navajo)

BS – Biology, AS – Environmental Science
Oklahoma Panhandle University.
Her paper, "*The Ecological Effects of Native Wind Energy Projects*"

“Since day one, I have felt like a valuable member of the team, which is important because not only am I learning a great deal, I also feel like I am contributing to the group.”



Pictured at Navajo Nation, AZ:
Gepetta Billie, Amanda Montoya,
Carson Pete & Suzanne Singer

Gepetta Billie (Navajo)

MS – Regional & Community Planning; BA – Envr. Planning & Design, UNM, AS – Civil Engr Tech, SIPI

Amanda Montoya (Taos/San Juan/Isleta)

MS – Regional & Community Planning, University of New Mexico; BA – Business Administration
Her paper entitled, *"Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Initiatives on the Laguna Pueblo Reservation"*

Carson Pete (Navajo)

MS – Mechanical Engineering; BS – Mechanical Engineering, Northern Arizona University
His paper entitled, *"North Leupp Family Farms Project – Sustainable Agriculture Systems Using Photovoltaic Cells and Small Wind"*

Suzanne Singer (Navajo)

PhD – Mechanical Engineering; MS – Mechanical Engineering, University of CA, Berkeley; BS – Mech. Engr

“This internship has allowed me to learn and see first hand what it means to plan and build sustainably on Native lands. “



**Pictured: Prestene Garnenez,
Sandra Begay-Campbell & Gepetta Billie
(not pictured Suzanne Singer)**

Gepetta Billie (Navajo)

MS – Regional & Community Planning; BA – Environmental Planning & Design, University of New Mexico, AS – Civil Engineering Technology, SIPI
Her paper entitled, *“Renewable Energy: Planning for Sustainability & Self-Determination for the Navajo Nation”*

Prestene Garnenez (Navajo)

MA – Urban Planning, University of California – Los Angeles; BS – Biology, New Mexico State University
Her paper entitled, *“Green Gas Stations: A Guide for Tribally Owned Gas Stations”*

Suzanne Singer (Navajo)

PhD – Mechanical Engineering; MS – Mechanical Engineering, UC-Berkeley; BS – Mechanical Engineering, University of Arizona

“I think what I learned that is important in all the tribes we visited, is the importance of ‘ownership’ of the project. If you’re investing part of what you have - your time, money, energy, pride - into these projects, [then] the projects can be successful, long-lived and sustainable.”

**Joni Fuenmayor | Gepetta Billie | Prestene Garnenez |
Logan Slock**
**Grand Canyon West
Hualapai Tribal Land**



Joni Fuenmayor (Navajo)

AAS – Energy Systems, Navajo Technical College, Crownpoint, NM
BA – Studio Art, Dartmouth College, Hanover, NH
Her paper entitled: *“What’s in 880 Watts? An Exploration of the Basic Electrical Power Connections between a Residential PV System and an Appliance”*

Gepetta Billie (Navajo)

MS – Community & Regional Planning, UNM; BA – Environmental Planning & Design, UNM; AAS – Civil Engineering Technology, SIPI

Prestene S. Garnenez (Navajo)

MA-Urban Planning, University of California, Los Angeles; BS-Biology and minor in Mathematics, New Mexico State University
Her thesis entitled: *“Renewable Energy in Indian Country: Working to Build a Sustainable Community Using Renewable Energy Resources in Hualapai Nation”*

Logan Slock (Hopi/Choctaw)

BA – Environmental Studies, Johnson State College, Johnson Vermont
His paper entitled: *“Tribal Energy Internship Program Reflections: Achieving Overall Improvements of Renewable Energy Resources in Tribal Communities”*

“It was really nice when an elderly community member...told me he was ‘happy to see young Indians involved in these issues and getting their education.’

His comment gave me a sense of pride in what we are doing and it made me realize that we are making a difference.”

**Devin Dick | Tammie Allen |
Sandra Begay-Campbell |
Gepetta Billie |
Chelsea Chee**

Sky City - Acoma Pueblo



Tammie Allen (Jicarilla Apache)

MS – Community & Regional Planning, UNM;

BA – Art, College of Santa Fe

Her paper entitled: *“Using Renewable Energy For Economic Development: Off-Grid Ecotourism on the Ramona Band of Cahuilla Mission Indian Reservation”*

Gepetta Billie (Navajo)

MS – Community & Regional Planning, UNM; BA – Environmental Planning & Design, UNM; AAS – Civil Engineering Technology, SIPI

Her thesis entitled *“Addressing Renewable Energy Development at the Local Level by Learning How to Plan through Green Building: An Example of Community-based Planning on the Navajo Reservation”*

Chelsea Chee (Navajo)

MS – Community & Regional Planning, UNM; BS – Environmental Planning & Design, U of AZ

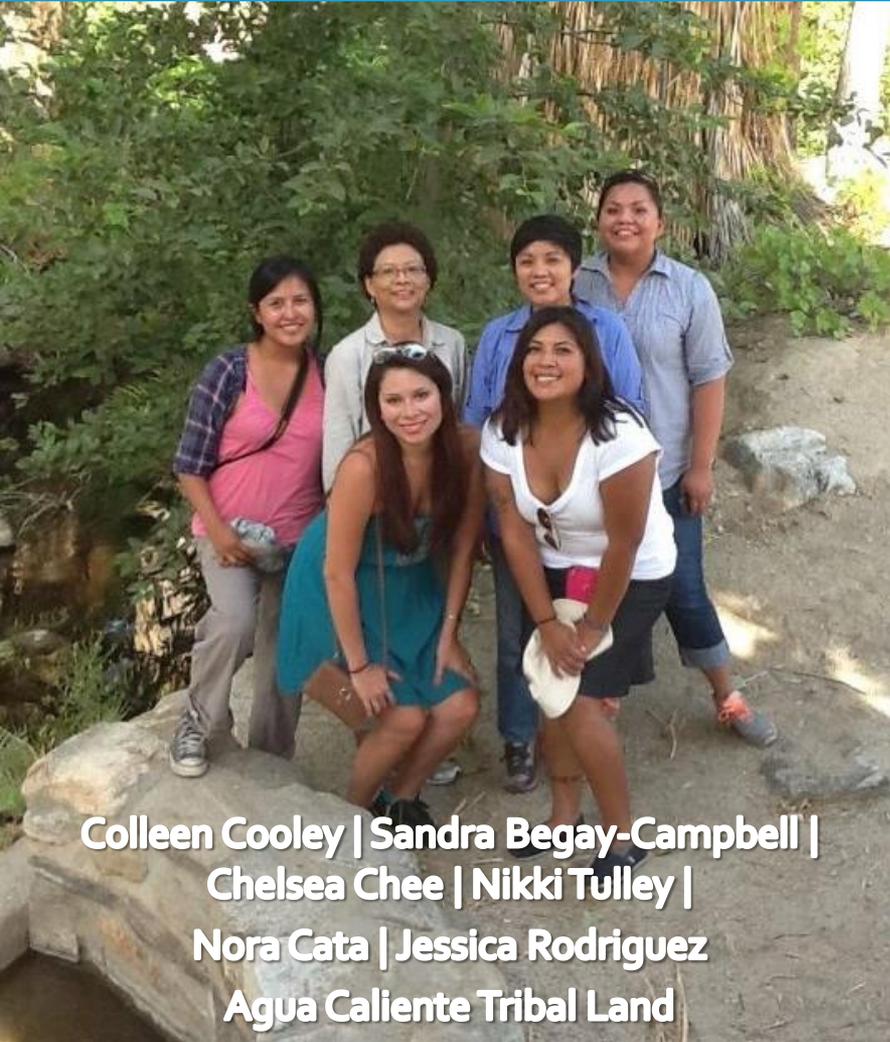
Her paper entitled: *“Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Benefits Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians via Implementation at Their Indian Canyons Trading Post”*

Devin Dick (Navajo)

AAS – Energy Systems, Navajo Technical College,

His paper entitled: *“Suggested Alternatives’ For Navajo Tribal Utility Authority: Utilizing Excess Power Generated By Stored Hybrid Units”*

“One of the most useful and biggest learning aspects of our field visits are the people we are introduced to and visit with outside of the meetings and conferences.”



**Colleen Cooley | Sandra Begay-Campbell |
Chelsea Chee | Nikki Tulley |
Nora Cata | Jessica Rodriguez
Agua Caliente Tribal Land**

Tribal Energy (TEP) & Indian Energy (IE) Sponsors

Nora Cata (Seneca-Cayuga) - TEP

MS – Environmental Studies, San Jose State; BA – Environmental Studies, UC-Santa Barbara

Her paper entitled: *“Sustainable Rural Electrification on the Navajo Nation: What Makes a Successful Off-grid Photovoltaic Installation?”*

Chelsea Chee (Navajo) - TEP

MS – Community & Regional Planning, UNM; BS – Environmental Science, U of AZ

Colleen Cooley (Navajo) - TEP

MS – Climate Science & Solutions, Northern Arizona University; BS– Environmental Studies, NAU

Her paper entitled: *“Mitigating Climate Change on a Tribal Level”*

Jessica Rodriguez (Laguna) - IE

BS – Environmental Studies, Haskell Indian Nations University

Her paper entitled: *“How the Sale of Tribal Renewable Energies to the US Military can be Mutually Beneficial - Case Study Pueblo of Isleta”*

Nikki Tulley (Navajo) - IE

BS – Environmental Studies, University of New Mexico

Her paper entitled: *“Adapting Renewable Energy Systems for a Changing Climate in Remote Tribal Communities–Navajo Nation, Arizona”*

“I came to realize that renewable energy adoption is a learning process for everyone involved...Each tribe had its own motivations and perspectives with implementation as unique as the individual cultures themselves.”



**Pictured at Indian Canyons Trading Post –
Agua Caliente Tribal Lands, CA:
Sandra Begay-Campbell, Shalynn Summer Trancosa,
& Chelsea Chee**

Tribal Energy Program (TEP) & Community College Internship (CCI) Program Sponsors

Chelsea Chee (Navajo) - TEP

MS – Community & Regional Planning, UNM
BS – Environmental Science, U of AZ
Her paper entitled: *“Microgrid Implementation on
Tribal Lands”*

Shalynn Summer Trancosa (San Felipe Pueblo) – CCI

AS – Applied Technologies in Solar Technology,
UNM Los Alamos Branch
Her paper entitled: *“Applying Green Practices on
Tribal Lands”*

“The places I have seen, the people I have met, and the things I have learned are in no comparison to what I imagined this internship would entail. The opportunities I have had this summer to meet and learn from many different people have changed the way I see and think about tribal lands and green initiatives.”



**Pictured at Monument Valley, UT – Navajo Nation:
Aaron Cate, Sandra Begay-Campbell, Thomas Jones, Len Necefer**

Aaron Cate (Santo Domingo Pueblo)

MS – Industrial Engineering, NM State

BS – Civil Engineering, NM State

Thomas Jones (Aleut / Cherokee)

BS – Biology, Oklahoma City University

MS – Tropical Conservation Biology &
Environmental Science, U of HI

PhD – Natural Resources & American Indian
Studies, U of AZ

Len Necefer (Navajo)

BS – Mechanical Engineering, Univ. of Kansas

PhD – Engineering Systems, Carnie Melon Univ

“My time with the Tribal Energy Program has directly benefitted my desire to learn and understand the barriers in Indian Country with renewable energy development.... This understanding will not only benefit my dissertation work directly, it has motivated me even further to improve energy resource development throughout Indian Country and the United States in general.”