

## **Office of Native American Programs Administrators**

### **Randy Akers, Northern Plains ONAP Administrator**

For the last eleven years, Randy has served as the Administrator for the HUD Northern Plains Office of Native American Programs (NPONAP) located in Denver, Colorado. The NPONAP provides a wide range of housing and community development assistance to 34 Federally recognized tribal governments in a nine state region, comprised of Colorado, Utah, Wyoming, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Nebraska (plus New Mexico and Arizona for oversight of the Navajo Nation's IHBG program). Prior to taking his current position, for 21 years Randy was an attorney for the San Francisco and Phoenix HUD ONAPs, serving as a principal point of legal contact for HUD programs delivered to 172 tribes located in the western United States. Randy is a member of the Comanche Nation of Oklahoma.

### **Ken Bowring, Northwest Office of Native American Programs**

Ken Bowring is the Administrator of HUD's Northwest Office of Native American Programs (NwONAP), which provides housing and community development assistance for the 42 federally recognized tribes in Idaho, Oregon, and Washington. He has held that position for about 13 years. Ken has over 31 years of experience with HUD working primarily with Native American programs in both the Alaska (7 years) and Southwest (12 years) ONAP offices of HUD. Prior to his career with HUD, Mr. Bowring was a resource planner with the states of Washington and Minnesota. His educational background includes a Bachelor of Arts (BA) degree in accounting, business administration, and geography from Augustana College in Rock Island, IL as well as a Master of Arts (MA) degree in geography from the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis, MN.

### **C. Wayne Sims, Administrator, Southern Plains Office of Native American Programs**

Wayne Sims has been the Administrator for the HUD Southern Plains Office of Native American Programs (SPONAP) in Oklahoma City for more than seventeen (17) years. The Southern Plains ONAP has oversight/funding supervision of 47 Tribes in 5 States in the South Central United States. Before joining HUD, Mr. Sims, a member of the Choctaw Nation of OK, spent 18 years working in Indian Housing Programs; first, as a Finance Director, then Deputy Director and Executive Director at the Housing Authority of the Choctaw Nation in Hugo, OK; then as the Executive Director of the Absentee Shawnee Housing Authority in Shawnee, OK; and in the same role at the Chickasaw Nation Housing Authority in Ada, OK. Mr. Sims also held the position of Technical Assistance Specialist with the National American Indian Housing Council (NAIHC) during 1993-1995 where he worked with over fifteen different Tribes and Indian Housing Authorities in seven states.

### **Carolyn O'Neil, Administrator, Southwest Office of Native American Programs**

Carolyn O'Neil is the Administrator for the Southwest Office of Native American Programs (SWONAP) and she and staff are located in Phoenix, AZ and Albuquerque, New Mexico. Before assuming her current position in 2008, Ms. O'Neil was employed with the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians developing and managing the tribal housing program. She administered the tribe's annual Indian Housing Block Grant and developed over 500 units of affordable housing and infrastructure by leveraging and layering funds from multiple sources. While serving as the Executive Director of the Housing Division Ms. O'Neil also provided management oversight of

a tribally driven economic development project that converted two former U.S. Air Force Bases (MI) into market rate housing. Ms O'Neil's career included working as a consultant for the National American Indian Housing Council (NAIHC) and was a committee member on the first Negotiated Rulemaking Committee in 1997. Ms O'Neil is a member of the Sault Ste Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians.

**William Zachares, Administrator, Alaska Office of Native American Programs**

William Zachares serves as the Administrator for the Department of Housing and Urban Development's Alaska Office of Native American Programs. Prior to accepting the job of Administrator, Mr. Zachares was the Director of the Grants Evaluation Division and has held various other positions with the department over his 20+ years of federal service. In his current position, Mr. Zachares is responsible for the overall administration of affordable housing grant programs for Native Americans and Alaskan Natives in excess of \$100,000,000 per year including NAHASDA Indian Housing Block Grants, Indian Community Development Block Grants, Rural Housing and Economic Development Block Grants, and Resident Opportunity and Supportive Services Grants. Mr. Zachares also represents the Alaska Office of Native American Programs with federally recognized tribal governments, federal and state partner agencies, and regional native for-profit and non-profit Corporations. As a 34 year Alaskan resident; twelve of which were spent living and working in Kotzebue, Alaska, Mr. Zachares has a unique understanding of the problems and issues facing the Native Alaskan population. While living in Kotzebue Mr. Zachares completed college received a Bachelor of Science degree in Rural Development through the University of Alaska, Fairbanks. He also gained valuable work experience as a Program Director for Maniilaq Manpower, the Deputy Director for the Native Village of Kotzebue, Kotzebue IRA Council and the Director, Office of Management and Budget, for the City of Kotzebue.

**Kevin Fitzgibbons, Eastern Woodlands Office of Native American Programs**

Kevin Fitzgibbons has served as Administrator of the Eastern Woodlands Office since April of 2000. The Eastern Woodlands Office administers ONAP programs in a 26 state area which includes all of the states east of the Mississippi River and the States of Iowa and Minnesota. Mr. Fitzgibbons has also served as Director of Grants Management and Director of Community Relations and Involvement for the Eastern Woodlands Office. In addition, he has served in a supervisory position in the Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity Division. Prior to his service in the Executive Branch, Mr. Fitzgibbons held a number of positions in the Legislative Branch. He served as a Professional Staff Member for the Select Committee on Narcotics Abuse and Control and authored a variety of Committee reports. Mr. Fitzgibbons also served as a Legislative Assistant for a Member of Congress in Washington, D.C. and as an Administrative Assistant in a Member's district office. Mr. Fitzgibbons has an undergraduate degree in mass communications and a masters degree in public administration.