

presidential welcome



Welcome from President Cristina Danforth

Sheku Members and Supporters of NAFOA,

Welcome to Portland! Thank you for attending our 37th Annual Conference, and thank you to the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, our gracious host tribe. NAFOA has had a lively year full of progress. This growth has been exciting and we are making sure to take a forward-looking approach to increase our capacity to handle new opportunities.

As our influence and our scope grow with record-breaking attendance at both of our 2018 conferences, we are operating with an eye toward the future. However, we are always making sure that as we grow, we better serve the needs of our community. We recently received a grant from Wells Fargo that will enable us to create and facilitate the premier program for Native youth for both career readiness and personal finance, titled “The Academy.” We will be rolling out the curriculum this summer, and we’re excited for our community to see the culmination of it at our Youth Leadership Summit at our fall conference.

NAFOA is committed to growing and improving our professional development offerings. We are partnering with Harvard Business School to continue to offer a

competitive leadership and investing program. We rolled out a new experiential learning program at the Tribal Financial Managers Certificate training marking our 10th successful year. We are also forging a partnership with Oklahoma State University. We are determined to take on a strong role in policy during this administration. We are looking forward to ongoing success with the new Congress as we continue to establish and foster strong relationships on both sides of the aisle.

It is an exciting time for us; it is our member tribes, corporate partners, collaborations with universities, and federal partners that help make this all possible. The board is grateful for your engagement and moved by your dedication to NAFOA and its future. I look forward to meeting as many of you as I can in Portland. Thank you again for allowing me the opportunity to serve as your President. I’m excited for what the year holds as we partner to strengthen and grow NAFOA.

yawá’ko,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cristina Danforth".

Cristina Danforth
NAFOA Board President