



Courtesy photo

Nick Sixkiller (right) carries his granddaughter, Olivia, and joins Jake Williams with this son, Kai, during the Tiny Tot dance at the pow-wow at Lane Community College on Dec. 3 in Eugene, Ore.



Courtesy photo by Lisa Bigelow

Jamie Bokuro, Nick Sixkiller, Sonya Moody-Jurado, Katy Holland and Matt Scott celebrate Bokuro's and Scott's graduation from the LEAD Program.



Courtesy photo by Maria Westervelt

Kathleen and Richard Forster stand in their garden in Siletz in this photo from September 2011.

Bokuro, Scott are LEAD graduates

By Katy Holland

In October 2011, two of our talented Siletz Tribal members, Jamie Bokuro and Matt Scott, graduated from the LEAD Program in Albuquerque, N.M. They received a beautiful plate plaque and a graduate certificate to honor their accomplishment.

Bokuro is a counselor who works in the Portland-area 477 Self-Sufficiency Program. Scott is an executive assistant with the National Indian Child Welfare Association in Portland, Ore.

For the last four years, the LEAD Program has offered quality training and leadership development activities to support emerging Native leaders. The program has graduated more than 30 LEAD fellows, including Sherry Addis, Portland Area Office supervisor and Siletz Tribal member, and Lauren Patterson, Portland/Salem-area youth counselor.

We would like to congratulate our new graduates of the 2011 LEAD Program and wish them much success in the future.

Emergency dental visits available – Contact the Siletz Community Dental Clinic if you experience dental pain or a dental emergency. The staff will do everything possible to see you as soon as reasonably possible. Check-in time is Monday-Thursday from 8:30-9 a.m. and Friday from 10-10:30 a.m. Afternoon check-in time is Monday-Friday from 1-1:30 p.m.

USDA job training available this summer in Washington state

College students can apply (usa-jobs.gov) for paid on-the-job training positions with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service in Washington state.

Requirements

- Pursuing a four-year degree in agriculture or natural resources
- U.S. citizen
- Available to work full-time for at least two summers until graduation

- Willing to accept position in any part of Washington state

Benefits

- Competitive wages
- Travel assistance (if eligible)
- Housing assistance (if eligible)
- Paid sick leave
- Paid annual leave
- Possible future permanent career position

LaHood announces \$15 million to improve transit options on Tribal lands

Tribes receive funds to continue bus service in Lincoln County

WASHINGTON – U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood on Dec. 1 announced \$15 million to help American Indian and Alaska Native Tribal governments invest in public transit to help improve access to employment centers and promote economic development on Tribal lands.

The Siletz Tribe will use \$187,683 to continue providing transit services within Lincoln County, Ore., through a memorandum of understanding with Lincoln County Transit. As of October 2011, service is free to Tribal members.

The Tribe also helps its members throughout its 11-county service area with transportation to planned activities using Tribally owned vans and buses.

"With unemployment among American Indians at an unacceptably high rate, reliable public transportation offers a vital link to jobs, training centers and other essential services," said LaHood. "The Obama administration is committed to working with leaders in Indian Country to improve transportation connections while boosting economic conditions and creating jobs in Tribal communities."

The money, awarded through the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) Tribal Transit Program, will provide grants to Tribes in 25 states for 67 separate projects. The projects will focus on maintaining existing transit operations during the economic downturn and enhancing services for seniors and people with disabilities.

In addition, some grants will be used to plan or launch new bus, van and commuter service in rural communities that have never been served by public transit before.

"For people who live in rural communities and on Tribal lands, access to reliable, affordable public transit is a lifeline," said FTA Administrator Peter Rogoff. "We're committed to ensuring that every American Indian or Alaskan Native who needs a ride to earn a paycheck, attend school, see the doctor or buy groceries has that opportunity."

Eligible grant recipients under the Tribal Transit Program include federally recognized American Indian Tribes and Alaska Native villages, groups or communities, as identified by the Bureau of Indian Affairs in the Department of Interior.

The FTA reviewed 116 project applications for the Tribal Transit Program, representing more than \$41.6 million in funding requests from Tribal transit providers across the country.

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