



**NATIVE NEWS NETWORK**

*Connecting Native American Voices*

**June 8, 2013 – Native News Network - "Transit & Tribal Tourism" Presented at National Transportation Conference**

**ALBUQUERQUE** – This week, more than 1,040 community transportation representatives from across North America are gathering at the Annual Community Transportation Expo, where American Indian Alaska Native Tourism Association Executive Director Camille Ferguson presented "Transit and Tribal Tourism" within the event's Tribal Transit Conference on Tuesday, June 4.



**(l to r) Charles Dickson, Associate Director, Community Transportation Association; Camille Ferguson, Executive Director, AIANTA; and Dale Marsico, CCTM and Executive Director Community Transportation Association.**

The Expo is held at the Albuquerque Convention Center and presented by the Community Transportation Association of America. Ferguson will close out her term as a CTAA's Tribal Liaison this year.

The American Indian Alaska Native Tourism Association national nonprofit association of Native American tribes and tribal businesses that was incorporated in 2002 to advance Indian Country tourism. The association is made up of member tribes from six regions: Alaska, Eastern, Midwest, Pacific, Plains and the Southwest

From the Alaska Marine Highway to the Albuquerque Rail Runner Express, Ferguson educated tribal transportation representatives on the opportunities to link community transit to tribal tourism with an end goal taking control of how transportation can play a vital role in tourism development while sustaining operations for public transportation systems.

**“The tourism industries trends have evolved with more independent travelers utilizing public transportation to access visitor destinations; it's not just about transporting your local commuters, but transporting the visitors who are coming to your communities”**

said Ferguson.

**“It is time to involve tourism in the transportation planning process to formulate how to incorporate and capitalize on the new demands that will benefit public transportation systems.”**

At the conference, which began June 2 and runs through June 7, attendees are experiencing the National Community Transportation Roadeo, intensive training sessions, the Community Transportation Trade Fair, and professional development sessions on vital mobility issues.

About AIANTA

The American Indian Alaska Native Tourism Association is a 501c 3 national nonprofit association of Native American tribes and tribal businesses that was incorporated in 2002 to advance Indian Country tourism. The association is made up of member tribes from six regions: Alaska, Eastern, Midwest, Pacific, Plains and the Southwest. AIANTA's mission is to define, introduce, grow and sustain American Indian and Alaska Native tourism that honors and preserves tribal traditions and values.

The purpose of AIANTA is to provide our constituents with the voice and tools needed to advance tourism while helping tribes, tribal organizations and tribal members create infrastructure and capacity through technical assistance, training and educational resources. AIANTA serves as the liaison between Indian Country, governmental and private entities for the development, growth, and sustenance of Indian Country tourism. By developing and implementing programs and providing economic development opportunities, AIANTA helps tribes build for their future while sustaining and strengthening their cultural legacy.