



TRUST MATTERS

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OST On Social Media

Have you had the chance to check us out on social media? We're on Facebook and Twitter. Like and follow us to keep up on the latest OST news and events.

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Where would you like to see OST next on social media? A blog? Tumblr? Send your ideas to genieve_billia@ost.doi.gov today!

OST Hosts Tribal Methodology Working Group

The Office of the Special Trustee for American Indians (OST) hosted nine tribes and consortiums at OST's Albuquerque, NM location, April 12 - 14, 2016. The visit was for the Tribal Methodology (TM) project which is an initiative to develop a web-based application to streamline the evaluations of trust programs compacted under the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act. The tribes and consortiums volunteered to be pilot tribes and some began working with OST as early as May 2014. Chairman Vernon Finley, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Reservation, along with other Tribe/Consortium representatives participated in the working group with OST to collaborate on the software development phase, a major milestone of the TM project. The web-based application leverages information technology, is less intrusive on tribes/consortiums, provides for more timely reviews, and will assist OST in meeting the annual evaluation requirement. Nationwide rollout is projected in the first half of 2017.



Participants in the Tribal Methodology Working Group pose for a picture to commemorate the event. Representatives from all nine pilot tribes and consortiums attended to kick-off the program.

Back Row: Justin Mariano - OST Auditor, Jeremy Rogers - OST, Robert Scabby - Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, Eric Larsen - Kawerak Inc., Cecilia Smith - OST, Gerald Nicholia - Native Village of Tanana, Michael Gallagher - Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians of Oregon, Paul Mayo - Tanana Chiefs Conference, Carl Flensburg - Bristol Bay Native Association, CloAnn Westerman - Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Reservation (CSKT), Michelle Hill - Oneida Nation of Wisconsin, Cathern Tufts - Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians of Oregon, Shannon Erhart - Native Village of Tanana, Nora Brock - Kawerak Inc., Chairman Vernon Finley, CSKT, Debra DuMontier - OST, John Constable - OST, Robert Wauneka - OST,

Front Row: Brandon Trujillo - OST, Nolan Solomon - OST, Sabrina Savo - Bristol Bay Native Association, JoAnn Byrd - Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, Nicole Rommel - Oneida Nation of Wisconsin, Carolee Wenderoth - CSKT, Danielle Moss - Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Hans Axelsson - Tanana Chiefs Conference, John White - OST

Treasury debuts new retirement savings program

By Alejandra Y. Castillo

Do you or your part-time or seasonal employees not have access to a retirement savings plan? Now, there's an easy way to start saving. myRA is a new retirement savings option developed by the U.S. Department of the Treasury. It's designed for workers who don't have access to retirement savings plans at work, or who lack other options to save.

myRA was developed to remove common barriers to saving and to provide a simple, safe, affordable way for people to start saving for retirement. It costs nothing to open an account, there are no fees, and myRA carries no risk of losing money.

Starting an account for yourself and helping your employees start saving with myRA is easy. You don't administer myRA employee accounts, contribute to them, or match employee contributions. Simply introduce your employees to myRA, and then set up an automatic direct deposit from each participating employee's paycheck to the designated myRA account in the amount of the employee's choosing.

If you or your employer doesn't use direct deposit for your payroll, you and your employees can fund their myRA accounts in other ways— from a personal checking or savings accounts, and from federal tax refunds at tax time.

Wendell Kimbrough is the CEO of Area Resources for Community and Human Services (ARCHS), a St. Louis-based nonprofit organization that designs, manages, and evaluates 15 education and social service programs, including support for child care centers.

Retirement savings can seem out of reach for many child care workers who often work for very small businesses or are self-employed. Since learning about myRA, Wendell has helped build awareness of the program by spreading the word among child care business owners at trainings and conferences.

“myRA is a wonderful opportunity for a community of employees who historically don't save to start saving

for retirement,” Wendell says. “In some cases, they haven't been exposed to retirement options, or don't see the advantage. myRA makes it so easy.”

Make a commitment and help your employees make commitments to their financial futures with myRA. Visit myRA.gov for more information.

Higher Education Corner - Haskell Indian Nations University

By Mike Choate

Haskell Indian Nations University in Lawrence, Kansas has educated generations of Native American students for over 120 years. The school opened in 1884. Its original purpose, to provide training in the trades and agricultural education to students, mirrored assimilationist efforts common during that era. HINU evolved from a residential boarding school to a secondary school to a vocational-technical institution during the first half of the 20th century.

In 1970, Haskell began offering a junior college curriculum and became Haskell Indian Junior College. In 1992, after a period of planning for the 21st century, the National Haskell Board of Regents recommended a new name to reflect its vision for Haskell as a national center for Indian education, research, and cultural preservation. In 1993, the Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs (U. S. Department of the Interior) approved the change, and Haskell became “Haskell Indian Nations University.”

Today, Haskell Indian Nations University has a Memorandum of Understanding with OST's Office of Trust Records. Records Management Specialists from the American Indian Records Repository (AIRR) help teach Records Management classes at Haskell. Each semester, Records Management students from Haskell tour the AIRR and learn about day-to-day operations. For over a decade now, Haskell students have interned at the AIRR. Many of them have become OST employees or used their education and AIRR experience to take on other important jobs supporting their communities and Indian Country.

Find out more about Haskell at www.haskell.edu