

# American Society for Public Administration

## Section on Intergovernmental Administration & Management (SIAM) Tribal Relations Working Group (TRWG)

### \* CHARTER \* (March 2007)

#### **Mission and Purpose**

The Tribal Relations Working Group (TRWG) is an initiative of the American Society for Public Administration (ASPA) Section on Intergovernmental Administration and Management (SIAM). The TRWG's purpose is to increase the effectiveness of intergovernmental administration and management involving American Indian tribal governments and to help implement innovative government-to-government programs with tribes.

#### **Vision – TRWG Functioning as an Effective Professional Society**

TRWG develops and maintains a program of activities that support research, education, and training to improve relations between tribal and non-tribal governments and the institutions that support them.

These program activities will: lead to lasting institutional relations that improve service delivery to tribal and non-tribal citizens within and outside of tribal boundaries; reduce conflict and litigation between governmental institutions; and produce a cadre of educators and practitioners with skills essential for successful intergovernmental collaborations.

#### **Program Areas**

- Program Area 1: Improve intergovernmental administration and management involving American Indian Tribal governments
- Program Area 2: Improve the capacity of local, state, federal, and tribal governments for successful intergovernmental collaboration
- Program Area 3: Support and recognize educators and practitioners who improve intergovernmental relations involving tribes
- Program Area 4: Create opportunities for information and resource exchange among educators, researchers, and practitioners to improve intergovernmental relations involving tribes

#### **Program Area 1: Improve intergovernmental administration and management involving American Indian Tribal governments**

##### Program Activities

- 1.1) Create a "lesson plan" for undergraduate and graduate classrooms that can help educators enhance learning about the role of tribes in the US governmental system.
- 1.2) Encourage the creation of career positions within federal, state, and local government agencies assigned to maintaining effective government-to-government relations with tribes.
- 1.3) Build on the "Working Effectively with Tribal Governments" training course and develop an academic certification and/or professional credential training program.

**Program Area 2: Improve the capacity of local, state, federal, and tribal governments for successful intergovernmental collaboration**

Program Activities

- 2.1) Develop profiles of successful and innovative intergovernmental administration and management practices involving American Indian tribal governments and find opportunities to disseminate them, including posting profiles on the TRWG section of the SIAM web site.
- 2.2) Develop and maintain on the TRWG section of the SIAM web site a list of institutional development resources. Resources may include documents, web sites, list of organizations, and other information.

**Program Area 3: Support and recognize educators and practitioners who improve intergovernmental relations involving tribes**

Program Activities

- 3.1) Create research opportunities by developing research themes and identifying funding and other resources - post on the TRWG section of the SIAM web site and circulate to appropriate other interest groups through the SIAM Intergovernmental Coalition Work Group.
- 3.2) Encourage publication of a book addressing intergovernmental relations involving tribes.
- 3.3) Promote training opportunities and professional development workshops regarding intergovernmental relations involving tribes at the annual ASPA conference and at other occasions as appropriate.
- 3.4) Maintain a mentor program to support individuals interested in developing research and public management skills that advance intergovernmental arrangements involving tribes. The TRWG Mentor Program will match educators and practitioners with individuals interested in: tribal, federal, state, and local government; non-governmental institutions that support tribal relations programs; or research and education. TRWG will recognize mentors annually for their volunteer service.
- 3.5) Seek out and post employment and consulting opportunities on the TRWG section of the SIAM web site and through the SIAM electronic dialogue.
- 3.6) Support professional development through the Student Achievement Award and the Practitioner Achievement Award.
  - The TRWG Student Achievement Award will recognize papers and research conducted by undergraduate or graduate students. Awards will be presented during the annual ASPA conference.
  - The annual TRWG Practitioner Achievement Award will recognize successful implementation of innovative approaches that improve government-to-government relations -- or that improve the administration of intergovernmental programs -- involving American Indian Tribes. Awards will be presented during the annual ASPA conference.

**Program Area 4: Create opportunities for information and resource exchange among educators, researchers, students, and practitioners to improve intergovernmental relations involving tribes**

Program Activities

- 4.1) Contribute to SIAM Newsletter.
- 4.2) Develop TRWG Section of the SIAM Web Site.
- 4.3) Sponsor roundtable discussions, training workshops, panels, and other events at ASPA conferences.
- 4.4) Work with other ASPA organizations to achieve our mission.