

PRESERVING DINETAH

Water Security for Generations

The Nation's Water Settlements Currently Before Congress

November 21, 2024

10:00 am to 11:30 am

Lunch in the ENR2 Courtyard following

University of Arizona Campus

ENR2, Room S107

1064 E Lowell St, Tucson, Arizona

AGENDA

- 10:00 am **Opening**
Toni Massaro
Executive Director, U of A Haury Program
- 10:05 am **Blessing**
Winona Little Owl-Ignacio
Juris Doctorate Candidate, U of A College of Law
- 10:15 am **Welcome and Land Acknowledgment**
Honorable N. Levi Esquerra
Senior Vice President, U of A Native American Advancement and Tribal Engagement
- 10:25 am **Introduction of the Navajo Nation Representatives**
Dr. Cherie DeVore
Assistant Professor, U of A Department of Chemical & Environmental Engineering
- 10:30 am **Presentation on Navajo Nation Water Settlements**
Dr. Crystal Tulley-Cordova and MacArthur Stant II
Navajo Nation Department of Water Resources, Navajo Nation Department of Justice
- 11:15 am **Question and Answer Discussion**
Dr. Sharon Megdal
Director, Water Resources Research Center
- 11:30 am **Closing**
Toni Massaro
Executive Director, U of A Haury Program

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SPEAKER BIOS *(in order of presentation)*

Winona Little Owl-Ignacio

Winona Little Owl-Ignacio is Lakhota and Tohono O'odham and belongs to a family of nine. She comes from the villages Komckud E-wa'osidk and Ihankthunwanna. She is a Juris Doctorate candidate at the James E. Rogers College of Law, within the Indigenous People's Law and Policy Program. She has a Bachelor's from the University of Arizona in Law, but is most proud of their Associate of Arts in Liberal Arts from Tohono O'odham Community College. She is part of different student organizations such as Indigicat Student Association and Tohono O'odham Student Association in order to help build and create a home within the Native community at the University of Arizona and surrounding Tucson. In their free time, they enjoy being with their family, playing toka, and are a part of the Rez Babes Book Club.

N. Levi Esquerra

The Honorable N. Levi Esquerra (Chemehuevi) is the first University of Arizona Senior Vice President (SVP) for Native American Advancement and Tribal Engagement. He serves as a point of contact for Native issues and as a liaison between the University and tribal governments and regional and national tribal organizations. SVP Esquerra has nearly three decades of experience facilitating and promoting Native American advancement and economic development for Native Nations, including two years as Chairman of the Chemehuevi Indian Tribe and three additional terms on the Tribal Council.

Dr. Cherie DeVore

Dr. Cherie DeVore, Diné, is from the community of Crownpoint, NM in eastern Diné (Navajo) Nation. Her clans are Red Bottom People, Atop the Mountain Towering House, Salt People and Tangle People. She received her Ph.D. in civil & environmental engineering at the University of New Mexico and was then awarded a National Science Foundation Earth Science Postdoctoral Fellowship to conduct research at Stanford University from 2020 to 2023. Cherie also was an associate postdoctoral fellow at SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory. With a restorative framework in mind, her current work investigates biogeochemical processes that affect the accumulation of metals and microbial community shifts in areas impacted by mining and wildfires. In Fall 2023, Dr. DeVore became Assistant Professor in the Department of Chemical & Environmental Engineering at the University of Arizona. Cherie is proud to be a new member of the Indigenous Resilience Center and looks forward to working with her community and many others in Arizona on environmental restoration research.

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SPEAKER BIOS *(continued)*

Dr Crystal Tulley-Cordova

Dr Crystal Tulley-Cordova is a Principal Hydrologist in the Navajo Nation Department of Water Resources—Water Management Branch. She was employed at the Los Alamos National Laboratory, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, the National Energy Technology Laboratory, and the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory. She has worked collaboratively with tribal partners on water-related research since 2013. In 2021, she received the American Indian Science and Engineering Society Professional of the Year Award and the University of Arizona Agnese Nelms Haury Tribal Resilience Leadership Award. She's received numerous awards, fellowships, and scholarships during her academic journey. She received a Ph.D. in Geology and an Interdisciplinary Graduate Certificate in Sustainability from the University of Utah. She has received a Master of Water Resources in Hydrosience and a B.S. in Earth and Planetary Sciences from the University of New Mexico.

MacArthur “Mac” Stant II

MacArthur “Mac” Stant II is an enrolled member of the Navajo Nation, a descendant of the Hopi, and a Native Hawaiian. Mac grew up on the reservation communities of Hotevilla (Hopi Reservation) and Greasewood Springs (Navajo Reservation). Mac's first career was as an educator for nearly two decades. As a high school teacher, Mac taught at Holbrook High School in Northern Arizona, the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, and the Gila River Indian Community. Mac also has international teaching experience and he taught English as a Foreign Language at three universities in Thailand. In transitioning to a legal career, Mac attended his first year of law school at the University of New Mexico. Mac transferred to Arizona State University (ASU) law school and graduated from ASU law school. Mac is barred with both the State of the New Mexico and the Navajo Nation Bar. Mac has worked at the Salt River Legal Services as an Advocate in the Salt River Tribal Courts. Mac then went to work at the Navajo Nation Department of Justice (NNDOJ). At the NNDOJ, Mac has worked in the Human Services and Government Unit and the Water Rights Unit.

Dr. Sharon Megdal

Dr. Sharon Megdal is Director of The University of Arizona Water Resources Research Center, a Cooperative Extension center and a research unit in the College of Agriculture, Life & Environmental Sciences. Other primary titles are Professor and Specialist in the Department of Environmental Science, C.W. & Modene Neely Endowed Professor, and Distinguished Outreach Professor. Her work bridges the academic, practitioner, and civil society communities through water policy and management research, education, and engagement programs. Applied research projects include analysis of water management, policy, and governance in water-scarce regions, groundwater recharge, and transboundary aquifer assessment. Dr. Megdal serves as on the Board of Governors for the Kasser Joint Institute for Food, Water, and Energy Security, and is an ex officio member of the Leadership Team for the Colorado River Basin Water & Tribes Initiative.