

# Native American Human Resources Association



Dear Human Resources Colleagues,

As the new Board for the Native American Human Resources Association (NAHRA), 2018 – 2020, we want to share a few words.

First and far most, we are honored to have the vote of confidence from NAHRA members electing us as Board members. We will do our best to perform the duties of the positions for the next two (2) years. Our combined belief and respect for NAHRA instills our commitment to maintain the professional growth and purpose of NAHRA.

NAHRA was created on the dialog HR professionals shared as employment processes elevated within our Pueblos and Tribes. It is this type of dialog that we are again encouraging NAHRA members to foster and support our purpose. Becoming involved in NAHRA has been and will be a positive experience leading to a level of responsive network to share information. Each of us have an equal investment to maintain the purpose and productive growth of our association.

Here is a brief introduction of the NAHRA Board Members:

**President – Karen Chino, Human Resources Manager, Pueblo of Laguna**

*I am a tribal member from the Pueblo of Acoma. Some of you may remember me as a former NAHRA President and Vice President, when the association was just starting. My involvement with NAHRA began back in 1999 when I reached out to other Pueblo / Tribal HR professionals and found that we shared similar issues, concerns and questions. Together we recognized the need to maintain communication and collaboration which is how NAHRA commenced. Today NAHRA has evolved to a dynamic association like no other. During the term of office, I can do my best to maintain the mission and purpose of NAHRA*

**Vice President – Sonya Yazza, Human Resources Generalist, IPCC/IPMI**

*I am a tribal member of the Pueblo of San Felipe. I have worked in the Human Resources profession since 1999 and I am currently the HR Generalist for the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center/Indian Pueblo Marketing, Inc., I've been a member of NAHRA since 2014. I am privileged to have met other HR Professionals supporting tribal entities throughout New Mexico. I believe HR is one of the biggest assets for protecting sovereignty and I am honored to serve as your new officer to the NAHRA Board as Vice President. My goal is to do my best to carry out and perform the duties and responsibilities while continuing to achieving the purpose of the NAHRA Association.*

**Secretary – Erika Sanchez, Assistant Human Resources Director, Pueblo of San Felipe**

*I am a tribal member of the San Felipe Pueblo. I work for San Felipe Pueblo as the Human Resources Assistant Director for 3.5 years; tribal government work experience of 17 years. San Felipe Pueblo has been a member of the NAHRA since 2016. I encourage all other Pueblos, Tribes and Tribal Organizations to join NAHRA. I look forward to meeting and working with all of you during my term as Secretary of the NAHRA Board. I will do my best to serve the organization to the best of my ability and welcome any ideas you may have.*

**Treasurer – Andrea Poncho, Human Resources Generalist, Pueblo of Laguna**

*I am a tribal member from the Pueblo of Laguna. I have worked with the Pueblo of Laguna Tribal Government Human Resources and have been a member of NAHRA since 2014. The past four years in Human Resources have been a huge learning experience for me. It is an honor to have been elected to serve as the Treasurer on the NAHRA Board. This is my first time to serve on the Board and I will do my best to contribute to our goals.*

As the NAHRA Board, we move forward to maintain the process of information that NAHRA members can utilize in the field of human resources. We encourage our NAHRA members to continue sharing and providing information that is resourceful and meaningful in our various HR positions. In an effort to achieve this goal, members have a key role to contribute and participate as professionals supporting the purpose and goal of NAHRA.

We look forward to seeing and/or meeting each of you.

Sincere Regards,

NAHRA Board, 2018 – 2020

Karen Chino, President  
HR Manager, Laguna Pueblo

Sonya Yazza, Vice President  
HR Generalist, IPCC/IPMI

Erika Sanchez , Secretary  
HR Assistant Director, San Felipe Pueblo

Andrea Poncho, Treasurer  
HR Generalist, Laguna Pueblo

