



BONNEVILLE POWER ADMINISTRATION
TRAINING ANNOUNCEMENT – FY24

Portland State University
Institute for Tribal Government
2023-2024 Certificate in Tribal Relations

OPENS: October 11, 2023

CLOSES: October 30, 2023

WHO MAY APPLY:

Current supervisory and non-supervisory GS-12-15 career and career-conditional employees of the Bonneville Power Administration are encouraged to apply.

Selected participants must remain at GS-12 (or higher) grade level (permanent or acting) throughout the program period to remain eligible (December 2023 to August 2024.)

This is a developmental opportunity under the Culture Office's Diversity and Inclusion Program.

Participation in the Certificate in Tribal Relations Program does not result in a promotion.

GENERAL INFORMATION:

The Certificate in Tribal Relations is offered by the Institute for Tribal Government and Center for Public Service in the Mark O. Hatfield School of Government. The program is designed for local, state, and federal government agencies, non-profit and for-profit organizations, and trade associations that work regularly with tribal nations and native communities.

The program seeks to foster understanding of tribal perspectives, increase staff effectiveness and accountability when working in Indian Country, and improve working relationships between participants and the tribal communities they work with.

Program Overview:

- **Cohort Learning Experience** – as part of a cohort, students benefit from the rich and varied experiences of their peers.
- **Friday Class Sessions** – end-of-week classes make it convenient for working professionals to attend.
- **Selection of a Case Partner Tribe** - Each student develops a relationship with one tribal government to compare course material with that tribe's lived experiences.
- **Three Immersive Field Experiences** – each cohort meets with leaders and senior staff at the federal, state, and tribal levels of government. This year, all field experiences will be offered in person.
- **Mentorship** – each cohort has mentor-facilitators to provide guidance through the program and coordinate content delivery. A cadre of tribal leaders, elders, and other experts will deliver course content.
- **Capstone** – each student completes a Capstone project related to their particular organization and goals.

- **Hybrid Learning** – while participants are encouraged to attend the classroom session in person, the program is offered in a hybrid format (in-person & virtual). The university will continue to follow state and local government’s health and safety guidelines.

Desired Outcomes:

Students who successfully complete the program will develop skills in:

- Cultural awareness and sensitivity;
- Trust and relationship building;
- Understanding and respecting tribal beliefs, interests, and priorities;
- Collaborative governance;
- Representing agency programs and priorities to the tribal governments and native communities with which they work.

CANDIDATE CHARACTERISTICS:

- Avid learner; capable of independent study;
- Development plan includes leadership development;
- Available to fully participate in the program;
- Support from your direct manager.

PROGRAM DETAILS:

Cost: \$9,450 per participant. The Chief Culture Office Leadership Development budget will fund tuition for this opportunity. Note: Travel expenses, including lodging and per diem, are the responsibility of the selected participant’s business line.

Program Dates & Locations: December 8, 2023 – August 23, 2024. Six classroom sessions on campus, one Capstone presentation in August, and three field trips. Class times are Fridays, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

- Friday, December 8, 2023
- Friday, January 12, 2024
- February 12-16, 2024: National Council of American Indians (NCAI) Washington, DC
- Friday, March 8, 2024
- Friday, April 12, 2024
- May (Dates TBD): Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians (ATNI)
- Friday, June 14, 2024
- July 15-19, 2024: Tribal Nations Trip
- Friday, Aug 9, 2024
- Friday, Aug 23, 2024: Capstone & Graduation

* Schedule is subject to change.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

For additional information, visit Portland State University’s [Certificate in Tribal Relations](#) website.

HOW TO APPLY:

Interested candidates are required to submit narrative responses to the following questions (no more than one paragraph in length for each question):

1. How will your participation in the Certificate in Tribal Relations program advance your leadership skills and abilities at BPA?
2. What leadership qualities and experiences make you a strong candidate for this program?
3. How will your participation in this leadership development opportunity benefit the Bonneville Power Administration and your position?

HOW YOU WILL BE EVALUATED:

A panel of subject matter experts (SMEs) will anonymously evaluate candidates based on the quality of the narrative responses submitted.

CANDIDATE APPLICATION PACKAGE CHECKLIST:

- Expression of Interest, containing a narrative response for each question, no longer than one page for each question.
- Completed and signed Supervisory Acknowledgement Statement (last page – Page 4)

HOW TO SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION:

Email your narrative responses and completed Supervisory Acknowledgement Statement to Culture Office culture@bpa.gov by **11:59 p.m. Pacific Daylight Time, Monday, October 30, 2023.**

The Chief Culture Officer will select one candidate. BPA's selection is anticipated in November 2023.

Those selected must:

- Complete a Continued Service Agreement (CSA)
- Complete a BPA External Training Request.



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Supervisory Acknowledgement
TRAINING ANNOUNCEMENT

I acknowledge that _____ has submitted an application for consideration for this training opportunity.

I understand that this interest announcement requires my pre-approval, and I approve this training for this applicant as part of their Individual Development Plan (IDP).

I understand that, if selected, the applicant must attend all scheduled sessions of the Institute for Tribal Government 2023-2024 Certificate in Tribal Relations Program.

I understand that, if selected, I am responsible for funding all travel, lodging and per diem expenses connected to this training for this applicant.

The Chief Culture Office - Leadership Development budget will fund tuition for this program (\$9,450).

Supervisor's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Supervisor's Title: _____ Routing: _____