



## **STEPHEN ROE LEWIS GOVERNOR**

Stephen Roe Lewis was raised in Sacaton, "Gu-u-Ki", on the Gila River Indian Community. His father is the late Rodney Lewis and mother Willardene Lewis. Mr. Lewis has an nineteen year old son, Daniel currently attending Arizona State University.

Stephen Roe Lewis graduated from Arizona State University with a Bachelors of Science and pursued graduate studies at John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

Governor Lewis has served the Community as a Gaming Commissioner for the Gila River Gaming Commission, as a member of the Board of Directors for the Gila River Telecommunications, Inc., and as a member of the Board of Directors for the Gila River Healthcare Corporation.

Governor Lewis was the first Native film curator for the Sundance Film Festival in Park City, Utah and was an Associate Producer for the groundbreaking and critically acclaimed TBS six-part feature documentary, "The Native Americans."

Governor Lewis has worked on numerous political campaigns and organizing projects throughout Indian Country including Native voter organizing and Native voter protection in 2002 and selected as an Arizona delegate and Co-Chairing the Native American Caucus for the 2012 Democratic National Convention in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Currently Governor Lewis proudly serves on the Board of Directors for the Native American Rights Fund (NARF), the Executive Board for the National Indian Gaming Association (NIGA) and the Board of Trustees for the Heard Museum of Phoenix.

Governor Lewis currently oversees the implementation of the Community's Water Settlement of 2004 (the largest water settlement of its kind in United States history). Governor Lewis advocates for renewable and green technologies guided by O'odham agricultural history and cultural teachings. Governor Lewis's vision is to support a new generation of Community member agriculturalists with the goal of promoting and protecting the Community's shudag (water) and agricultural development.

Governor Lewis has made it a priority of his administration in two critical areas: To expand services for Community Veterans by proposing the Community's first Veteran's and Family Services Department and by committing more resources to protect the Community's children by advocating for the protection of the Indian Child Welfare Act both at home and nationally.

During his tenure as Governor of the Gila River Indian Community, Governor Lewis has brought innovative solutions to long-standing issues that will create long-term gains for the Gila River Indian Community. One of these projects, the Management Aquifer Recharge site (MAR-5), brings together the need for access to water while restoring the return of the Community's riparian area which is vital for farming and the return of wildlife to the Community. Bringing back the Gila River, which is critical to the culture and identity of the Gila River Indian Community, has been a key milestone during Governor Lewis' Administration and one that will lay the foundation for future projects across the Community.

In addition, Governor Lewis' innovation can be seen in his approach to providing educational opportunities for the youth of the Gila River Indian Community. The Community is engaging in a demonstration program that would allow tribes to construct a Bureau of Indian Education replacement school and then lease that school back to the federal government. This first-of-its-kind project has the potential of lessening the backlog of school construction needs throughout Indian Country, while providing safe schools that encourage student success. Governor Lewis' commitment to the youth of the Community ensures that the youth have the opportunity to thrive and grow into the future leaders that the Gila River Indian Community and Indian Country need.

These projects illustrate the commitment that Governor Lewis has to respecting the history and culture of the community while providing for a brighter future for all of the Community's citizens.

Governor Lewis was recently re-elected to his second term in 2017 previously serving the Community as Lieutenant Governor.