

2019 Tribal-State Relations Training Summary

Tribal-State Relations Training Government to Government

This brief report highlights the seven trainings provided to Minnesota state employees in 2019 in accordance with Governor Tim Walz's *Executive Order 19-24*: The State has instituted Tribal State Relations Training ("TSRT") which will be the foundation and basis of all other tribal relations training sources. All agencies must direct certain staff to complete training to foster a collaborative relationship between the State of Minnesota and

Minnesota Tribal Nations. In addition to all Commissioners, Deputy Commissioners, and Assistant Commissioners, all agency employees whose work is likely to impact Minnesota Tribal Nations will attend TSRT training. Tribal Liaisons will actively support and participate in the TSRT.

2019 at a Glance:

8,635	785	27	7	15	25	60
Hours of training delivered	People trained	State agencies participated	Tribal Nations hosted	Tribal Leaders participated	Tribal Liaisons participated	People it takes to deliver a training

Governor Walz's Cabinet and Staff training

OCTOBER 7-8 Hosted by Prairie Island Indian Community



Governor Tim Walz welcomes Commissioners and staff.

"I really appreciated Lt. Gov. Flanagan sitting with us for 2 days and speaking from the heart. This was a moving few days, and energizing as well."
- Training Participant



Tribal Leader Q & A: Faron Jackson of Leech Lake, Shelley Buck of Prairie Island, Kevin DuPuis of Fond du Lac, and John Morrin of Grand Portage.



142 People Trained



26 Agencies Represented



Shelley Buck, Prairie Island Indian Community President, shares thoughts on Government-to-Government relations.

PIIC offered guided tour of the Prairie Island Buffalo Project.





More trainings in 2019 . . .

JANUARY 14-15 Hosted by Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe



Melanie Benjamin, Mille Lacs Chief Executive, welcomes state agency employees.

"The history really helped me put today's issues into context regarding everything from land to health disparities."
- Training participant



Bradley Harrington, Mille Lacs Natural Resources Commissioner, amuses participants during an engaging lesson about tribal lands.


117 People Trained


9 Agencies Represented

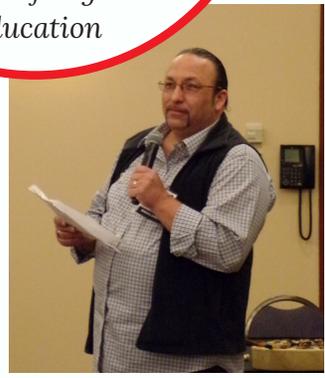
APRIL 15-16 Hosted by Lower Sioux Indian Community



This is a rich learning environment; the sheer depth and breadth of information and resources packed into a two-day training was humbling and makes me want to keep learning."
- Tobias Leuthret, Office of Higher Education


103 People Trained


13 Agencies Represented



Robert L. Larsen, Lower Sioux President, gives the invocation.

JUNE 17-18 Hosted by Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa

Offered guided tours of Spirit Little Cedar Tree and hike up Mount Josephine


80 People Trained


18 Agencies Represented



Marie Spry, Grand Portage Interim Chair, speaks on the tribal leader panel.

Photo by Travis Novitsky

AUGUST 5-6
 Hosted by **Red Lake Nation**



Shared a walleye dinner with wild rice, fry bread, & blueberry dessert, followed by a mini powow.



76 People Trained



16 Agencies Represented

"I really liked hearing from tribal leaders and staff about wanting to build partnerships and to be included on projects from the beginning."
 - Lindsey Krumrie
 Pollution Control Agency



Darrell G. Seki, Sr., Tribal Chairman of Red Lake, talks about partnership building.

SEPTEMBER 9-10
 Hosted by **Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe**



125 People Trained



12 Agencies Represented



Faron Jackson, Sr., Leech Lake Chairman, welcomes participants.

"THANK YOU FOR CHANGING MY PERSPECTIVE!!!
 - Training participant

Jingle dancers came in full regalia, shared the history and significance of jingle dresses, and danced for participants.



NOVEMBER 5-6
 Hosted by **Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa**



Kevin DuPuis, Fond du Lac Chairman, provides a welcome to participants.

"This is the history we all should have been taught and never were--it is critical to learn as state employees to be effective collaborators and citizens of our shared land.
 THANK YOU!!"
 - Megan Sisko,
 MN.IT Services



Cathy Chavers, Bois Forte Chairwoman, joins Chairman DuPuis in sharing wisdom on the Tribal Leader Panel.



115 People Trained



12 Agencies Represented



Two-Day Classroom Overview

Mission: To provide training and education for Minnesota state employees about American Indian tribal governments, histories, cultures, and traditions in order to empower state employees to work effectively with American Indians, and promote authentic and respectful relationships between state agencies and American Indian tribes.



Each training is hosted by one of the 11 Minnesota Tribes – they help to **start and end the trainings in a good way** with an invocation, drum songs, and presentation of the colors to welcome and send off our participants.



Participants are asked to join in a **language lesson** to learn a few words taught by a Dakota or Ojibwe language speaker. Then, the most senior State participant **signs a treaty** on behalf of all participants – the treaty is **written in Dakota or Ojibwe** to set context for the training.

During an afternoon lecture about **federal Indian policy** and the **legal background between the tribes and the states**, participants learn **500 years of history** from Dr. Tadd Johnson and connect it to their current work.



Commerce Dept. Tribal Liaison Mary Otto gives a powerful presentation about the generational affects of **Indian boarding schools** using an exercise representing **7 generations** of women, teaching deep effects of trauma endured by Indian people.

The Minnesota Indian Affairs Council provides the **Why Treaties Matter** exhibit displayed in the training classroom. This is a popular spot during break times.



Participants choose two of three **breakout sessions** to attend; **Culture and History** with tribal elders, **State Agency Tribal Liaisons**, or **Local Tribal Government Staff**. Each session has a panel to answer questions in a small group setting.

Levi Brown, MnDOT Tribal Liaisons Manager, helps participants better understand **tribal land history, ownership, rights, and taxation** with detailed explanations followed by a lively Q & A.



The Tribal Leaders Panel shares perspectives on consultation and partnership building with their tribes – a Q & A provides the participants a chance to ask questions for deeper understandings.

At the end of the training, **participants gather by agency to debrief** and talk about post-training work with tribal nations, led by the **Executive Order 19-24**.



Some tribes offer an **optional unique tour or cultural experience** to the participants before they leave the reservation at the end of the training.

