



NAFOA's 5th Annual Financial Leadership Awards

NAFOA is an independent national non-profit organization providing leadership for the advancement of independent and culturally-vibrant American Indian and Alaska Native communities by: promoting excellence in financial management, advocating sound economic and fiscal policy, developing innovative education initiatives, and providing essential information, resources, and support to meet the challenges of economic growth and change.

Since NAFOA's inception, Indian Country has changed by leaps and bounds. Many Tribal Leaders and their finance teams have been innovative and groundbreaking in their efforts, and we continue to honor some of these leaders and officers for the work they have done.

At our Spring Conference in March of 2008, we launched our Financial Leadership Awards and honored a number of Tribes in an effort to inspire other tribes to "think big and work smart". In 2012 we will host our 5th Annual Financial Leadership Awards and look forward to continuing to honoring innovative Tribal Leaders, Nations and programs. Awards will be presented at a luncheon reception on March 21, 2012 during NAFOA's 30th Anniversary Conference at The Roosevelt Hotel in New Orleans, LA.

Leadership Award Descriptions

- Finance Director/CFO of the Year

When making financially related decisions, Tribal Leaders depend on their Finance Directors and CFO's for advice and guidance. NAFOA's Finance Director/CFO of the Year Award aims to honor a Tribal or Tribal Gaming Facility Finance Director or CFO who has shown innovative thinking in developing the financial plans of the Tribe, great leadership in effectively sharing their suggestions with the Tribe, and success in implementing their ideas for the overall betterment of the Tribe. Nominations should be tied as much as possible to points of leadership and accomplishment in the calendar year ending in 2011. To be eligible the nominee must be the Finance Director or CFO of a Tribe or Tribal Gaming Facility for at least one year by December 31, 2011.

- Tribal Leader of the Year

In order to effectively lead their Tribe, Tribal Leaders need to make major financial decisions – often with little related training in their backgrounds. The innovative thinking and decision-making by Tribal leaders in matters of finance and economic development are to be commended. NAFOA's Tribal Leader of the Year award aims to honor a Tribal Leader who has displayed foresight and resolve in the financial advancement of their Tribe. Nominations should be tied as much as possible to points of leadership and accomplishment in the calendar year ending in 2011. To be eligible, the Tribal Leader must be the elected leader of the Tribe: Chairman/Chairwoman, Executive Director, Governor, Chief, etc. They must have held the position for at least one year by December 31, 2011.

- Financial Literacy Program of the Year

Economic Development is vital to the long-term overall health and success of a Tribe(s). Part of the issue of economic development is the financial literacy of Tribal members. NAFOA's Financial Literacy Program of the Year Award aims to honor a financial literacy program developed and

instituted by a Tribe. To be eligible, the financial literacy program needs to have been in place for at least 12 months by December 31, 2011, and have been developed by a Native American Tribe or Tribal organization.

- Deal of the Year

NAFOA's Deal of the Year Award aims to recognize a Tribal Deal or Financial Venture completed during 2011 that is landmark or groundbreaking in some significant way. Some points to consider in your nomination are that the deal or financial venture should be/have:

- Innovative in structure, terms
- Unique or groundbreaking for a tribe(s)
- Lasting positive effect on the overall economic status of the Tribe and its members
- Particularly beneficial to Indian Country as a whole

To be eligible, the deal must have been completed in 2011. Please indicate the Tribe, as well as pertinent firms involved in the deal (i.e. counsel, financial institution, advisor, etc.), on the nomination form.

Nomination Instructions

To nominate an individual, program or deal for any of NAFOA's Leadership Awards, please complete a Nomination Form and e-mail it to Tashina Etter at tashina@nafoa.org. You may self-nominate. The deadline for nominations is January 20, 2012.

NAFOA's 2012 Leadership Awards Nomination Form

I. Nominator:

Name_____

Title_____

Tribe/Organization _____

Telephone_____

E-mail_____

Address_____

Address_____

City_____ State _____ Zip_____

Please check here if you would like your nomination to remain anonymous.

II. Nominee:

Name/Program/Deal Name_____

Contact Person _____

Tribe/Organization _____

Telephone_____

E-mail_____

Address_____

Address_____

City_____ State _____ Zip_____

III. Award Nominated For:

Finance Director/CFO of the Year

Tribal Leader of the Year

Deal of the Year

Financial Literacy Program of the Year



