



American Federation  
of Teachers, AFL-CIO

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AFT Teachers  
AFT PSRP  
AFT Higher Education  
AFT Public Employees  
AFT Nurses and Health  
Professionals

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October 21, 2024

Dear AFT Native American Task Force Member:

On behalf of the American Federation of Teachers' executive council, we are pleased to confirm your two-year appointment (2024-2026) to the AFT's Native American Taskforce. Human rights, community engagement, and social justice has always been central to the AFT's values and work, and this task force leads the union's efforts to address the needs of Native Americans in the United States.

The Native American community is part of the diverse membership of the AFT from school support staff, teachers, public employees, faculty and health care workers. We represent more than 7,000 members of the Federation of Indian Service Employees (FISE) across the country. While most of them are in Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) schools, there are many members represented by FISE who work in public safety, water protection, oil, and gas with similar titles to the public workers in state and local government. and it's critically important that we address the unique needs impacting Native Americans throughout the United States.

The work of the AFT's Native American Taskforce is guided by its mission statement to raise the visibility and urgency of issues impacting Native American members and students within the union and to provide national leadership to help ensure that the needs of the growing Native American community are addressed where they live and across all settings where AFT members work: in schools, public institutions, hospitals, and institutions of higher education.

The AFT human rights and community relations department will notify you of the Native American Taskforce meetings and events. Please do not hesitate to contact the department's co-director, Rev. Dr. Regena Thomas at [rthomas@aft.org](mailto:rthomas@aft.org) or Julie Washington, lead staffer for this task at [jwashing@aft.org](mailto:jwashing@aft.org), if you have any questions or would like additional information.

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The **American Federation of Teachers** is a union of professionals that champions fairness; democracy; economic opportunity; and high-quality public education, healthcare and public services for our students, their families and our communities. We are committed to advancing these principles through community engagement, organizing, collective bargaining and political activism, and especially through the work our members do.



2024-26 NAITF Appointment Letter

Thank you for agreeing to be a part of this very important task force to advance our union values, social justice, community activism and commitment to the Native American Community. I trust that the demands of this ongoing commitment will be more than offset by the interesting and important work that awaits you.

In unity,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Evelyn DeJesus". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

Evelyn DeJesus  
AFT Executive Vice-President

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