

SONYA M. TETNOWSKI

United States Citizen / Honorably Discharged Veteran / Highest Federal Job Grade: GS-15

Chief Executive Officer
Indian Health Center of Santa Clara Valley

Chief Executive Officer

Successful at developing the vision, direction and strategies required to manage regulatory issues, generate effective relationship management initiatives, influence public policy and build a positive corporate and government relationship and reputation. Possess a strong business and marketing acumen with a clear sense of purpose and urgency when faced with diverse situational challenges. Skilled at improving government and media relations, influencing public policy, building relationships with stakeholders and establishing a working rapport with customers, industry leaders and elected officials.

Core Qualifications Include:

- Strategic Public Affairs & Communications Planning
- Creative Branding & Marketing Communication
- Risk Management and Response Modeling
- Re-engineering Operations & Process Improvement
- Managing Multiple Projects & Programs
- Influencing Public Policy & Government Regulations
- Team Development & Performance Enhancement
- Strategic Public Policy Partnerships & Alliances
- Business Case Development of Complex Issues
- Trained and Certified Negotiator, Mediator and Communicator

Personal Strengths: Ability to partner with cross-functional senior-management teams, ability to lead executive teams through strategic plan development, quickly revise strategies to ensure continued progress towards goals, undertake new or unique challenges, and build/maintain productive relations within multi-cultural environments. Superior Financial Management, Planning, Organizing, Issue Resolution and Management Skills.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

INDIAN HEALTH CENTER OF SANTA CLARA VALLEY June 2014 - Present

1333 Meridian Ave, San Jose, California 95125

Report to Pablo Varimontes, Board Chair

My duties:

Served as the Chief Executive Officer

- Develop and oversee implementation of the agency strategic plan.
- Develop and oversee a budget of thirty-two million dollars
- Supervise, train, mentor, and motivate a workforce of 252 under 9 direct reports.
- Developed and implemented new policies and procedures, and meet all federal and state requirements.
- Ensure continued adherence to the IHSCSV by-laws while working with the board of directors to make any changes as required.
- Write and or approve all fundraising efforts including grants and foundations.
- Review, edit and approval all contracts for the IHSCSV.
- Worked closely with various stakeholders at the local, state, and national level including members of Congress, high-ranking government officials, tribal leaders, and executives from other agencies.

LOWER ELWHA KLALLAM TRIBE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

January 2007 – June 2014

2851 Lower Elwha Road, Port Angeles, Washington 98363

Reported to elected Tribal Council: Frances Charles, Tribe Chairwoman, [REDACTED]

My duties:

- Direct, manage, and oversee all affairs and facilities of the tribe.
- Responsible for finance/investments, law enforcement and courts, IT, planning and development, child protection services, cultural resources, elder care, environment, fish and wildlife, health services/clinic, and social services.
- Oversee a 27 million dollar budget and supervise, train, mentor, and motivate a workforce of 398 under 25 direct reports.
- Ensure continuing adherence to the Tribal Constitution and By-laws, as well as to tribal values and culture while complying with numerous federal laws.
- Represent the interests of the tribe to third parties including agencies and other governments.
- Developed and implemented new policies and procedures to eliminate confusion and enhance overall organizational efficiency, including developing a new accounting system and an ethics code.
- Addressed and resolved community issues through a new communication process and improved employee morale and productivity by establishing a new appreciation program.
- Modified portfolio holdings to increase investment returns.

BONNEVILLE POWER ADMINISTRATION

TRIBAL AFFAIRS OFFICER

March 2005-December 2006

PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND TRIBAL MANAGER

February 2002-March 2005

TRIBAL ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE

March 2000-January 2005

Highest Federal Grade: GS-15

Supervisors: Christy Brannon, Chief Public Affairs Officer; Paul Norman, Rick Itami and Alan Burns, Senior Vice Presidents (retired); OK to contact any or all.

My duties varied with positions and included:

- Defined and developed the strategy for BPA's Tribal Trust responsibilities to all 46 member tribes in service territory. This included development of tribal outreach strategy and tribal protocols.
- Planned and managed an annual budget of up to \$2.3 million with a staff of up to 22 employees.

Sonya M. Tetnowski, CEO

- Served as the lead tribal advisor to the Deputy Secretary for Electricity in Washington, DC.
- Created and delivered training programs for employees and for external parties concerning tribal issues.
- Worked closely with various stakeholders at the local, state, and national level including members of Congress, high-ranking government officials, tribal leaders, and executives from other federal agencies.
- Chaired a federal agency caucus of nine federal agencies that meet to discuss tribal issues, particularly focusing on salmon recovery.
- Built and managed long-term relationships with tribes in the service region.
- Ensured compliance with all applicable federal laws, treaties, and executive orders.
- Facilitated outreach to tribal communities via BPA involvement in programs such as scholarships, apprenticeships, youth camps, business development assistance, and other technical assistance.
- Analyzed, summarized, and presented findings to aid policymakers in evaluating complex energy-related policy proposals.
- Completed a four-month detail to the Transmission Business Line from April to October 2004.

COUNCIL OF ENERGY RESOURCE TRIBES

October 2003 – April 2004

DIRECTOR OF TRIBAL ENERGY STRATEGIES (6-month detail while with BPA)

695 South Colorado Boulevard, Suite 10, Denver, Colorado 80246

Supervisor: David Lester, [REDACTED]

- Worked collaboratively with government entities including the Department of Energy, the Economic Development Administration, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and the Office of Personnel Management to consolidate efforts, organize joint energy projects, and secure funding.

AFFILIATED TRIBES OF NORTHWEST INDIANS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

August 1998 – March 2000

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

1827 NE 44th Avenue, Suite 130, Portland, Oregon 97213

Supervisor: Lyn Dennis, [REDACTED]

- Developed and implemented an economic development strategy for the 52 member tribes of this non-profit in five Northwest states while supervising a team of 16.
- Played a key role in drafting and promoting legislation in support of Indian economic and energy development and testified before the United States Congress in Washington, DC to increase support for projects and programs of the Indian tribes in the Northwest.
- Represented the tribes in addressing rural and economic development issues as a member of the Rural Development Council. Twice appointed by Governor Gary Locke to this Council.

NATIVE WAY ENTERPRISES

May 1996 – January 2000

PRESIDENT AND CEO

2890 SW Angeline Avenue, Gresham, Oregon 97080

OREGON NATIVE AMERICAN BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURIAL NETWORK

March 1996 – August 1998

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF WOMEN'S BUSINESS OWNERSHIP

11825 SW Greeneberg Road, Suite B-3, Tigard, Oregon 97223

Supervisor: Tom Hampson, [REDACTED]

MAKAH TRIBE

March 1994 – March 1996

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

P.O. Box 115, Neah Bay, Washington 98357

Supervisor: Jerry Lucas, [REDACTED]

MILITARY SERVICE

UNITED STATES ARMY

UNITED STATES ARMY RESERVES

Fort Lewis, Washington & Fort Bragg, North Carolina

Sergeant

Honorably Discharged

Rank: E5 (promoted from E1)

Top Secret Security Clearance

Supervisor: William S. Ethridge, MSGT; contact information unavailable

- Worked as a Special Operations Sergeant in Civil Affairs and earned and maintained an Airborne designation.

Awards:

- Eight Army Achievement Medals
- Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal
- Army Meritorious Service Medal
- Army Service Ribbon
- National Defense Service Medal
- NCO Professional Development Badge
- Parachutist Badge

EDUCATION

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY, Portland, Oregon

Bachelor of Science, Management, Communication, Leadership (MCL) May 2012

Masters of Business Administration and Finance program (MBA-F) May 2015

Trident University

Enrolled in a Ph.D. program

NEAH BAY HIGH SCHOOL, Neah Bay, Washington

High School Diploma, June 1986

AFFILIATIONS

- Member, Makah Indian Tribe
- Chair, California Consortium of Urban Indian Health (CCUIH)
- Vice Chair, National Council of Urban Indian Health (NCUIH)
- Member, Community Health Partnership Board (CHP)
- Member, Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians (ATNI)

REFERENCES

Available upon request.