

Samuel N. Penney

2017

Samuel N. Penney is currently a member and former Chairman of the Nez Perce Tribal Executive Committee (NPTEC). Penney was first elected to NPTEC in May 1989 and is currently serving his ninth three-year term on NPTEC. Penney served thirteen years as NPTEC Chairman and four years as Vice-Chairman. He has also served as Chairman of the Law and Order/ Intergovernmental Affairs Subcommittee and held numerous assignments during his years on NPTEC.

Penney serves on the Native American Advisory Boards to the Presidents of Washington State University, University of Idaho, Lewis-Clark State College and has attended the Annual Tribal Leadership Summit hosted by the University of Washington. He is currently a policy board member and President of the Portland State University, Hatfield School of Government Tribal Leadership Forum. Penney has been guest speaker at many educational institutions including Harvard University, Yale University, Lewis-Clark state College and the University of Idaho.

Penney has also served on the executive boards of the Intertribal Monitoring Association on Indian Trust Funds, Northwest delegate to the National Indian Gaming Association Board of Directors, National Tribal Environmental Council Executive Committee and the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians Executive Board of Directors. He currently serves as President of the Healing Lodge of the Seven Nations Board of Directors and is a board member of the Boys & Girls Club of the Lewis Clark Valley.

In 1999 the Idaho Statesman Newspaper featured Penney in an article entitled "Idahoans Changing Idaho-10 Who Make a Difference". The Idaho Statesman took a look at people who are working to change Idaho today searching for those who reflect the best of who we are and what we believe. Penney was selected because he sought to protect the rights of the state's Indian residents and the areas natural resources.

On May 16, 2003, Penney received the President's Medallion from Lewis-Clark state College in Lewiston, Idaho. He was selected for his dedication to promoting educational opportunities for Native American youth and the importance of higher education for everyone, both Native American and non-Indian.

On May 7, 2003, the University of Idaho in recognition of a lifetime of contributions to the State of Idaho conferred upon him an Honorary Doctorate degree of Doctor of Administrative Science.