



For Immediate Release

Contact: Mikhail Sundust, msundust@asu.edu

Governor Stephen Roe Lewis (Gila River Indian Community) Elected President of AIPI Board of Directors

Tempe, AZ — Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis of the Gila River Indian Community has accepted the role of president of the American Indian Policy Institute’s Board of Directors.

“It is an honor to be chosen as the president of the Board of Directors for the American Indian Policy Institute,” said Lewis. “We are proud of the work that AIPI does on behalf of Indian Country. Arizona State University, my alma mater, is a leader in innovation and AIPI reflects that reputation by working closely with Tribes to understand their policy priorities. I look forward to continuing my work with Dr. Traci Morris, the AIPI staff, and all of our board members as we reaffirm the value of high-quality, innovative, and relevant indigenous policy research, moving forward.”

As a Tribal leader in Arizona, Lewis brings knowledge of state-Tribal affairs to the academy. He is forward-thinking and involved in public policy discourse on the future of society, especially in the areas of infrastructure, water, telecommunications, and utilities.

“Gov. Lewis is a dynamic leader,” said AIPI Director Dr. Traci Morris. “We sought out Gov. Lewis for board president because of his commitment to Indian Country, his awareness of the issues, and his involvement in various aspects of public policy discourse.

“Furthermore, Gov. Lewis has deep roots at ASU and has been committed to AIPI’s mission for years.” Lewis is part of a proud ASU legacy family. His parents graduated from ASU, he graduated from ASU, and his son, Daniel, is a current student at ASU.

Gov. Lewis has been on the AIPI Board of Directors since its inception in 2016. At the time, the institute was seeking direction and synergy with its new board. Today, AIPI owes its success, in large part, to Lewis’s leadership. From the beginning of his time on the board, Gov. Lewis has brought vision and guidance to the organization, making AIPI what it is today.

Other members of the AIPI Board of Directors recommended Lewis for the role and asked him to be the president.

“Gov. Lewis has all the skills and experience necessary to lead the American Indian Policy Institute to the next level. I am honored and excited to work beside him,” said Patricia Hibbeler, CEO of the Phoenix Indian Center and another member of the AIPI Board.

“Stephen Roe Lewis is an excellent and unanimous choice to be our president. Not only is he a homegrown Sun Devil who comes from a family with a long legacy of advancing American Indian causes through Tribal sovereignty and self-determination, but during his many years of service to the Gila River Indian Community and most recently as Governor in these tumultuous times, he has championed basic fairness and Tribal needs in policies of economic empowerment, deploying modern communications technologies, and preserving essential water rights. It is an honor to serve alongside Gov. Lewis on the AIPI Board and to be involved with so many outstanding policy minds from across ASU, Arizona, and the entire nation,” said Geoffrey Blackwell, Vice-Chair of the AIPI Board of Directors and Chief Strategy Officer for AMERIND Risk.

Gov. Lewis is a highly respected advocate for Tribal issues by leaders in and outside of Indian Country. His network spans people and organization throughout the country. He is connected to policy priorities and trends nationally. He is a trusted advisor, an appreciated champion for AIPI’s mission, and helps connect AIPI to Indian Country by translating Tribes’ concerns and needs.

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The American Indian Policy Institute is a think-tank at Arizona State University with the primary focus in public policy analysis and research. AIPI has expertise in telecommunications, communications, broadband, digital inclusion, technology for language retention, and technology as the backbone for community and economic development, and communication ethics. As part of tribally-driven participatory research, the ASU American Indian Policy Institute responds to tribal research direction and empowers tribes, tribal communities and American Indian students through projects that support self-determination and build tribal capacity.