

Marcus Grignon

Education

University of Wisconsin-Green Bay, BA

Major: Democracy and Justice Studies, minor First Nations Studies; January 2015-May 2016

College of Menominee Nation, AA, AAS

Major: Tribal Law and Sustainable Development; August 2006-May 2010

The George Washington University, Certificate

Major: Political Management and Lobbying; January 2009 – April 2009

American University, Certificate

Major: Federal Budget and Tribal Economic Development; January 2011-April 2011

Institute of American Indian Arts, Certificate

Major: Indigenous Business and Entrepreneurship; August 2012-May 2014

Employment

NiiJii Capital Partners, Incorporated, Lending and Technical Assistance Specialist (March 2020-Present)

- Provide one-on-one technical assistance that includes, but not limited to business planning, financial projections, market analysis, market strategy, and strategic planning
- Manage and monitor loan portfolio under the direction of the Executive Director
- Developed an agricultural lending product for hemp producers

Indigenous Think Tank, LLC, Principal (January 2020-Present)

- Consult tribes and small businesses on strategic planning in the hemp industry
- Research hemp growing conditions and economic trends
- Draft feasibility studies and hemp regulations

Hempstead Project Heart, Executive Director (January 2020-Present)

- Collaborate with the College of Menominee Nation on hemp fiber research
- Research and write a feasibility study on hemp fiber production in the Great Lakes region
- Work on the development of a hemp fiber seed acclimated to the Great Lakes region

Earth Island Institute, Hempstead Project Heart Project Director (December 2017-December 2019)

- Supervised two interns on working towards passage of the 2018 Farm Bill with Tribal Sovereignty upheld in industrial hemp provisions through grassroots organizing
- Collaborated with the Oneida Tribe on education campaign and economic development strategy for hemp
- Advise tribes and conduct feasibility studies on the potential for industrial hemp

Earth Island Institute, Hempstead Project Heart Campaign Manager (March 2016-December 2017)

- Project management of a statewide/national campaign to legalize Industrial Hemp in Wisconsin and United States
- Educate tribal, urban, and rural communities on the benefits of growing industrial hemp
- Research historical record on hemp and economic development opportunities

Earthcare International, Food Policy AmeriCorps Member (August 2011-August 2013)

- Conducted surveys and interviews on food access in Santa Fe County, New Mexico
- Built relationships with elected officials, food pantry staff, community leaders, and non-profits
- Wrote a community food assessment on food access for the Santa Fe Food Policy Council

Small Business Administration Office of Native American Affairs, Staff Assistant (January 2011-May 2011)

- Researched and co-wrote a report to Congress on Rural Exporting in the United States
- Drafted Federal Register Notices and Statements of Work
- Worked with native small business owners on navigating through SBA's programs and loans

Menominee Tribe of Wisconsin, MIEDA Economic Development Adviser (May 2010-August 2011)

- Oversaw economic development projects as a liaison between contractors and the Menominee Tribal Legislature on the Menominee Reservation
- Meet with elected officials, contractors, and federal employees to discuss economic development
- Wrote a feasibility study and business plan on a tribally controlled organic farm

U.S. Congress Legislative Intern for Senator Debbie Stabenow (January 2009-May 2009)

- Attend hearings, briefings, drafted memos regarding current and future legislative proposals
- Answering phones and constituents' mail
- Running errands for the Senator and staff members; interacting with Congressional members and their staff

Extracurricular Activities

National Hemp Association's Standing Committee of Hemp Organizations, Member (2021-Present)

Rural Coalition's Farm Bill Policy Committee, Member (2016-Present)