



Chrystel Cornelius Joins Board of Red Feather Development Group

Description: *Chrystel Cornelius, current Executive Director of First Nations Oweesta Corporation, has joined Red Feather Development Group's Board of Directors and has been named Treasurer. Red Feather is a nonprofit that currently partners with members of the Hopi, Navajo and Northern Cheyenne nations to develop and implement solutions to their housing needs. Ms. Cornelius' extensive work with non-profits, particularly in Indian Country, is seen as a valuable addition to an already strong board.*

Flagstaff, AZ – July 1, 2016 – Chrystel Cornelius, current Executive Director of First Nations Oweesta Corporation, has joined Red Feather Development Group's Board of Directors and will fill the role of Treasurer. Red Feather is a nonprofit that currently partners with members of the Hopi, Navajo and Northern Cheyenne nations to develop and implement solutions to their housing needs.

Ms. Cornelius has worked with Native communities for most of her professional career, with more than 16 years of experience working in the Native economic development field. She is an enrolled member of the Oneida Nation of Wisconsin and a member of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians located in North Dakota. As a former tribal planner for seven years with the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa, as well as the founding Executive Director of the Turtle Mountain CDFI, she has extensive experience in tribal government structures, and coordinating various government and private funding entities for the benefit of economic development endeavors across Indian Country.

"We are fortunate to have Ms. Cornelius joining our board in this important role as Treasurer," said Mark Hall, Executive Director of the Red Feather Development Group. "Her education, work experience and connections with organizations working in Indian Country could not be better suited to our current needs."

As Treasurer, she will help guide the staff in safeguarding Red Feather’s assets and ensuring fiscal responsibility. She will also play an important role in developing Red Feather’s funding strategy.

“I was honored to be invited to join the Red Feather Board of Directors and when they asked if I would take on the role of Treasurer, I knew it was something I could help with,” said Cornelius. “The housing needs in these tribal communities are so staggering, and Red Feather has some innovative programs that help families address the needs themselves.”

Red Feather, with offices in Bozeman, Montana and Flagstaff, Arizona, focuses on providing educational, hands-on services and training to Native Americans on home repair and weatherization to help build community resiliency.

First Nations Oweesta Corporation is dedicated to providing opportunities for Native people to develop assets and create wealth by assisting in the establishment of strong, permanent institutions and programs, contributing to economic independence and strengthening sovereignty for all Native communities. Oweesta provides Native CDFIs with debt capital investments, technical assistance, and training to deliver financial and asset building programs to Tribal members across the United States.



Chrystel Cornelius is the newly appointed Treasurer of Red Feather Development Group’s Board of Directors. (Photo courtesy: Chrystel Cornelius)

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