



## **Native Women Lead Appointed to Small Business Administration's National Women's Business Council**

Appointment marks the first time an Indigenous focused organization has held a seat on the council.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 1, 2022

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**Albuquerque, New Mexico** - On April 25th, 2022, the Administrator of the the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), Isabella Casillas Guzman, appointed Jaime Gloshey, Co-Founder and Co-Director of Native Women Lead (NWL), to the National Women's Business Council (NWBC). A leader from the Navajo, White Mountain Apache and Kiowa tribes, Ms. Gloshey's historic appointment marks the first time an Indigenous focused organization has been represented on the Council.

This appointment, coupled with winning the \$10M Equality Can't Wait challenge in 2021 in partnership with New Mexico Community Capital, elevates Native Women Lead as a leading nationwide organization representing the interests of Indigenous women entrepreneurs. The organization has achieved unprecedented recognition and results in just five short years since its founding.

From 1997 to 2017, the number of businesses owned by Native women grew 87% faster than the number of businesses owned by women as a whole. Despite starting businesses at twice the rate of other entrepreneurs, Native women lack equitable access to capital and business development resources. Indigenous communities have been overlooked because of systemic erasure due to colonization and racism. Their communities have also suffered disproportionate effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

History-making appointments like today's highlight the resilience, imagination, and ingenuity of Indigenous communities and their contribution to the economy. As of 2017, Native American / Alaska Natives owned 1.4% of all women-owned businesses, employing 61,300 workers and generating \$11 Billion in revenues.

NWL's vision is for Native women to use entrepreneurship as one pathway to healing, safety, stability, self-determination, and sovereignty. The growth of these women-owned enterprises will increase power and influence within themselves, their families, and communities. This prosperity also unlocks wealth creation, leadership development, social impact, employment opportunities, and economic development. Principles like these, that center community-led enterprises, provide a powerful North Star for America's next economy, one that adopts and is informed by Indigenous practices.

"Representation matters. This is an incredible opportunity to amplify the voice of Native American women entrepreneurs who are the primary economic stabilizers of their families and communities. Inclusion of those most invisible and marginalized, can increase equity for all women and opportunity to increase access to critical resources to our Nation's primary caregivers." says Gloshey. "The time is now to offer wisdom to the worlds of finance and business. This will help create an economy that works for all people and our planet. My appointment to the Council is one crucial step that honors the intersectionality of gender, racial, environmental, and economic justice for community prosperity."

"We join Administrator Guzman in reaffirming our commitment to ensuring Native American governments, communities, and women small business owners have their voices heard," said NWBC Executive Director Tené Dolphin. "Native women must equally access and benefit from all the opportunities offered by the federal government and partner organizations. We look forward to working with Ms. Gloshey in the next three years to help identify best practices and policy recommendations that create change for the better when it comes to women's entrepreneurship."

The Council's priorities include:

- Access to Capital & Opportunity. NWBC recognizes that access to capital remains the largest barrier to market entry and success for female founders and women-owned firms. The Council strives to propose solutions pertaining to credit access, federal procurement, and venture capital funding for women entrepreneurs.
- Women in STEM. NWBC is dedicated to encouraging women to start and grow their businesses in STEM, an industry with proven high-growth potential. Efforts to spur entrepreneurship in these underrepresented fields center on education and capital.
- Rural Women's Entrepreneurship. NWBC remains committed to gaining further insight on the unique challenges faced by rural women entrepreneurs and identifying untapped opportunities for growth.

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**About Native Women Lead**

Native Women Lead revolutionizes systems and inspires innovation by investing in Native Women in business. We do this by co-creating with and convening our community to build coalitions while honoring our culture, creativity, and connections. For more information <https://www.nativewomenlead.org/>

**About the National Women's Business Council**

The National Women's Business Council is a non-partisan federal advisory committee serving as an independent source of advice and policy recommendations to the President, the U.S. Congress (to the Committees on Small Business of the Senate and House of Representatives), and to the Administrator of the U.S. Small Business Administration (through the Assistant Administrator of the Office of Women's Business Ownership) on issues of importance to women business owners and entrepreneurs. Learn more at <https://www.nwbc.gov/>