

## Indigenous Leadership Academy Cohort Spring 2022

**Phoenix, Ariz.** — The [American Indian Policy Institute](#) (AIPI) is thrilled to announce the inaugural cohort of the [Indigenous Leadership Academy](#) (ILA)! With a focus on emerging leaders, there has never been a leadership program like this before in the country. There are 11 tribes represented in this group of 27 individuals. All participants live in Arizona and have a passion for working with and for Indigenous communities. Some topics that the participants are passionate about are: politics, justice, healthcare, behavioral health, education, Tribal infrastructure, cultural preservation, and business, just to name a few.

We are excited to have such a diverse group of participants. The American Indian Policy Institute is delighted to see what wonderful things this cohort will accomplish. Please read about each cohort member below.



### **Gilbert Arvizu**

Gilbert Arvizu is an adaptive health and social care leader whose commercial demonstrations have confirmed reciprocal determinism among medical costs, health behaviors, and a person's social environment. Gilbert's great-grandfather was born on what is now the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation and was a World War I combat veteran from Arizona. As one of John McCain's last full-time interns in Washington, Gilbert implemented the congressional investigation of the Navajo Housing Authority, performed an exit interview of the Executive Director of the Office of Navajo and Hopi Indian Relocation, engaged community members at the Padres Mesa Demonstration Ranch, and strategically planned the Rio Reimagined public-private partnership with ASU. In addition to his professional work, Gilbert is a Research Associate affiliated with the University of Arizona Zuckerman College of Public Health, Division of

Public Health Practice and Translational Research. Gilbert's research interests include utilizing the Social Ecological Model to contextualize the West Approach Land Acquisition, the federal program which utilized eminent domain to forcefully remove his family and 5,800 others from their homes west of Sky Harbor International Airport in the 1970s and 1980s. He was recently elected to the leadership team of the Community Health Planning and Policy Development Section of the American Public Health Association, representing nearly 4,000 community health practitioners.



### **Agnes Attakai**

"I am Dine (Navajo), raised on both the Dine homelands in Arizona and the urban California suburbs. As Director of Health Disparities Outreach and Prevention Education for the Center of Rural Health at the University of Arizona Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health, my role is to engage and collaborate with tribal Nations and underserved communities in Arizona to reduce health disparities and promote health equity. My area of specialty is health education, with an emphasis on health communication and health promotion/disease engagement in rural/urban American Indian communities. In addition, I have a broad background in community health, public health education, and STEM mentoring specifically in rural/frontier American Indian communities. Currently, I serve on the National Rural Health Association Health Equity Council and the Society for Advancement of

Chicanos/Hispanics and Native Americans in Science (SACNAS) Native American Initiative Committee. My philosophy is to train the next generation of leaders."



### **Crystal Banuelos**

Crystal Banuelos is an enrolled member of the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community (SRPMIC). She is a graduate of ASU receiving her Bachelor's Degree in Justice Studies with a minor in Communications. She serves as an Assistant Human Resources Director for the SRPMIC. She along with her team, oversee various work, training, and job preparedness programs available to members of the Community. She truly enjoys being able to be part of supporting individuals toward their career objectives. Ms. Banuelos previously served as Board Chair for the Casino Arizona and Talking Stick Resort Board of Directors for 14 years. She had the pleasure to serve on the Salt River First Things First Regional Partnership Council focusing on early childhood education initiatives and has also served the SRPMIC Action Team Addressing Special Needs and the Judicial Selection Committee. She is the

proud mother of a kind, smart and thoughtful daughter Isabelle. Ms. Banuelos is very honored to serve as a selected participant in ASU's Inaugural Indigenous Leadership Academy.



### **Deborah Ann Begay**

Deborah Ann Begay won her election to the Moon Valley Justice Precinct in November 2020 and was sworn into office January 8th, 2021 as the first-ever Native American Justice of the Peace in Maricopa County. Judge Begay graduated from the University of California at Berkeley and Arizona State University's Sandra Day O'Connor School of Law, with a focus in Federal Indian law. Prior to taking office, Judge Begay worked for the Arizona Department of Education, Policy & Government Relations as a Tribal Policy Specialist. She regularly speaks out on justice issues, including tribal sovereignty, LGBTQ+ inclusive practices in the workplace, and building diverse community partnerships. Judge Begay is proud of her heritage: born in Lupton, AZ on the Navajo Nation. She is Naakai Dine'é, born for Kinyaa'áanii. Her maternal grandfather is Dził Tl'ahnii and her paternal grandfather is

Tódich'ii'nii. She is a U.S. Navy veteran and lives in North Phoenix with her family.



### **Colin Ben**

Colin Ben is a citizen of the Navajo Nation originally from Shiprock, New Mexico. He is an Assistant Research Professor and Lead of the Online Master of Arts in Indigenous Education in the School of Social Transformation, and he is the Associate Director of the Center for Indian Education at Arizona State University. Colin earned his Ph.D. degree in Educational Leadership and Policy in 2018 from the University of Utah and an M.A. degree in American Indian Studies from the University of Arizona. As a Navajo educator, his research addresses higher education policy, access, and persistence among diverse students and communities.



### **Triston B. Black**

Triston B. Black is a citizen of the Navajo Nation. He comes from the community of Tsaille, Arizona. His clan relations are of the Towering House clan, born for the Bitter Water clan, maternal lineage is of the Folding Within Arms clan, and his paternal lineage is of the Many Goats clan. He is an alumnus of Navajo Preparatory School and Diné College. Triston is currently a graduate student at Arizona State University, enrolled in the Indigenous Education master's program. Mr. Black was appointed by the 3 Branch Chiefs of the Navajo Nation to serve on the Navajo Nation Youth Advisory Council and the Indigenous Youth Council in the State of New Mexico. The Navajo paradigm "Sá'ah Naaghái Bik'eh Hózhóón" means (To Live and Long and

Happy Life) is the foundational teaching in his education, profession, and everyday livelihood as a Navajo individual. Triston is always eager to learn and is grounded in cultural knowledge systems. He is honored to join the Indigenous Leadership Academy and is determined to work alongside his peers in tribal nation-building. His hobbies include silversmithing, moccasin-making, and ranching.



**Mikah Carlos**

Mikah Carlos is from the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Community in Arizona. She is Onk Akimel O’Odham, Tohono O’Odham and Piipaash. She graduated from Arizona State University, with a Bachelor of Science in American Indian Studies and a minor in Psychology. She is currently serving as a member of the Center for Native American Youth- Youth Advisory Board and as a board member for the National Indian Child Welfare Association. In both positions, she has the opportunity to advocate on behalf of Native American youth across the country in areas such as mental health resources, language revitalization, and cultural preservation. Currently, Mikah is employed by her community and serving youth and their families.



**Kevin Cassadore**

Da’got’eeh. Kevin Shea Cassadore is the CEO and Founder of a newly formed Native American business consulting firm Apache Innovative Solutions, LLC. Kevin is Dis’cheen (“Red Band People”) Clan, born for the Na’da’stoo’sin (“Tall Peaks Standing Up”) Clan and raised on the San Carlos Apache Tribe in Rural Southeast Arizona. Born with a heart to serve, Kevin started his career in the public safety sector as an emergency medical technician while simultaneously pastoring a local family, non-denominational Christian church before furthering his career with Grand Canyon University. During his tenure as the Tribal General Manager, San Carlos successfully secured 5 million dollars in New Market Tax Credit funding for the construction of a Boys and Girls Club, a District community center, and a community swimming pool. Kevin takes extraordinary joy and is deeply fulfilled by working for the people he loves and the land they call home.



**Berlene Dallas**

“Hello, my name is Berlene Dallas I hold a Master’s of Science in Leadership and a Bachelor’s of Science in Applied Management from Grand Canyon University. I am an enrolled member of the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community. Not only am I enrolled at Salt River but I am also an employee at the Community Development Department in which I serve as the Realty Supervisor; I have been with Community Development since October of 2003. I enjoy working in tribal realty because at times it can be complex but it definitely makes the job rewarding knowing that I can assist landowners and tribal members, as well as be a mentor and coach to my staff. I have served on a few Boards and programs which involved youth. Most recently I ended a three-year term of being Board Chair of the Salt River Community Children’s Foundation, a non-profit which is charged

with raising funds to benefit and provide the opportunity of creating lifelong experiences for enrolled children of the Salt River Community. Outside of work, I enjoy spending time being with my family which consists of my husband of 24 years and our six adult children. I love to travel and more importantly I enjoy meeting new people.”



### **Kevin Felix**

Kevin Felix is an Electrical Engineer at the Salt River Project (SRP), where he provides engineering support for the design of SRP's electric distribution system. He is a member of the Navajo Nation from the Chinle Chapter and now resides in Phoenix, Arizona. While building a career in engineering Kevin has made sure to embrace any opportunity to serve and collaborate with Native American nations and communities. Kevin interned with the Navajo Tribal Utility Authority and Navajo Transitional Energy Company during his undergraduate program at Northern Arizona University, and these experiences shaped his perspective in tribal business, nation-building, and partnerships. That perspective was further developed when Kevin served on SRP's Intergovernmental Affairs team in 2019. Kevin is now serving as a Co-Chair of the board for SRP's N.A.T.I.V.E. Employee Resource Group. This group

supports SRP's corporate diversity, equity, & inclusion initiatives for Native Americans by offering personal & professional growth opportunities, developing cultural awareness within SRP, and serving as a bridge to Native American communities for SRP. Kevin has been instrumental in elevating Native American voices that bring awareness and perspective to SRP as it delivers water and power to the Valley.



### **Lorna Her Many Horses**

Lorna "Emmy" Her Many Horses, a citizen of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe, is an educator, creator, and advocate who seeks to uplift Indigenous communities and people with disabilities. She was born and raised on the Rosebud Reservation in South Dakota and went on to earn her B.A. from the University of Minnesota. Professionally, Emmy is a special education teacher, with experience working in Dakota and Ojibwe immersion, K-8 inclusion, and high school behavioral settings. She currently works at First Peoples Fund as a Program Manager working on educational initiatives that honor and uplift Native artists and culture bearers in classrooms, and arts initiatives that challenge

outside narratives of Indigenous arts issues. Emmy has mentored students and colleagues in schools, supporting students in starting classroom businesses and supporting colleagues in becoming leaders across campus. In her homelands, Emmy has hosted donation drives that support youth and family services and has honored Oceti Sakowin veterans and service-members through the Star-Spangled Banner Project earning her the honor of being named a White House Champion For Change in 2011. Emmy is passionate about language reclamation, uplifting Indigenous creatives, access to disability services for youth and adults, and access and opportunity for Indigenous peoples on reservations.



### **Teah W. Hopkins**

Teah W. Hopkins is an enrolled member of the Narragansett Indian Tribe in Rhode Island. She has worked in education for over 20 years. Her early career involved working as a higher education assistant and a Tribal Council assistant for the Mashantucket Pequot Tribe in Ledyard, Connecticut while attending Tufts University. While at Tufts, she co-founded the first Native American Students' Association. After moving to Arizona, she started working in local school systems as a Human Resources professional and became involved in working with at-risk youth helping diverse students with career services. As part of the Human Capital Team at ASU Preparatory Academy, her current role as a Benefits Administrator is responsible for the planning and administration of the company's employee benefits programs. Teah holds a BS in Sociology and a MA in Indigenous Education from Arizona State University. Her passion is to

help create educational programs and curriculums that include local Indigenous knowledge systems that would also provide employment opportunities for both Indigenous students and professionals within the community. She believes Indigenous knowledge provides educational enrichment and is essential for sustainable development.



### **Monroe Keedo**

Monroe Keedo is a Research and Development Engineer at the Navajo Tribal Utility Authority (NTUA). NTUA is a not-for-profit tribal enterprise established in 1959 which provides utility services to the Navajo Nation. Monroe is responsible for business development and the technical telecommunications sales engineering aspects of the utility. He works closely with hospitals, schools, businesses, and government entities to design, present and demonstrate technical connectivity solutions. In addition, he works directly with end-user customers and industry partners, providing input to technical RFP and SOW generation. Technical presentations and customer interactions are a significant part of what he does. Monroe has over 20 years of experience in telecommunications business development. He strives to build long-term standing business relationships between the Telecommunications

Communications Division of NTUA and prospective telecommunications customers on and off the Navajo Reservation. Monroe holds an MBA from the University of New Mexico and an MSEE from New Mexico State University.



### **Derrick Leslie**

Derrick Leslie is of the Red Horizontal People Clan and a citizen of the White Mountain Apache Tribe. He is the eldest of four siblings and lives in Whiteriver, AZ. He is a graduate of Grand Canyon University where he earned his undergraduate degree in psychology. He also has a graduate certificate in public health from Johns Hopkins University. He is currently the Higher Education Coordinator for his Tribe while also serving as Policy Unit Coordinator for the Tribe's Emergency Operations Center. He serves on his Tribe's Health Advisory Board and Fort Apache Heritage Foundation. He also serves on Northland Pioneer College's Governing Board and on Summit Healthcare's Institutional Review Board.



### **Tanya Lewis**

Tanya Lewis is Vice Chairwoman of the Yavapai-Apache Nation (YAN). She was born and raised in Clarkdale, Arizona, and attended Mingus Union High School in nearby Cottonwood. Lewis then earned an Associates Degree in Business Management and a Leadership Certificate from Yavapai College where she graduated with honors. Prior to being elected Vice Chairwoman, Lewis served as a Tribal Council Member for three years, an Executive Assistant to two chairpersons, and was also a member of YAN's Election Board, Land & Water Committee, and Pageant Committee. Lewis has extensive experience in Tribal Government Human Resources and The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). In addition to her work in government, Lewis also spent a decade in gaming where she worked her way up from the front line in slots to marketing manager. Lewis enjoys volunteering with youth

and elders, as well as participating in YAN's cultural activities. She says to be a good community leader, it is important to be authentic and involved, remain passionate about important issues and listen to elders while also being a visionary. When she is not working or volunteering, Lewis enjoys spending time with her family and kickboxing at the gym.



### **Celesta Littleman**

Celesta Littleman is a 42 yr old Dine from the Navajo Nation. She was raised by both her parents and extended family on and off the Navajo Nation Reservation growing up. Also, she completed a Bachelor's Degree from Arizona State University in Criminal Justice and Criminology. Her career background is in law enforcement with New Mexico State Police and the Penitentiary of New Mexico. During her time in law enforcement, she completed her certifications and academy. As life happens, my family had to relocate to Arizona. Then an opportunity for me opened up for her at Salt River Projects.



### **Christopher Lomahquahu**

"My name is Christopher Lomahquahu, I am truly honored to be part of the inaugural Indigenous Leadership Academy cohort at Arizona State University. I am a member of the Gila River Indian Community or "the Community," also known as the Akimel O'otham (River People). I am also Hopi, Ottawa, and Mohawk. I possess a Bachelors of Fine Art (2008) and a Masters of Social Work in Planning, Administration, and Community Programs (2013) from Arizona State University. Thanks to the support of my community, I have been able to utilize my education from a world-class institution like ASU and give back to the place I call home. For the past 13 years, I have been employed with the Community, which I currently serve as the Acting Managing Editor with the Gila River Indian News (GRIN). For eight of those years, I have had the pleasure of working as a

Community Newsperson covering a diverse range of stories about the progress going on within GRIC. I am excited to be a part of [this] cohort and once again be a part of the ASU community and education, which makes the experience of being a Sun Devil all worthwhile."



### **Merry Manson**

Merry is a Diné Asdzaan from Kayenta Arizona. Her passion lies in working with communities in need to support them in getting quality health care to live healthy and fulfilled lives. She believes through leveraging her business and public health backgrounds she is able to uniquely provide value to community health strategies. Merry attended Arizona State University, Barrett, the Honors College where she received a Bachelor of Science in American Indian Studies, and a Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies in Anthropology and Family & Child Development. She then attended Washington University in St. Louis where she completed a Master in Business Administration in Healthcare Strategy and a Master in Public Health in Health Policy Analysis. Upon graduation, Merry worked with Blue Stone Strategy Group, a for-profit Tribal Consulting firm that works throughout Indian County. In her position, Merry worked with over 20

tribes in her 2 years with the company, her projects ranged from Healthcare, Finance, to Economic Development. Currently, Merry works at Banner Health as a Program Manager in Strategy and Planning. Her position includes responsibility for the planning and strategic needs of the health systems Community Health Needs Assessment, and supporting Banner Health's Critical Access Hospitals in their planning needs.



### **Sarah Mott**

Sarah Mott is an enrolled member of the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation. She resides in Fort McDowell with her spouse, Jessy, and their two-year-old daughter, Songoe'e. Sarah works as the Safety Coordinator for FMYN tribal government. She has over 18 years of combined tribal government and enterprise experience at FMYN in the areas of Human Resources, tribal affairs, and the FMYN Fire Department. She is also working on her higher education at SCC, her Nation's Yavapai saying is a motto that she follows, "Never Give Up Always Give Back." Sarah has contributed to various boards for over 16 years to include Pageant Committee, Health Board, Planning Advisory Board, Yavapais Against Substance Abuse, Water Committee, and Finance Committee. She currently Chairs the FMYN Finance Committee and in this role, she has worked with current and past leadership to carry out the financial goals

and objectives of the Nation. Sarah has aided the Nation's most exciting achievement, the completion and grand opening of the brand new Wekopa Casino at Fort McDowell in 2020. Sarah is proud of what her Tribal Council leadership has accomplished; she hopes to one day be a leader for her community. Sarah is excited to attend the Indigenous Leadership Academy to gain knowledge that will help further the progress of her tribal community.



### **Tremayne Nez**

Tremayne Nez is an enrolled member of the Navajo Nation, representing the community of Birdsprings, Arizona. His clans are Táchii'nii (Red Running Into the Water People) clan, born for the Tsi'naajinii (Black Streak Wood People) clan. Tremayne attained a baccalaureate degree from Northern Arizona University in Political Science and is currently enrolled at George Washington University as part of their Native American Political Leadership Program. In 2019, he worked as a liaison for the Attorney General and was on the opioid crisis prevention task force for the City of Flagstaff. His prior experiences as an opioid prevention advocate have prompted his interests to pursue higher education in tribal policy issues. He hopes to inspire others and broaden his knowledge of governmental processes and legislative affairs so he could use that knowledge to help his community and tribe.



### **Debbie Nez-Manuel**

As the granddaughter of a Navajo Code Talker, Debbie recognizes her opportunity to advocate for people is rooted in his service to our country. Debbie Nez-Manuel is a longtime community leader and activist. Ms. Nez-Manuel is a profoundly impactful advocate for people of color in urban, rural, and remote communities around Arizona. She has extensive experience and expertise in mobilizing citizens into deep and meaningful community engagement. Ms. Nez-Manuel grew up on the Navajo Nation in northern Arizona and has lived in the Phoenix metro area for three decades. She has had a successful career with Casey Family Programs in their partnership with Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community and today advocates for indigenous communities in her work with Arizona Community Foundation. Ms. Nez-Manuel has a comprehensive

and exceptional understanding of the complexities surrounding the victimization of Native American women and girls. She was instrumental to the unanimous passage in the Arizona Senate and House of HB 2570, monumental legislation establishing a 21-member Study Committee on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. The bill was the first of its kind in the nation, and other states are following suit.



### **Raeanne Patch**

"I am a Hopi/Mohave member of the Colorado River Indian Tribes. I earned an undergraduate degree in Accounting, Magna Cum Laude, and a Master's of Business Administration with an Emphasis in Accounting, both from Grand Canyon University. I have resided on the Colorado River Indian Reservation for most of my life and have been a longtime employee of the Colorado River Indian Tribes. I currently serve as the Revenue and Finance Director, exercising the tribe's sovereignty and taxing authority through the enforcement of licensing and taxation. Prior to my current position, I was an Accountant for the tribe's various enterprises. Two of my professional goals are to organize and provide structure for taxation through technological upgrades to help the tribe successfully enforce tribal law; to develop a curriculum and promote education and career-building for members to help them succeed at every level. I strongly

believe every member should be afforded an opportunity to learn, grow and have a successful career. Through education and skill-building, a structure can be set for tribal governments to advance by having educated, prepared, and skilled future leaders. I am a mother of three and one dog. My hobbies are listening to podcasts and reading."



### **Carol Lee Redhouse Deed**

"My name is Carol Lee Redhouse Deed. I am of the Southern Ute tribe and grew up on the Southern Ute Reservation and now live in Laveen, Arizona. Educationally, I earned my undergrad in Communications and Family & Human Development from Arizona State University. I earned my graduate degree in Organizational Development & Leadership from Fielding Graduate University. Currently, I am working on my Post Graduate degree in Human Development with a concentration in Inclusive Leadership for Social Justice from Fielding Graduate University. Professionally, I have worked for 10+ years in the direct services of women's shelters and youth group homes. My passion for working with women faced with domestic violence has come from a history of witnessing and experiencing DV from childhood into my young adult life. Because of my deep-rooted desire to help others in DV situations and create a change in the

cycle of DV by way of Empowerment to women and youth. I have teamed up with an amazing fellow Native woman to create Empowered180 to create a safe space of healing; mentally, physically, emotionally, and spiritually."



### **Rachel Ruder**

"I currently serve as the Program Coordinator for Native American Student Services in Tucson Unified School District (TUSD). I was previously a Multi-Tiered System of Support Facilitator and classroom teacher in Tucson, San Luis, and Yuma. This is my sixteenth year working in education. I have a Bachelor of Arts degree in History with a minor in Political Science from the University of Arizona and two Master of Education degrees in Educational Leadership and Elementary Education from Northern Arizona University. In 2019, I was honored at TUSD's Celebration of the Stars event with the Classified Campus Support Employee of the Year award. Student advocacy is my passion. I collaborate with TUSD stakeholders to ensure that all Native American students have an equitable education. I was born and raised in Tucson, Arizona, and am a product of TUSD. I currently live in Marana with my

husband, two daughters, and two cats. I enjoy listening to live music, going to the theatre, and hiking."





### **Christy Sangster-Begay**

Da'got'eeh! Christy Sangster-Begay, T'iiskaden (Cottonwood standing) San Carlos Apache born for Kinyaa'aanii Dine' (Towering House Clan-Navajo). Christy is the program director for the San Carlos Apache Tribe's Department of Environmental Protection Office and co-founder of the grassroots organization The Nigosdzan Project based in San Carlos, in which she serves as board president. She currently attends Prescott College, working on her Master of Arts in Environmental Studies. Christy was raised in San Carlos and attended the San Carlos Unified School district schools until graduating from high school in 2001. Christy went on to study at Northern Arizona University and received her Bachelor of Science in Applied Indigenous Studies with a minor in History. Following graduation, Christy returned to the reservation to serve the people by working for the Seven Mile District Office as an Admin Assistant then serving

students as an Academic Counselor. When she began working within Natural Resources, she found her passion for protecting the environment. At the same time, she co-founded the grassroots organization, The Nigosdzan Project.



### **Jordanna Saunders**

Jordanna Saunders owns & operates a group behavioral health private practice. The practice treats adolescents and adults in the State of Arizona. She is a member of the Navajo Nation. Her clans are Dziłt'ahnii nishłi, Tó dich'íí'nii bashishchiin, Mą' ii deeshgiizhnii dashicheii & Tó baazhni'áázhi dashinali. She is originally from Crownpoint, NM. Jordanna is a mother, kinship auntie, artist & runner. She got her undergraduate degree from the University of Arizona where she majored in Psychology; she minored in Anthropology and American Indian Studies. She got a Masters of Counseling Degree from Arizona State University. She is a current Interdisciplinary Minority Fellowship Program Mentor, a member of the Arizona Counseling Association Board and is a member of several professional organizations. Her career spans both direct practice and clinical practice management working in urban, rural (frontier), and reservation

behavioral health clinics. Jordanna's professional interest areas include mental health advocacy and training, mentorship of BIPOC counseling professionals, EMDR Therapy, working with the underserved, and the development & implementation of culturally informed health care practices.



### **Tony Skrelunas**

Tony was raised in the Dine Traditions by his grandparents. He followed their teachings of resilience to attain B.A. and M.B.A. Business Degrees from NAU and a fulfilling career. Mr. Skrelunas is a founder and partner in the Navajo Power PBC, where he works in developing a utility-scale solar development company that provides breakthrough dialogue and benefits to local land permittees and communities. He is also a senior in starting Navajo Power Home, a company that builds smaller home systems for tribal communities. He is also a partner in a DBA business called Tribe Awaken under which he advises community leaders and entrepreneurs on just transition business planning, securing financing, and building new types of partnerships. He serves on the Board of the Navajo Shopping Centers Inc, another Navajo Nation enterprise,

and was the founding President. He provides professional business success coaching to clients young and old. Mr. Skrelunas has been recognized for his professional endeavors with awards ranging from the NAU College of Business Hall Of Fame Inductee, Outstanding Young Man of America, and others. He is most proud of taking responsibility to raise three kids, following the teachings of his elders, giving back to the community, and being a role model for balance in life.