Why It’s Cool to be “Green” & Native
TEP Internship Program

Sandra Begay-Campbell
Principal Member of the Technical Staff
College Student Internship Program

DOE's Tribal Energy Program offers student internships at Sandia National Laboratories since 2003.

**Eligibility:** Current college upper-classmen and graduate students, who are familiar with Native American culture and tribal issues, support the Tribal Energy Program efforts with technical project tasks
- Assist a cross-disciplinary team to perform specific tasks at Sandia National Laboratories.
- Interact with Sandia’s renewable energy staff, Native American tribes interested in renewable systems and Sandia’s American Indian Outreach Committee.
- Immerse in activities to work directly with experienced and internationally recognized peers
- Visit current renewable energy projects

**Required:** As authorized by the TEP, the student applicant must
- be a US Citizen
- be a Native American as defined as
  - a member of a recognized Federally-recognized Tribe, Alaska Village or Alaska Corporation
  - not state-recognized, not bands or groups, or first peoples of Guam or Hawaii
- Be specifically interested in renewable energy
2003 DOE Office of Science Interns

Keith Candelaria (San Felipe/Jemez), BS - Environmental/Earth Science, Dartmouth College
His paper entitled, "Native American Renewable Energy Approaches: Navajo Tribal Utility Authority and NativeSun."

Velissa Sandoval (Navajo/Zuni), BS - Electrical Engineering
Her paper entitled, "Women Champions in Solar Energy."

Shaun Tsabetsaye (Zuni) is a graduate student in electrical engineering, University of New Mexico, BS – Electrical Engineering.
His paper entitled, "Navajo Tribal Utility Authority: Electrification Demonstration Program - Developing a Sustainable Tribal and Rural Co-operative Solar Program".

Pictured left to right at Navajo - Monument Valley: Keith Candelaria, Velissa Sandoval & Shawn Tsabetsaye.
2004 TEP/Sandia College Interns

Benjamin Mar (Cherokee), BS – Electrical Engineering, Worchester Polytechnic Institute
His paper entitled "Navajo Tribal Utility Authority: Photovoltaic Hybrid Operation and Maintenance Process for a Sustainable Program"

Jennifer Coots (Navajo), MBA – Finance, University of New Mexico
Her paper entitled "A Decade Of Changes To An Alternative Power Source For A Rural Utility."

Colin Ben (Navajo), MA – American Indian Studies, University of Arizona. His paper entitled "Researching Renewable Energy Systems Available to Indian Country"

Deborah Tewa (Hopi), BS - Indigenous Studies, Northern Arizona University.
Her research focused on DOE’s Reliability Database for Off-grid PV systems.

Pictured left to right at Hopi Tribe Petroglyph: Benjamin Mar, Jennifer Coots, Colin Ben, Deborah Tewa, & Sandra Begay-Campbell.
2005 TEP/ Sandia College Interns

Tanya Martinez (Mi’KMaq)  Power Engineering graduate student, University of Massachusetts – Lowell, BS - Electrical Engineering. 
Her paper “Remote Monitoring System Design - Sustainable Systems For The Navajo Tribal Utility Authority”.

Deborah Tewa (Hopi)  BS - Indigenous Studies, Northern Arizona University. 
Her paper “NativeSUN: A Model for Sustainable Solar Electric Systems on Indian Lands”.

Jennifer Coots (Navajo) MBA - Finance, University of New Mexico. 
Her research focused on the tribal housing mortgage finance for renewable energy systems.
2006 TEP/ Sandia College Interns

Terry Battiest (Choctaw)
MS – Telecommunications
University of Colorado – Boulder

Jonathan Biron (Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa)
BS – Biosystems Engineering
Michigan State University

Lani Tsinnajinnie (Navajo/Filipino)
BS – Environmental Science
University of New Mexico.

Pictured left to right at Navajo Nation - Monument Valley, UT:
Thom Sacco, Terry Battiest, Jonathan Biron, Sandra Begay-Campbell, Lani Tsinnajinnie & Debby Tewa
2007 TEP/ Sandia College Interns

Terry Battiest (Choctaw)
MS – Telecommunications
University of Colorado – Boulder

Nick Johnson (Three Affiliated Tribes)
BS – Mechanical Engineering
University of Colorado - Denver

Cherylin Wilson (Navajo)
BS – Biology
Oklahoma Panhandle University
AS – Environmental Science

Pictured left to right:
Debby Tewa, Thom Sacco
Cherylin Wilson, Nick Johnson & Terry Battiest
Immersion of future leaders into renewable energy

Pictured left in the following order:

**Gepetta Billie (Navajo)**
MS – Regional & Community Planning, BA – Environmental Planning & Design
University of New Mexico
AS – Civil Engineering Technology, SIPI

**Amanda Montoya (Taos, San Juan & Isleta)**
MS – Regional & Community Planning, University of New Mexico
BA – Business Administration, NM State University

**Carson Pete (Navajo)**
MS – Mechanical Engineering, BS – Mechanical Engineering
Northern Arizona University

**Suzanne Singer (Navajo)**
PhD – Mechanical Engineering, MS – Mechanical Engineering
University of CA - Berkeley
BS – Mechanical Engineering, University of AZ

Sandia/TEP interns on Navajo Nation