

## Auger selected for Indigenous Leadership Academy fall cohort

PHOENIX – Grand Ronde Tribal Elder Simone Auger has been selected for Arizona State University's Indigenous Leadership Academy fall cohort through the university's American Indian Policy Institute.

Her selection, along with 26 other Indigenous leaders from across the country, was announced at an Indigenous Peoples Day celebration on Monday, Oct. 10, at Desert Botanical Garden in Phoenix.

The fall cohort represents 15 Tribes from eight states and Washington, D.C.

"All participants demonstrated a strong passion for working with and for Indigenous communities," an American Indian Policy Institute press release stated. "Some topics that the participants are passionate about are behavioral health, broadband, civic engagement, education, health care, missing and murdered Indigenous women and people, and youth, just to name a few. We are excited to have such a diverse group of participants. The AIPI is delighted to see what wonderful things this cohort will accomplish."

Auger, 60, lives in Washington, D.C., where she works as a legislative assistant for Oregon Rep. Kurt Schrader.

"As a congressional staffer, Simone manages a diverse portfolio of issue areas consisting of Tribal issues, natural resources, agriculture and education," the release stated.



Simone Auger

"She advocates for the legislative priorities of the office, supports advancement of legislation in her issue areas and serves as an advisor on Tribal issues."

Prior to her current role, Auger was the 2020 Spirit Mountain Community Fund Hatfield Fellow. The fellowship program provides an opportunity for a Native American from one of Oregon's nine federally recognized Tribes to work for a member of the Oregon congressional delegation in Washington, D.C.

Auger has a master's of Interior Architecture from the University of Oregon and a professional certificate in Tribal relations from Portland State University. She serves on the Tribal Employment Rights Office Commission and chairs the Tribal Housing Grievance Board.

She also serves on the board of directors for Competency and Credentialing Institute, a professional perioperative nurse credentialing organization. ■

## Interior updating Repatriation Act

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The Department of the Interior announced on Thursday, Oct. 13, that it was releasing proposed revisions to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act.

The act's regulations provide a process for returning human remains, funerary and sacred object, or objects of cultural patrimony to Native American, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian organizations. The proposed changes would streamline requirements for museums and federal agencies to inventory and identify human remains and cultural items in their collections.

"The Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act is an important law that helps us heal some of the more painful times in our past by empowering Tribes to protect what is sacred to them," said Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs Bryan Newland. "These changes are long overdue and will strengthen our ability to enforce the law and help Tribes in the return of ancestors and sacred cultural objects."

The Interior Department consulted with 71 Tribes and Native Hawaiian organizations on the draft proposal and received more than 700 comments. Feedback is included in the following proposed revisions that include:

- Strengthening the authority and role of Tribes and Native Hawaiian organizations in the repatriation process;
- Addressing barriers to timely and successful disposition and repatriation;
- Documenting and addressing requests of Tribes and Native Hawaiian organizations when human remains or cultural items are discovered on federal or Tribal lands before items are further disturbed;
- And increasing transparency and reporting of holdings or collections.

Enacted in 1990, the act requires museums and federal agencies to identify Native American human remains, funerary items and objects of cultural significance in their collections and collaborate with Tribes and Native Hawaiian organizations to repatriate them.

The public can comment on the proposed rule changes until Jan. 12, 2023, at [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov). ■



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## APPLESAUCE CANNING & NECKLACE MAKING EVENT W/ THE ELDERS

Join YEP and the elders for a day full of making fun items for the Grand Ronde Restoration Giveaway

**November 10th, 10AM to 4PM**  
**Elder Activity Center**

Ages 10-18 are welcome. Lunch will be provided!

If you would like to join us, please RSVP by calling Keri Kimsey @ 503-879-1471 or email [keri.kimsey@grandronde.org](mailto:keri.kimsey@grandronde.org)

Thank you for respecting Grand Ronde Community & Culture by not displaying gang affiliation and by not bringing drugs, alcohol or weapons to this event.