

San Manuel Casino Names Peter Arceo as New General Manager



Peter Arceo

San Manuel Casino recently announced that Peter Arceo has officially been named General Manager. This follows after the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians named Loren Gill, former General Manager of the Casino, as Chief Executive Officer for San Manuel Tribal Government Operations and San Manuel Casino. As the casino's new General Manager, Arceo is responsible for directing all activity – enhancing the overall experience for team members and guests of San Manuel Casino, one of Southern California's top entertainment destinations.

"From the moment Peter joined our team, he has led by example and helped lead the casino to unprecedented growth," said Loren Gill, Chief Executive Officer of San Manuel. "On behalf of the tribe, I am thrilled to officially appoint Peter as General Manager and look forward to continue working with Peter along with his leadership team to elevate San Manuel to even greater heights."

Arceo joined San Manuel Casino as Chief Marketing Officer in August 2015 and was elevated to Chief Operating Officer in August 2018. During his tenure, Arceo helped establish the vision and foundation of the casino's expansion project, launched its player development program, and made providing a best-in-class experience for casino guests and employees a top priority. As Chief Marketing Officer, Arceo established a database marketing department and propelled the 'All Thrill' advertising campaign to success.

"The tribe's spirit of unity and commitment is what led me to join San Manuel Casino in the first place," said Arceo. "I am grateful to be part of an organization that does so much for its employees and the community, and I am honored to lead the casino as we build a bolder, brighter future, together."

Soaring Eagle Casino Names Kirk Walraven as New Slot Director



Kirk Walraven

Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort recently named Kirk Walraven as the new Slot Director. Upon the retirement of the previous slot director upholding this position since 2003, Walraven is enthusiastically stepping into the vacant role. Walraven transitioned from Senior Slot Technician to Slot Director.

"The last 11 years I have worked as a member of the Slot Department

Management team focusing on all aspects of supervising the slot technical job duties within the department and along with performing all of my assigned job duties," said Walraven. "I truly love my job and working with everyone to improve the Slot Department and the SECR within all of my endeavors."

Walraven is a proud member of the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe and a United States Marine Corps veteran who served in the Persian Gulf War.

Gun Lake Casino Announces Skye Skinner as New Director of Human Resources



Skye Skinner

Gun Lake Casino recently announced the appointment of Skye Skinner as its new Director of Human Resources.

"Skye has been an incredible asset to our entire team as human resources manager," said Sal Semola, President and Chief Operating Officer of Gun Lake Casino. "We are excited to promote from within and welcome Skye into this new role. We look forward to her continued contributions to the

property as director of human resources."

Skinner brings nine years of human resources experience throughout west Michigan, most recently serving as Gun Lake Casino's human resources manager. Skinner began her human resources career at GA Richards of Grand Rapids, where she began as a human resources generalist and worked her way up to human resources director. She then worked as the human resources manager for Kreis, Enderle, Hudgins & Borsos. P.C. before joining Gun Lake Casino's team.

Skinner is a member of the Kalamazoo HR Management Association, American Legal Association, and the Employers Association.

San Manuel Casino Names Kenji Hall Chief Operating Officer

San Manuel Casino recently announced that Kenji Hall has been promoted to Chief Operating Officer. The announcement follows the promotion of Peter Arceo to General Manager of San Manuel Casino. In his new role, Hall will oversee the administration and execution of activities for San Manuel Casino, ensure maximized and sustainable revenues for the Tribe, lead a culture of world-class customer service and oversee the Casino's expansion project.

"For the past two years, Kenji has played an integral role in laying the foundation for the Casino's hospitality business and an important advisory role in the opening of Bear Springs Hotel – bringing a true boutique hotel experience to the region," said Peter Arceo, General Manager of San Manuel Casino. "Kenji was the obvious choice for taking



Kenji Hall

the reins of casino operations and propelling us new heights.”

Hall joined San Manuel as Chief Operating Officer of the Casino’s hospitality division in August 2017 and has since led the team to substantial growth. After overseeing a successful opening for Bear Springs Hotel, Hall will use that experience to help San Manuel Casino execute its vision in the new expansion project. Hall has over 30

years of executive and management experience in gaming and hospitality, having served as Assistant General Manager for Primm Valley Resorts and their three properties – Primm Valley Resort, Buffalo Bill’s and Whiskey Pete’s, and for other well-known organizations including MGM Resorts and Hilton.

“It has been an honor being a part of the amazing growth at San Manuel over the past two years and I am especially proud of the work we’ve accomplished in our hospitality group.” said Kenji Hall, Chief Operations Officer of San Manuel Casino. “I’m excited for what the future holds and look forward to building on the positive momentum we’ve created as a team here at San Manuel.”

Hard Rock Hotel & Casino at Fire Mountain Names New Executive Leaders

Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Sacramento at Fire Mountain, slated to become a premier entertainment destination in Northern California once open in fall of 2019, announces its team of top-tier executives.

“We are excited to have a great mix of passionate industry leaders joining our Hard Rock Sacramento family,” said Mark Birtha, President of Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Sacramento at Fire Mountain. “Some are new to the brand and some are seasoned veterans, but most important is that we have an enthusiastic executive team with over 150 years of collective experience working together to develop and operate what will become a top gaming, entertainment and hospitality venue that provides ‘authentic experiences that rock’ in Northern California.”



Christopher Balaban

Kicking off the property’s new executive team, Vice President of Finance, Christopher Balaban, is a numbers savvy-guru with over 20-years of gaming experience. Balaban possesses a successful track record of delivering results and value through strategic direction and financial operations leadership. Most recently, he held VP finance positions with Affinity Gaming and Penn National

Gaming in the Las Vegas and mid-west regional markets. Additionally, Balaban has held positions with Seminole Gaming in South Florida and Kerzner International in Paradise Island in the Bahamas.

Joining as Vice President of Human Resources, Ryan Flieger, has been with the Hard Rock brand since 2012, holding leadership roles at both Hard Rock Hotel San Diego and Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Las Vegas. In Las Vegas, Flieger successfully led a five-year initiative to redefine the property’s mission and core values, while increasing team member engagement to an all-time high. Flieger also played a lead role in talent acquisition, pre-opening training and culture setting for several Hard Rock Hotel expansions. Prior to joining the Hard Rock team, he spent nearly a decade with MGM Resorts where he helped guide the company’s award-winning diversity training initiative and MGM University.



Ryan Flieger



Anika Gaskins

A native of Las Vegas, Anika Gaskins serves as Vice President of Marketing for the new property. An industry veteran, Gaskins has more than 17 years of experience, most recently opening the \$1 billion MGM Resorts Springfield casino property as the Vice President of National Marketing where she was responsible for all loyalty and casino marketing initiatives. She has also held VP of Marketing positions with

Penn National Gaming, where she developed and executed marketing strategies and led efforts to increase revenue. Prior to joining Penn National Gaming, Gaskins held various marketing positions with Caesars Entertainment on the Las Vegas Strip and Caesars Windsor in Canada.

With close to four decades of experience, the new Vice President of Table Games, Paul Mollo, has been with the Hard Rock family since 2008, where he helped usher in the introduction of Class III table games in Florida. He now joins the team in Sacramento, CA. Mollo has worked with several gaming companies over the years to open properties, including Harrah’s, Trump Plaza and Borgata in the Atlantic City market. In addition to his table games role, he assisted HBO Productions with casino gaming aspects on “The Sopranos” and was even cast in several extra spots and a speaking role.



Paul Mollo

The Vice President of IT, Matthew Morgan, brings more than 20 years of gaming industry technology experience



Matthew Morgan

from the Northern California, Las Vegas and Midwest markets. Morgan's wealth of expertise in IT strategy, combined with the application of technical innovation, brings both operational efficiency and product differentiation to each property he leads at. Most recently, Morgan served as the Chief Information Officer at The D Las Vegas, where he was responsible for two casino/hotel properties and technical operations of an 11,000-person entertainment venue. He also served as a Vice President at Red Hawk Casino, PlayerSoft Technologies and Thunder Valley Casino. Morgan's focus over the last decade has been to bring mobile products to the casino market to solve common hospitality-industry problems.

Will Provance serves as the Vice President of Slot Operations and has spent more than 20 years in the hospitality industry, working in operational and leadership roles ranging from restaurants, entertainment, hotel operations and casino gaming. Starting at Station Casinos in Las Vegas, Nevada as a corporate slot analyst, he participated in their Management Development Program and worked his way up to director of slot and ancillary gaming operations at Sunset Station. From there, he was recruited by Mark Birtha to run the VLT (Slot) Operations at Hard Rock Rocksino Northfield Park, Ohio's No. 1 ranked gaming facility.



Will Provance

Kaywan Samadani is Vice President of Hospitality. His career began in 1990 at Caesars as a room chef at Harvey's in his hometown of Lake Tahoe. During that time, Samadani opened two buffets, a steakhouse and a noodle bar, along with four casino bars and butler suites. He also assisted with the opening of Harrah's Rincon (now Harrah's Southern California) and the rebranding of the Rio in Las Vegas. In 2006, he relocated to Harrah's St. Louis as director of F&B before being promoted to director of hospitality. Samadani also served as VP of casino services at Horseshoe Cleveland and Thistledown Racino. Most recently, Samadani served as Senior Director of Hospitality at Mystic Lake Casino Hotel.



Kaywan Samadani

The property continues to build the employee team ahead of the fall 2019 opening and is expected to create more than 2,000 construction jobs upon its completion. Upon opening, the property will employ over 1,000 full and part-time team members.

San Manuel Casino Names David Kopasz Chief Operating Officer of Hospitality

San Manuel Casino recently announced that David Kopasz has been promoted to Chief Operating Officer of Hospitality at San Manuel Casino. In this role, Kopasz will oversee all aspects of hospitality at the Casino.



David Kopasz

"David's track record of solidifying San Manuel Casino as a top dining destination in the area has been nothing short of impressive," said Peter Arceo, General Manager at San Manuel Casino. "As we strive to offer our guests best-in-class experiences, I am confident that David has what it takes to deliver."

Since joining the Casino in 2015, Kopasz has served as Vice President of Food and Beverage, and has helped transform San Manuel Casino into a top dining destination within the Inland Empire. Having developed and overseen the execution of the Casino's casual and fine dining strategy – powered by a third of the Casino's workforce – he has tripled the growth of restaurant, bar and lounge seating and has substantially increased revenue for the food and beverage department. As Chief Operating Officer of Hospitality, Kopasz will be responsible for overseeing the hospitality division and implementing growth strategies aimed to take the Casino to new heights.

"I am so fortunate to have an amazing team at San Manuel Casino that has helped establish the Casino as a top dining destination," said David Kopasz, Chief Operating Officer of Hospitality at San Manuel Casino. "I am ready to take on this new challenge and work alongside the leadership team to continue showing people why San Manuel is so special."

Prior to joining San Manuel, Kopasz spent 12 years as Vice President of Food and Beverage at Seneca Resorts & Casinos. He is a veteran of the U.S. Navy.

AGS Names Adam Whitehurst Vice President of Strategic Accounts

AGS recently announced that Adam Whitehurst is joining the company as Vice President of Strategic Accounts. Whitehurst joins AGS with 24 years of experience in gaming, technology, and pharmaceuticals.

Whitehurst is an accomplished sales leader and business development executive with more than two decades of experience in gaming, where he led sales teams to high levels of performance, successfully integrated sales teams after mergers and acquisitions, negotiated complex, multi-year, enterprise-wide deals, and established a strong track record of customer success and building high-performance teams.



Adam Whitehurst

He most recently worked at Scientific Games, where he was the Vice President of Game Sales for five years, with responsibility for the eastern U.S. Prior to that, he served with Bally Technologies, which was later acquired by Scientific Games, ending his tenure there as Vice President of Games Sales – Central Region.

“Adam is an exceptional addition to the AGS team and will help drive further penetration of our slot products across the U.S., with a laser-focus on leveraging his strong relationships with strategic and corporate accounts,” said AGS Senior Vice President of Sales Robert Perry. “He has an impressive track record of establishing and maintaining longstanding, trusted partnerships with casino operators, and his experience will play a major role in taking AGS to the next level of growth. I’m thrilled to have him join our team.”

“I can’t think of a better time to join AGS,” said Whitehurst. “The company is on fire with a fast-growing library of slot content and cabinets consistently ranked among the highest-performing games. The senior leadership is top-notch and focused on doing all the right things to grow the business, and the AGS culture is unmatched in our industry for its focus on transparency, leader accessibility, communication, diversity, teamwork, and ownership. I’m honored and excited to join a company that truly makes customers and employees feel valued, heard, and recognized.”

Sathish Anantharaman Joins Konami as Vice President of Systems Software Development



Sathish Anantharaman

Konami Gaming, Inc. recently announced the appointment of industry veteran Sathish Anantharaman to Vice President, Systems Software Development, to support the continued growth and innovation of its award-winning Synkros casino management system.

Anantharaman has pioneered an array of leading systems products from concept to delivery, in areas spanning player loyalty & table games, table games automation, central monitoring, responsible gaming, facial recognition, mobile applications, and more. In his role as Vice President of Systems Software Development, Sathish Anantharaman is responsible for managing day-to-day operations of the Synkros development group, working closely with teams across the business to ensure product innovation, quality, and customer satisfaction.

“Sathish Anantharaman has long demonstrated an ability to drive meaningful value for operators and guests through innovative use of technology, creative application development, and proven results,” said Thomas Soukup, Senior Vice President & Chief Systems Product Officer. “Konami is pleased to welcome his expertise and strategic leadership to the organization.”

2019 Novomatic Americas Announces Two Leadership Promotions



Len Busche

Novomatic Americas recently announced the promotion of Len Busche to Senior Vice President of Finance. Busche joined Novomatic Americas as Financial Controller in March of 2015. He has been instrumental in the expansion of the North American operation. His promotion will position the company for continued growth through the development of the equipment and services

provided to the North American gaming industry.

Jeffrey Rios was promoted to the Director of Technical Services. Rios joined Novomatic Americas in 2014 in the Florida operation and transitioned to the Technical Services Manager position in 2015. He has done an exceptional job of contributing to the success and growth of Novomatic Americas by ensuring customer focused service delivery both internally and externally.



Jeffrey Rios

“With these promotions, we further broaden our position in the North American gaming equipment and services sector,” stated Rick Meitzler, President, and CEO of Novomatic Americas. “Both of these individuals are assets to our team and have made significant contributions to our expansion. These are key leadership roles, and Jeffrey and Len are the right leaders for the next chapter of our organizational growth. We are happy to have them on the team.”

Orrin Edidin Joins Eclipse Gaming as President & Chief Business Officer

Eclipse Gaming recently announced that Orrin J. Edidin has joined the company as President and Chief Business Officer.

“Orrin is highly respected throughout the gaming community and his decision to join our growing executive team is an important milestone in Eclipse's journey,” stated Eclipse Gaming Chief Executive Officer Tim Minard. “Orrin's wealth of experience and impressive track record of



Orrin Edidin

strategic, operational and commercial accomplishments will be invaluable as we continue to accelerate our growth. Our priority is to be the leading supplier of top performing games on the casino floor. Bringing Orrin onto our leadership team advances our progress towards that goal."

Throughout his extensive 23 year career in gaming, Edidin has successfully guided industry-leading companies to peak levels of performance and growth. While serving as President of WMS Gaming, Edidin led their transition from a small arcade company into one of the leading global suppliers of gaming platforms and content. Under his leadership, WMS Gaming strategically expanded its product portfolio and distribution channels, and launched some of the most successful slot products of all time. Edidin held various senior executive roles during his 19 years at WMS Industries Inc. and its operating subsidiaries, WMS Gaming and Midway Games, including Chief Operating Officer and General Counsel. He was inducted into the WMS Gaming/Scientific Games Hall of Fame in 2015 and is a founding member and past Vice President of the Association of Gaming Equipment Manufacturers.

Edidin also served as founding President and Chief Executive Officer of Williams Interactive, the digital gaming subsidiary of WMS Gaming/Scientific Games. Under his direction Williams Interactive became one of the fastest growing and highest grossing social casinos. He led the strategic initiative to develop "white label" social casino platforms for licensed online B2B customers to provide content and the ability to monetize and leverage their own brands.

"This is an exciting time to join Eclipse Gaming. Eclipse has a strong footprint in the Class II tribal gaming market and by focusing on great games and product innovation, there is tremendous opportunity to increase our market position," said Edidin. "Tim is driving a fast-paced, entrepreneurial culture within the company and building an experienced, passionate team. I look forward to partnering with Tim and the leadership team to design and execute on our strategic initiatives and realize our highest potential."

Eclipse Gaming Names Steven Slotwinski Chief Technology Officer

Eclipse Gaming recently announced that gaming industry executive Steven Slotwinski has joined the company as Chief Technology Officer.

Slotwinski joins Eclipse Gaming with extensive experience directing the creation of successful games for land-based and social casinos. Leading the company's product strategy, he



Steven Slotwinski

will direct new product development and innovation, performance optimization and portfolio growth to support key gaming industry trends.

"Steven brings tremendous experience and leadership to Eclipse and we are thrilled that he has joined our team," said Eclipse Gaming's Chief Executive Officer Tim Minard. "His product vision and track record of launching highly successful games, combined with his strong understanding of our customer's needs, will be instrumental in driving the success of our growing portfolio and market share."

Slotwinski most recently served as Chief Operating Officer of Monarc Gaming Labs, a subsidiary of NHN Entertainment, where he was responsible for all operations of the company including strategic initiatives, organizational restructuring, and expansion of the company's casino gaming library for the social, online and crypto markets, while significantly reducing operating expenses. Prior to Monarc, Slotwinski held a long career at Scientific Games/WMS Gaming, culminating in his role as Senior Producer where he was responsible for some of the company's most successful games.

"I'm excited to join the team of talented people at Eclipse," said Slotwinski. "The opportunity to drive innovative solutions for our customers during this time of evolution is an exciting and welcoming challenge for me. I look forward to working with the team to increase momentum and help shape the future for Eclipse."

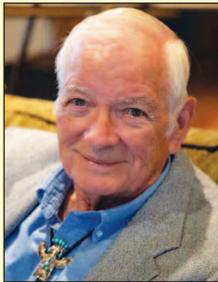
OTGRA Awards 2019 Jon Arrasmith Regulator of the Year Award to Emmett "Bud" Ellis, Peoria Tribe

The Oklahoma Tribal Gaming Regulators Association (OTGRA) is honoring Emmett "Bud" Ellis, Former Chairman of the Peoria Tribal Gaming Commission with the 2019 OTGRA Jon Arrasmith Regulator of the Year Award.

This prestigious award honors the memory of Jon Arrasmith who was dedicated to and passionate about the regulation of Oklahoma Indian gaming. This award recognizes an individual that works in the field of regulating Oklahoma Indian gaming and who embodies the mission of OTGRA and its purpose. Ellis has been involved in Indian gaming for over 16 years and has always been actively involved in any changes in Oklahoma gaming.

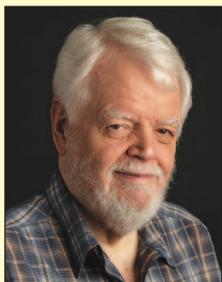
Ellis is a native Tulsa & Peoria Tribal member who attended Tulsa Public Schools as well as the University of Tulsa before entering the oil industry - where he retired from Occidental Petroleum after 32 years of service. Bud began

...serving his Tribe at an early age when he attended meetings of the Peoria Tribal Council with his mother. He served on the Peoria Tribal Business Committee for two terms as well as the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) Committee, is currently serving on the Election Committee and has had the honor of being the Chairman of the Peoria Tribal Gaming Commission for the past 16 years. In his community in Tulsa, he has served as a member of the Juvenile Judges Advisory Committee.



Emmett "Bud" Ellis

Entrepreneur Bob Hamman to Receive Casino Lifetime Achievement Award



Bob Hamman

Bob Hamman, President and CEO of SCA Promotions and SCA Gaming, will be presented a prestigious Casino Lifetime Achievement Award at the 16th annual Casino Marketing & Technology Conference on July 24 at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas.

Hamman founded SCA Promotions in 1986. From its humble beginnings as a golf hole-in-one prize coverage business, the company has grown in scope to power promotions across all industries. SCA has paid out over \$200,000,000 in prize coverage to its clients over the course of 120,000 promotional events. SCA has, on four promotional occasions, offered prize coverage up to \$1 billion.

With the success of SCA Promotions, Hamman's vision for identifying and fulfilling promotional opportunities led him to establish SCA Gaming. Focused on the growing gaming industry, SCA Gaming provides an array of turnkey promotional solutions, including: digital games that drive traffic and play, prize coverage and large game shows that engage audiences. Hamman's talent for recognizing changing promotional landscape keeps SCA on the forefront of innovation. According to Hamman, this is particularly true when it comes to providing secured technologies that power and protect casino floors.

"We have learned from our 32 years in business that mega-prizes are at the pinnacle of consumer engagement. Mega-prizes also require tight security protocols," said Hamman. To meet these challenges, SCA, continues to invest in and develop patented technology and follow security protocols and procedures particularly important for Internet based games.

A 15-time World Champion and 21-time number one ranked bridge player in the world, Hamman is author of

At the Table – My Life and Times, which recounts his career as a professional bridge player. Hamman's unique perspective about what motivates people to take part in a promotion that offers life-changing prizes has made a difference for casinos worldwide. Hamman's impressive contributions to the gaming industry are being recognized with the Lifetime Achievement Award

Hamman joins a distinguished list of casino executive recipients, including: Jim Allen, Staci Columbo Alonso, Victor Rocha, Virginia McDowell, Lyle Berman, John Acres, Ginny Shanks, Bill Harrah, and Phil Satre.

BMM Testlabs Names Robert Reyes Senior Vice President of Business Development

BMM Testlabs recently announced the appointment of Robert Reyes as Senior Vice President of Business Development. Reyes will lead supplier business development and sales, focusing on expanding BMM's existing relationships with gaming suppliers, as well as developing new opportunities for compliance testing and technical consultancy.



Robert Reyes

"Robert is a strong addition to our team. He is an experienced gaming labs sales executive with a proven track record," said CEO Martin Storm. "Robert's relationships with gaming suppliers, his background working with tribal and state regulatory bodies, and his knowledge of gaming products and services, will help BMM drive innovation and provide new value."

Reyes brings more than 16 years of business development and sales experience to BMM. For the past two years, he served as the Vice President of Sales at RES Exhibits. Before that, Reyes served three years as Senior Vice President of Sales, North America for Ortiz Gaming and previously, six years with GLI, responsible for business development and management.

"I'm honored to join the BMM North American team at such an exciting time in the company's journey," said Reyes. "The BMM team continues to grow and provide unmatched value in product testing and services, focused on delivering measurable value."

SBTech Expands its U.S. Business with the Hiring of Joann Pierce

SBTech has named Joann Pierce as a Business Development Executive, USA. In her new role, Pierce will focus on development and growth in up and coming regulated markets by creating long-term value for SBTech and future sportsbook Gaming operators.

Prior to joining SBTech, Pierce was an independent contractor for ISI Race and Sports, Ltd., where she provided guidance in sales, marketing and relationship management for the company's expansion of risk management services and retail sports into the US market.



Joann Pierce

"We are excited to have Joann onboard as she has extensive experience in sports technology and the gaming sector," said Richard Carter, CEO. "SBTech is focused on expanding our team and business here in the United States and we know that Joann will be perfect addition for us to accomplish this goal."

Pierce also has several years of experience in the gaming and software industries, including senior roles at Crystal Decisions, a Seagate company and WMS Gaming, where she held management positions in sales, account management, territory development and deployment of recurring revenue products.

"I am excited to take the next step in my career with SBTech to help lead their expanding US business development team," said Pierce. "It's an exhilarating time in the sports betting and gaming industry and I look forward to utilizing my knowledge and experience."

AIANTA Welcomes New Leadership



Sherry L. Rupert

The Board of Directors of the American Indian Alaska Native Tourism Association (AIANTA) recently announced the appointment of Sherry L. Rupert as the new Executive Director for the tourism association charged with extending the voice of tribal tourism in the United States. Rupert, the Executive Director of the State of Nevada Indian Commission and former Board President of

AIANTA, is an American Indian of Paiute and Washoe heritage.

Rupert's appointment comes after careful consideration by the board and reflects the leadership's commitment to expanding AIANTA's impact in working with tribes to develop, sustain and grow tourism programming in Native American communities.

With extensive experience in tribal tourism, economic development, marketing, tribal relations and legislative advocacy, Rupert is the ideal candidate to assume the position of Executive Director of the organization.

In her former position, she managed Nevada's Indian Territory, the state's official arm for promoting Native American tourism, and created and produced the annual

Nevada Tribal Tourism Conference for more than a decade. Her work at the national level includes serving on the U.S. Department of Commerce Travel and Tourism Advisory Board (US TTAB) and AIANTA's Board of Directors since 2010. She is also the recipient of multiple awards for her work in tourism and economic development and she was also instrumental in passage of the Native American Tourism and Improving Visitor Experience (NATIVE) Act during her tenure as AIANTA Board President.

"I have served the state of Nevada and Nevada's tribes proudly these last 15 years as their Indian Affairs Director and now look ahead to serving all of the nation's tribes," said Rupert. "I believe strongly in AIANTA's mission and in the provisions of the NATIVE Act and was proud to be a part of the Act's passage. I am equally proud to now be able to have a hand in implementation of the Act. I would like to thank Camille Ferguson for her leadership and for building a strong foundation with which to move forward."

Rupert replaces Camille Ferguson, who announced she is stepping down from her position to return to her family and home community of Sitka, Alaska, where she will focus on growing tourism and economic development opportunities for the Sitka Tribe of Alaska as the Economic Development Director. Ferguson will continue to serve as an advisor to AIANTA during the transition period.



Emerson Vallo

Replacing Rupert as AIANTA Board President is Emerson Vallo (Pueblo of Acoma), the Chief Executive Officer of the Isleta Business Corporation, where he oversees and manages all company assets, existing businesses and future business development opportunities.

"I have been serving on AIANTA's Board of Directors for several years now and have seen the positive progress in AIANTA's mission," said Mr. Vallo. "The leadership Ms. Ferguson exhibited propelled AIANTA to the next level. Our Board President Ms. Rupert, with her strong leadership and extensive experience in tribal tourism and legislative advocacy, has been the catalyst for the Board to make tough decisions in bringing AIANTA to the forefront. With Ms. Rupert's appointment as Executive Director of AIANTA, we will continue on this progressive road to build AIANTA and to continue to advocate for all of Indian Country tourism."

Vallo, who has served on AIANTA's Board of Directors for more than six years, was appointed to the New Mexico Tourism Department (NMTD) as a Commissioner by then Governor Susana Martinez and is the current Native American representative to the NMTD.

He has served as Chairman of the Board of Directors for

Acoma Business Enterprises, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Haak'u Museum and Director for Sky City Cultural Center and Museum. He actively participates in the Junior Achievement program of New Mexico and has taught several classes around the State of New Mexico. His efforts are focused on the economic development of his Pueblo, the welfare of his native lands, and the promotion of cultural tourism in New Mexico and all of Indian Country.

Vince Logan Joins Native American Agriculture Fund Leadership



Vince Logan

Institutional investment advisor and corporate lawyer Vince Logan has joined the Native American Agriculture Fund (NAAF) as Chief Financial Officer and Chief Investment Officer. Logan, a member of the Osage Nation, is responsible for NAAF's \$266 million portfolio and charged with overseeing the finance department, implementing financial systems, and managing the investment

program. As CFO/CIO, he is to ensure that NAAF operates at the highest levels of transparency, ethics and good governance.

"We are thrilled that Vince Logan has joined the Native American Agriculture Fund and know that his expertise and experience will serve our organization well," said Elsie Meeks (Oglala Lakota), NAAF Board Chairperson. "He is a mentor to many professionals in Indian Country and beyond, and his work in financial and investment leadership will continue to have a lasting impact through NAAF."

Nominated by President Obama and confirmed by the U.S. Senate in 2014, Logan served as the Special Trustee for American Indians at the U.S. Department of the Interior. Calling on his financial and regulatory background, he led the Office of the Special Trustee in reaffirming its position as a leader in government accountability, Indian Trust reform, financial education and Interior oversight mandates.

"Vince Logan is truly a visionary leader in Indian Country and the financial industry, and he brings an immeasurable wealth of knowledge to the role of CFO/CIO for the Native American Agriculture Fund," said Janie Simms Hipp (Chickasaw Nation), CEO/President of the Native American Agriculture Fund. "Our organization focuses on the needs of Native farmers and ranchers, and the Native food systems and agriculture economic development goals of their communities. We are confident that Vince Logan will help us accomplish these intertwined and critical missions."

Michael R.L. Begay of IAIA Wins TCJ Student Best Film Award



Michael R. L. Begay

Tribal College Journal recently announced that Michael R.L. Begay, of the Institute of American Indian Arts (IAIA), is the recipient of the 2019 TCJ Student Best Film Award for his original work, *Lightning Boy*. As part of the award, Begay will present *Lightning Boy* at the Pocahontas Reframed "Storytellers" Film Festival in Richmond, VA.

Michael R.L. Begay is from Santo Domingo Pueblo and the Navajo Nation. He is currently attending IAIA where he is working on a BFA in cinematic arts and technology, with an emphasis on directing, editing, and photography direction. He is a graduate of both Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute and Haskell Indian Nations University, where he earned a degree in Media Communications. A multidisciplinary artist, Begay has received numerous awards for his work in both film and art. In 2016, his original mixed media artwork, reINcarNATIVE, was selected for the cover of the summer issue of *Tribal College Journal*.

TCJ received over a dozen submissions this year from a wide range of tribal college filmmakers. Begay's original narrative film *Lightning Boy* stood out, combining a culturally based storyline, special effects, and a notable acting performance from award-winning poet and writer Vivian Mary Carroll, also of IAIA. This year's contest has generated special enthusiasm, as TCJ Student is partnering with the Pocahontas Reframed "Storytellers," a national film festival that features a wide array of Native filmmakers and films.

The Pocahontas Reframed 'Storytellers' Film Festival recently awarded Begay with an all-expense paid trip to the third annual festival on November 21-24, 2019, plus a \$1,000 cash prize. "Michael will be joining accomplished Native filmmakers from Canada, Mexico, and the U.S. as they screen their films to large audiences at the Historic Byrd Theatre in Richmond, Virginia," said Bradby Brown, Director of the Film Festival. "This is the inaugural year of the partnership between TCJ and Pocahontas Reframed Film Festival." ♣