

Broadband Access and Digital Equity

IACC 2023 – Tribal Broadband Access and
Digital Equity Breakout

Alden (AL) Andy

DEPUTY TRIBAL LIAISON | OFFICE OF TRIBAL RELATIONS

10/25/2023



Washington State
Department of
Commerce

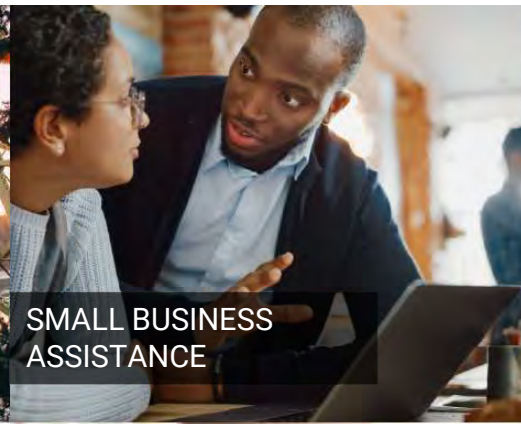
We strengthen communities



HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS



INFRASTRUCTURE AND BROADBAND



SMALL BUSINESS ASSISTANCE



ENERGY



PLANNING AND TECH ASSISTANCE



COMMUNITY SERVICES



CRIME VICTIMS AND PUBLIC SAFETY



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Welcome to the Tribal Broadband and Digital Equity/Navigator Breakout session



Alden (AL) Andy,
Deputy Tribal Liaison
for the
Office of Tribal Relations

Background

The Washington State Broadband Infrastructure Funding initiated the importance of Digital Navigator opportunities for communities across Washington State.

This year's IACC 2023 Tribal Broadband and Digital Work breakout session will discuss the outcomes of the current Broadband/Digital Navigator efforts and explore future planning. The Washington State Broadband Office's Mission is to "strengthening communities" and we strive to too enrich the lives of all Washington State residents. With a focus on equity we hope to life up underserved/unserved communities by bringing affordable, reliable, redundant and scalable/future proof broadband technologies to their homes. 2

This session will also briefly touch on BEAD & Digital Equity Planning funds.

- Introduction of each speaker prior to their presentation
- Questions & Comments after each presentation



Tell Hamilton

- Tell Hamilton is the Executive Director and also IACC Planner for this Tribal Broadband & Digital Equity Breakout:

Mike Mason

- Mike is currently the Economic Development Director for the Nisqually Tribe as well as having the new Fiber Communications / Broadband program under him.
- Mike has had over 30 years' experience in economic development planning, program development, and administration for the Tribe and others, and has a strong background in community development issues. Mike has spearheaded the retail enterprise for the Nisqually Tribe. Mike has extensive background and hands on experience in all phases of retail development; inter-governmental relations; community development project planning and management, and fundraising.
- Mike worked on bringing internet to the reservation with the IT Director. Though the CERB feasibility grant, Nisqually was able to run fiber optic though out the reservation and is now giving 1 Gig to its members. With the success of Broadband on the reservation. The Tribe has made the priority of bringing broadband to the underserved to the communities in Thurston and Pierce Counties.
- Mike has always worked with programs that put Native communities forward. To progress the Tribal communities in day to day life.

Ernie Rasmussen

- Ernie Rasmussen, Citizen of the Oneida Nation of Wisconsin, is currently serving as the Executive Director for Bigfoot Telecommunications of the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation in North Central Washington.
- Among his duties is to marry broadband infrastructure investments with much needed broadband services while balancing digital equity services as an ISP.
- Mr. Rasmussen has spent his entire 20+ year career in service to Tribes, including as Tribal Liaison at WA Commerce, Digital Equity Manager at WSBO, Senior Planner of Economic Development for the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, Executive Director of a 501c3 on the Spokane Indian Reservation, a College Math Instructor at a Tribal College, and a GED instructor.
- Mr. Rasmussen holds a BA in Interdisciplinary Studies from Eastern Washington University, a Master in Urban & Regional Planning candidate and is a committed advocate, ally, and accomplice in the creation of Tribal Communities as Communities of Choice to live, work, and thrive!
- His wife is a Spokane Tribal member and together they have 3 beautiful and supremely talented daughters and one 3 year old very VERY cool grandson offering a chance to relive the age of dinosaurs.



Questions?

Closing
Comments



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Thank you!



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