

NATIVE AMERICAN ENERGY IN TRANSITION: Old Problems, New Challenges in Indian Country

THURSDAY & FRIDAY,
OCTOBER 2-3, 2025

HOSTED BY:

SAM NOBLE MUSEUM
NORMAN, OK



Registration



AGENDA – DAY 1: BUILDING SOVEREIGN ENERGY FUTURES

7:30 am – 8:30 am

Registration, Continental Breakfast & Networking

8:30 am – 9:00 am

- Opening Ceremony
- Posting of Colors | Invocation | Welcome by CNEDA and Caddo Nation Kiowa Black Leggings Color Guard
- Caddo Nation Princess Kendall Danielle Howell

9:00 am – 9:20 am

Welcoming Remarks

- Caddo Nation Chairman Bobby Gonzalez

9:20 am – 10:30 am

Session 1: Tribal Leaders Energy Panel Discussion– Challenges and Opportunities

- Chairman Bobby Gonzalez – Caddo Nation of Oklahoma
- Governor Reggie Wassana – Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes
- Chairman John “Rocky” Barrett – Citizen Potawatomi Nation
- Andy Wetherell – Southern Ute Department of Energy Manager
- Chairman Lawrence Spottedbird – Kiowa Tribe of Oklahoma
- Audience Q&A

10:30 am – 10:45 am

Break, Industry Booths, Vendors, Networking

10:45 am – 11:45 am

Session 2: Reservations vs Allotted Lands — Opportunities and Challenges of funding for energy projects

- JC Whorton, Jr. – Director, EnDev Resources
- Stephen Ward, J.D. – Conner Winters
- Zechariah Harjo, Muscogee (Creek) Nation – Secretary
- Audience Q&A

11:45 pm – 1:15 pm

Keynote Luncheon: Tribal Sovereignty & National Energy Policy

- Gabe Morgan – Regional Director of the Bureau of Indian Affairs Southern Plains Regional Office

1:15 pm – 2:00 pm

Session 3: Tribal Economic Development Initiatives

- James C. Collard, Ph.D. – Director of Planning & Economic Development, Citizen Potawatomi Nation
- Kendra Bennett – National Account Manager, Kaw Power and Safety and Skyland 3D
- Audience Q&A

2:00 pm – 2:45 pm

Session 4: Oklahoma Orphan/Abandoned Well Plugging and Remediation Initiatives

- Marvin Leeth – Director, EnDev Oklahoma, LLC.
- Brad Boles (Cherokee Nation) – Oklahoma State House of Representatives, Energy and Natural Resources Oversight Committee
- Audience Q&A

2:45 pm – 3:00 pm

Break, Industry Booths, Vendors, and Networking

3:00 pm – 3:30 pm

Session 5: Nation Building — Governance and Institutional Strength

- Scott Davis – Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs, U.S. Department of the Interior
- Audience Q&A

3:30 pm – 4:30 pm

Session 6: Success Stories & Case Studies from Across Indian Country – Panel Discussion

- Andy Wetherell – Southern Ute Department of Energy
- William McCabe – Southern Ute Department of Energy, Manager
- Arvin Trujillo – Navajo Nation Government Affairs Manager, Navajo Transitional Energy Company
- Audience Q&A

4:30 pm – 5:00 pm

Session 7: Federal Policy Outlook — Administration Congressional Budget and Executive Orders Impacting Indian Energy Development and Operations

- David Conrad – Deputy Director for Office of Indian Energy
- Audience Q&A

5:00 pm – 5:15 pm

Break

5:15 pm – 5:30 pm

Reception Welcoming Remarks - The Importance of Native Nations to Oklahoma's Economy

- Matt Hulver – OU Vice President for Research and Partnerships

5:30 pm – 7:30 pm

Networking Reception

AGENDA – DAY 2: RESEARCH, FUNCTIONALITY, REGULATION & FORWARD STRATEGY

8:00 am – 8:45 am

Continental Breakfast & Networking

8:45 am – 9:00 am

Welcome Remarks

- Joseph Harroz Jr. – President, The University of Oklahoma

9:00 am – 9:45 am

Session 1: Research Spotlight: Innovations for Tribal Energy and Funding issues

- Sherry Dale – Founding Partner, Mettise – Invited
- Sovereign Bank – Invited
- Huurav Energy – Invited

9:45 AM – 10:45 AM

Session 2: Innovative Energy Research at the University of Oklahoma

- Dimitrios Pappavassiliou, Ph.D. – The NSF RANGE Team
- Nick Hayman, Ph.D. – Director, Oklahoma Geological Survey, University of Oklahoma
- Xingru Wu, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Mewbourne School of Petroleum & Geological Engineering – Geothermal Recovery and Hydrocarbon Recovery (Project, Tuttle, OK)
- Qi Li, Ph.D. – Frameworks for Scalable Efficient and Secure Peer to Peer Energy Trading

10:45 am – 11:00 am

Break, Industry Booths, Vendors, Networking

11:00 am – 11:45 pm

Session 3: Methane and Water — OU Research Collaborations with Tribes

- Tim Filley, Ph.D. – Executive Director, Institute for Resilient Environmental and Energy Systems
- Binbin Weng, Ph.D. – Assistant Professor, Electrical and Computer Engineering, University of Oklahoma
- Jason Vogel, Ph.D. – Director of Oklahoma Water Survey & Professor of Civil Engineering and Environmental Science

11:45 am – 12:30 pm

Session 4: Tribal Utilities — Microgrids, Interconnection, and Market Access

- Kevin Blazer – Vice President for Business Development, Colusa Tribal Utility Authority
- Chris McKosato – Tribal Alliance for Clean Energy, Senior Tribal Liaison
- Bill Saporito – Tribal Alliance for Clean Energy, Deputy Head of Technical Assistance and Project Development
- Corey Baitz – SAKU (EightTwenty), VP of Design

12:30 pm – 1:45 pm

Lunch and Principal Speaker

- Miriam Jorgensen, Ph.D. – Research Director, Harvard Project on Indigenous Governance and Development, University of Arizona Native Nations Institute
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1:45 pm – 2:45 pm

Session 5: Tribal Sovereignty and Energy Panel Discussion

- Zackaree Kelin J.D. – Vice Chairman CNEDA
- Tana Fitzpatrick, J.D. – Associate Vice President, Tribal Relations, The University of Oklahoma
- Kelly Factor – Vice Chairman, Caddo Nation – Invited
- Alex Pearl – Chickasaw Nation Endowed Professor of Law – Invited

2:45 pm – 3:15 pm

Closing remarks by the University of Oklahoma, CNEDA, and Caddo Nation

- Zackaree Zelin J.D., Vice Chairman, CNEDA
- Tana Fitzpatrick, J.D. Associate Vice President, Tribal Relations, The University of Oklahoma

3:15pm –

Optional Activities

Guided Tours of Sam Noble Museum

Guided Tour Fred Jones Museum

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSOR:



Additional Activities

If you have signed up for a Sam Noble Museum tour or a Fred Jones Museum Tour, please meet in the lobby by the circulation desk.

THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING.

A survey will be emailed after the symposium. We invite you to please respond to the survey and let us know what topics you would like to hear about in the future.