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Native CDFI Network Announces First-Ever Executive Director

Eagle Butte, SD – October 5, 2015 – The Native CDFI Network, a national association of Native community development financial institutions (CDFIs) that work to increase access to capital in Native communities, is excited to announce a major developmental milestone in the organization’s continued growth. Tanya Fiddler (Cheyenne River Sioux) has been hired to lead the Network as it’s first-ever Executive Director.

“As a founding Co-Chair and former Chairperson of the Network’s Board of Directors, a member of the U.S. Treasury’s Community Development Advisory Board, and the former head of Four Bands Community Fund, a leading Native CDFI, Tanya is uniquely suited to become the first Executive Director of the Native CDFI Network,” said Ted Piccolo, newly-elected Chairman of the Board of Directors for the Native CDFI Network and also the Executive Director of the Northwest Native Development Fund, a Native CDFI based in Washington.

Originally formed in 2009 to unify Native CDFIs serving Native trust land communities, American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians, the Native CDFI Network has experienced continuous growth since then. In addition to creating peer-sharing opportunities designed to support the growth and development of member organizations, the Network has continued to strengthen its voice in national policy dialogues. Most recently, the Network rallied its members to engage Members of Congress in a campaign to support greater access to federal funding for Native CDFIs.

“It is an honor to hold the first Executive Director seat of the Native CDFI Network. As an individual who has been dedicated to the Network’s mission since its inception, my plan is to continue to expand its ability to support the current and next generation of Native CDFIs for ever greater impact in Native communities,” said Fiddler.

As the former Executive Director for Four Bands Community Fund, Fiddler is no stranger to the challenges and unique environments in which Native CDFIs operate. She led Four Bands from its start up phase in 2002 into a successful, innovative, and award-winning organization. Today, Four Bands is seen as a leader in its field for the development of innovative programs and campaigns that support increased personal financial capability and small business development.

As a way to introduce its new Executive Director, the Native CDFI Network will host a webinar on October 15, 2015 at 2:00pm Mountain Time. During the webinar, Fiddler will present her goals for the Native CDFI Network, and participants will have the opportunity to engage in a Q&A session. More information on the webinar and how to register can be found on the Native CDFI Network’s website at www.nativecdfi.net.

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About the Native CDFI Network

The Native CDFI Network was formed in 2009 to unify Native community development financial institutions (CDFIs) serving Native trust land communities, Native Americans, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians. Currently, over 70 certified Native CDFIs are located in 19 states across the country. The mission of the Native CDFI Network is to be a national voice and advocate that strengthens and promotes Native CDFIs, creating access to capital and resources for Native peoples. More information on the Native CDFI Network can be found at www.nativecdfi.net.

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