

June 13-15, 2022
Cortez Cultural Center, Cortez, CO



INDIGENOUS VOICES: THE LAND AND WATER OF THE FOUR CORNERS REGION

Indigenous Voices: The Land & Water in the Four Corners Region is a 3-day Institute for elementary educators from Arizona, Colorado, and Utah. Elementary teachers will have an opportunity to learn from the Ute and Diné about life in this arid region. The Institute will include members of the Southern Ute, Ute Mountain Ute, and Diné Tribes who will share their ways of knowing regarding land and water. In addition, a National Geographic Explorer will share his work on the importance of water in the Colorado River Basin. Also included in the Institute are field trips to the Ute Mountain Park with a Ute Mountain Ute tribal guide, Canyon of the Ancients National Monument, and McPhee Reservoir.

FEATURED SPEAKERS

KEYNOTE: TAYLOR BUZZELL GRAHAM

National Geographic Explorer

ERNEST HOUSE

Senior Policy Director for Keystone Policy Center

DR. JOSEPH KERSKI

Ph.D, GISP, Author, Geographer - Education Manager

SESSIONS AND EXCURSIONS

SOUTHERN UTE TRIBAL YOUTH

CANYON OF THE ANCIENTS NATIONAL MONUMENT

WE ARE WATER

UTE MOUNTAIN PARK

ARCGIS STORYMAP TRAINING

INCLUDED ITEMS

3-NIGHT HOTEL

BREAKFAST AND LUNCH FOR 3 DAYS

ONE DINNER

**STIPEND UPON COMPLETION OF INSTITUTE, LESSON,
AND POST-INSTITUTE TRAININGS**

Institute Overview

Sunday,
June 12

Arrive in Cortez, CO
Get settled at Baymont by Wyndham Cortez

Welcome and Orientation at Zu Gallery, 48 W Main Street, Cortez, CO
81321 5-7 p.m.
Dinner on your own

Monday,
June 13

- Welcome at Cortez Cultural Center
 - Southern Ute Tribal Youth
 - Brigitta Rongstad, We Are Water Project
 - **Keynote:** Taylor Buzzell Graham, NGS Explorer
 - Canyon of the Ancients
 - Dinner at The Farm Bistro with Chef Joseluis Ortiz
-

Tuesday,
June 14

- Ute Mountain Park with Ernest House, Ute Mountain Ute Tribe
 - Dr. Joseph Kerski, Geographer
 - Dinner on your own
-

Wednesday,
June 15

- Colleen Cooley, Diné River Guide
 - Dr. Joseph Kerski: ARCGis & StoryMaps
 - Closing and Next Steps
-



DAILY SCHEDULES

SUNDAY, JUNE 12

5:00-7:00
**WELCOME,
ORIENTATION, AND
HAPPY HOUR**
DINNER ON YOUR OWN

[Zu Gallery](#)

DAILY SCHEDULES

MONDAY, JUNE 13

9:00-9:20
OPENING/WELCOME

[Cortez Cultural Center](#)

9:20-10:00
SESSION 1

Southern Ute Tribal Youth

10:05-10:50
SESSION 2

[We are Water Project](#): Dr. Brigitta Rongstad

Break

11:00-12:30
KEYNOTE

Taylor Buzzell Graham, NGS Explorer

12:30-1

Boxed Lunches

1:00-1:30

Travel to Canyon of the Ancients

1:30-3:30

[Canyon of the Ancients Visitor Center and Museum](#), Hike to Escalante Pueblo, Use of Water Presentation, [McPhee Reservoir](#) information

3:30-4:00

Travel back to Cortez

Break

5:00-8:00
THE FARM BISTRO

Institute Dinner at [The Farm Bistro](#) and discussion with Chef Joseluis Ortiz



DAILY SCHEDULES

TUESDAY, JUNE 14

7:00-7:15

Board bus at Cortez Cultural Center

8:00-3:00

**UTE MOUNTAIN PARK,
LUNCH, SESSION 3**

***BOXED LUNCHES
PROVIDED**

Led by Ernest House, Ute Mountain Ute
Tribe

3:10-4:15

SESSION 4

Dr. Joseph Kerski, Geographer, Esri:
Telling Stories with Interactive, Multi-
Media Story Maps (Introduction)

DINNER ON YOUR OWN

DAILY SCHEDULES

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 15



8:30-8:45

OPENING

Cortez Cultural Center

8:45-9:45

SESSION 5

Colleen Cooley, Diné River Guide

Break

10:00-12:30

LUNCH, SESSION 6

Dr. Joseph Kerski, Geographer, Esri:
Telling Stories with Interactive, Multi-
Media Story Maps (Deeper Dive)

12:30-1:30

CLOSING & NEXT STEPS

Teacher Leaders

1:30

Depart Cortez, CO

Session Descriptions

Session 1: Southern Ute Tribal Youth

The Southern Ute People, along with the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, are Colorado's oldest continuous inhabitants and understand how to receive and care for the rich and abundant gifts that Mother Earth provides. They have a unique relationship with the land, plants, water, and all things living. You will hear from the Southern Ute Tribal Youth about their relationship with the land and water and efforts to preserve both.

Session 2: We are Water; Dr. Brigitta Rongstad

The We are Water project connects Indigenous, Latinx and rural communities in the Four Corners region of the Southwestern U.S. with topics about water through personal reflections, hands-on science learning and a traveling exhibit. In this talk, I will discuss the importance of centering community perspectives in educational experiences and talk about how storytelling can be used to build relationships and broaden understanding. I will conclude by sharing examples of activities about water that were inspired by community voices and highlighting the traveling exhibit.

Keynote: Taylor Buzzell Graham; NGS Explorer

As a result of climate change, the Southwest region will need to fundamentally change its relationship with water. Taylor will share stories of his journey down the Colorado River as a National Geographic Explorer—from the roaring rapids of Cataract Canyon to the manicured farmland of the Imperial Valley—to outline how we might rethink our water management systems, and how Native American nations are leading the way in this crucial transition.



Session Descriptions

Session 3: Ute Mountain Park; Ernest House:

Ute Mountain Park has been tribally-owned and operated for over 40 years. The Ute Mountain Tribal Council passed several tribal resolutions such as adoption of an ordinance for the "Protection of Places and Objects of Sacred, Historical and Scientific Interest" on the Ute Mountain Ute Reservation. The park has preserved original pictographs and petroglyphs that tell stories of ancient times. The Ute Mountain Tribal Park was designated as a Historical District on May 2, 1972. Prior to 1972, the Ute Mountain Tribal Park was occupied by various people, including the Ancestral Puebloans, Fremont, Utes, pioneers, and ranchers.

Session 4: Telling Stories with Interactive, Multi-media Story Maps (Introduction); Dr. Joseph Kerski:

Maps have long been powerful ways of examining change over space and time, and for education about place. ArcGIS Story Maps (<https://doc.arcgis.com/en/arcgis-storymaps/gallery/>) empower educators and their students with ways of gathering, mapping, analyzing, and telling place-based stories. These stories use web-based tools, open data portals, and multimedia (audio, video, photographs, maps, imagery, text) to enable students to present the results of their investigations, and for educators to teach content and to assess student skills and knowledge. Using story maps, students gain skills in working with data, research, field work, maps, critical thinking, spatial thinking, and systems thinking. The use of story maps meshes well with Native ways of learning and knowing, including the interconnectedness of the biosphere, lithosphere, atmosphere, and anthrosphere, and learning about cycles, including the carbon cycle and hydrologic cycle. No software is required to use these free and open tools in the classroom as the tools and data are all online. In this workshop, you will be empowered to use these exciting and dynamic tools and data layers in instruction to foster engaged learning and to encourage students to become change agents in their schools, communities, and beyond.



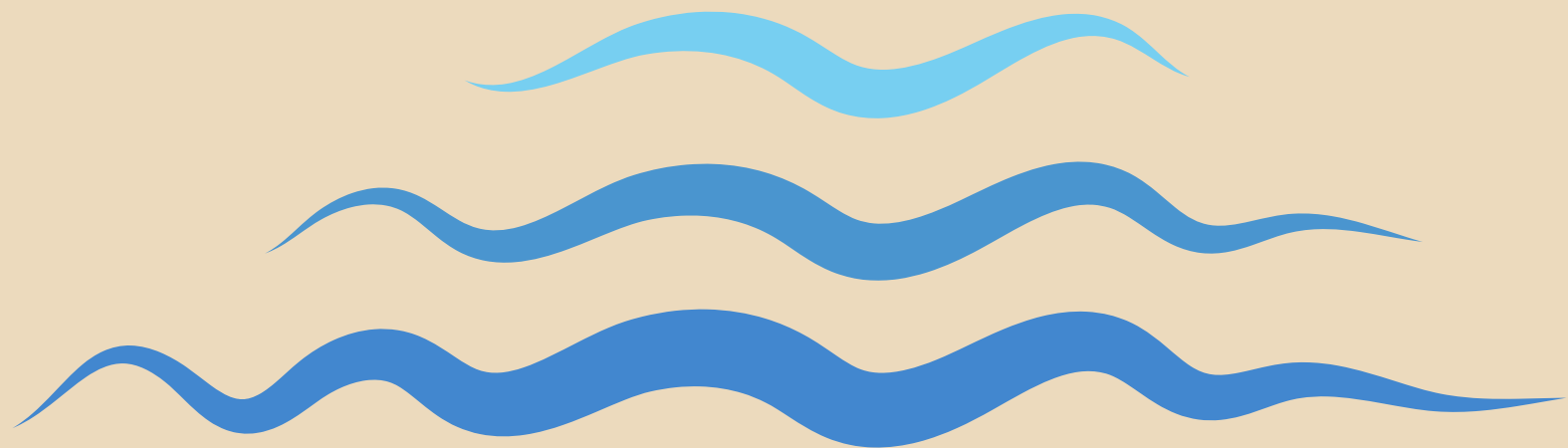
Session Descriptions

Session 5: A Dine Perspective on Personal Connections to Water; Colleen Cooley:

Learn more about Colleen's connection to the lands and waters she is surrounded by through her work as a raft guide, a facilitator, and an athlete advocate. Come prepared to participate in a discussion about your own personal connection as well learn about Indigenous ways of knowing.

Session 6: ARCGIS Story Maps: Telling Stories with Interactive, Multi-media Story Maps (Deeper Dive); Dr. Joseph Kerski:

In this workshop, you will be empowered to dig deeper into using story maps, including the embedding of audio, maps, graphs, and video, how to share these exciting maps, and how to assess student investigations with story maps.



Presenter Bios



Taylor Buzzell Graham

Taylor is a documentary filmmaker, National Geographic Explorer, and current law student at UC Berkeley School of Law. As a filmmaker, he focuses on the nexus of water justice and climate change in the American Southwest. In 2017, Taylor led a 350-mile, sea-kayak-based exploration of Lake Powell and the Colorado River to produce a film about the impacts of climate change and water development on the Colorado River Basin. He is a former Fulbright Scholar and served as the Water and Environmental Journalist for the Utah-based nonprofit, Utah Rivers Council.

Taylor grew up in Durango, Colorado, where he developed an appreciation for the complex environmental justice issues affecting the Colorado Plateau. This fall, Taylor will work for the U.S. Department of Justice's Environment and Natural Resources Division, and he plans to return to the Four Corners after completing law school to embark on a career addressing the complex social and environmental challenges the region faces.



Ernest House

As former Executive Director for the Colorado Commission of Indian Affairs (CCIA) for over 11 years, Ernest maintained the communication between the Southern Ute Indian Tribe, the Ute Mountain Ute Indian Tribe, and other American Indian organizations, state agencies and affiliated groups. In that position, Ernest worked closely with Governor Hickenlooper, Lieutenant Governor Donna Lynne, and the CCIA members to maintain a government-to-government relationship between the State of Colorado and tribal governments. The CCIA is a twenty-six member commission, chaired by the Lt. Governor Lynne and comprised of both Ute Tribes, their appointees and several state and federal department representatives and ex-officio members. Ernest represented the State of Colorado and the CCIA at various federal and state public policy meetings and provided legislative and government-related information to community stakeholders. Currently, as Senior Policy Director for the Keystone Policy Center, Ernest is working with various stakeholders in the areas of tribal consultation, energy, healthcare, and education.

Ernest is an enrolled member of the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe in Towaoc, Colorado. He previously held the position of Executive Director under Governor Bill Owens and Governor Bill Ritter from 2005-2010. Ernest is a 2012 American Marshall Memorial Fellow, 2013 Denver Business Journal Forty under 40 awardee, 2015 President's Award recipient from History Colorado, and 2018 Gates Family Foundation Public Leadership Fellow. Ernest currently serves on the Fort Lewis College Board of Trustees and advisor to the Mesa Verde Foundation and Global Livingston Institute. He holds a rich tradition in his position as son of the late Ernest House, Sr., a long time tribal leader for the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe and great-grandson of Chief Jack House, the last hereditary chief of the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe.



Presenter Bios



Colleen Cooley, M.S.,
Diné

Colleen grew up wandering the washes, mesas, and sandstones in Sháá'tóhí, a small community located on the Navajo Nation in northeast Arizona. Her curious mind and innate connection to the lands and waters led her to earning a Master's Degree in Climate Science & Solutions from Northern Arizona University in 2012. Colleen is passionate about the protection and conservation of the diverse landscapes, cultures, and waters that she is surrounded by because it is part of who she is and where she comes from. She is an advocate and raft guide on the San Juan River & Green River, a community organizer, a skilled facilitator, an amateur photographer, a volunteer with Navajo YES, a board member with the Flagstaff Mountain Film Festival, and a Running with Purpose athlete advocate.



Dr. Joseph Kerski

Joseph Kerski is a geographer with a focus on the use of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) in education. He has served as the President of the National Council for Geographic Education and has given 2 TED Talks on "The Whys of Where". He holds 3 degrees in geography and has served as geographer in 4 sectors of society, including government (NOAA, US Census Bureau, USGS), academia (Penn State, Sinte Gleska University, University of Denver, others), private industry (as Education Manager for Esri), and nonprofit organizations (with roles in geography and education associations). Joseph authored over 75 chapters and articles on GIS, education, and related topics, and visits 35 universities annually. He conducts professional development for educators. He has created over 5,000 videos, 750 lessons, 1,000 blog essays, and authored 8 books, including Interpreting Our World, Essentials of Environment, Spatial Mathematics, Tribal GIS, International Perspectives on Teaching and Learning, and the GIS Guide to Public Domain Data. But as a lifelong learner, he feels as though he's just getting started and thus actively seeks mentors, partners, and collaborators.



Brigitta Rongstad

Brigitta is a program developer and video producer for the We are Water project. She has a background in paleoclimate and paleoceanography and is passionate about making climate change science accessible to everyone. Through her work, she strives to elevate the voices and knowledge of people who have been historically excluded from STEM fields and to put community perspectives at the center of the program design process. Brigitta has PhD in geological sciences from the University of Colorado Boulder. She spent time as a graduate student searching for and developing unique, hands-on activities to teach students about how climate data is extracted from the geologic record and volunteering with a variety of informal STEM education programs. Brigitta also works with the CIRES communications team, creating and posting content for social media and writing news stories.



Presenter Bios

Joseluis M. Ortiz y Muniz is an indigenous, land based, native New Mexican from the Genizaro land grant (La Merced de Santo Tomas el Apostol de Rio de Las Trampas) village of Llano De La Yegua and currently lives with his daughter Corina and his life partner Luzero in his maternal village of San Antonio Del Rio Embudo in the high desert of Northern New Mexico where together they tend to their crops, care for their livestock and steward his ancestral lands. He has roots in traditional agriculture that was passed on inter-generationally through his family, and maintains a traditional land and acequia based way of life on land his family has cared for since time immemorial. He was born and raised in and grew up farming the High Llanos of the Sangre De Cristo Mountains and the low valleys of the Embudo River Valley. He, his family and his community grow corn, beans, squash, chile, legumes, fruit trees, wheat, sheep, horses, hogs, pasture as well as hundreds of varieties of fruits and vegetables.



Joseluis Ortiz

For 10 years Joseluis worked with the volunteer and grassroots-community based Environmental and Economic Justice organization called Los Jardines Institute in the South Valley of Atrisco in Albuquerque, NM. There he volunteered and interned with community leaders Sofia Martinez and Richard Moore supporting them in building and developing land based socially sustainable systems, and transforming community by creating healthy realities where we live, work, play, pray, and go to school. For many years he directed programs at La Plazita Institute, working with adjudicated, struggling, addicted, incarcerated, and traumatized youth, families and elders supporting them to transform their lives through cultural and traditional healing and land based ways of living and knowing. His work and learning in community were part of a journey of self-transformation and self-discovery to overcome the hardships young people face in occupied Northern New Mexico. Today, he is the Community Liaison and Visiting Research Scientist at Sostenga for the Greenroots Institute at the Northern New Mexico College where he works with world renowned traditional farmer, water rights advocate, and community leader and elder Don Bustos to help coordinate the development of grassroots community-driven processes to determine and implement environmentally, economically, and culturally sustainable plans, rooted in water, food, and economic security, for the future of Northern New Mexico Culture.

A proud father rooted in community, Joseluis is a trainer for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, Anti-Racism, and is a very active community member. He is a board member of the Biodynamic Demeter Alliance (BDA), The Board President for the Rocky Mountain Seed Alliance, a Board member of the Espanola Farmers Market, a member of La Cosecha del Norte "a growing coop", and is the community elected Mayordomo for the Acequia Del Llano del Rio Embudo.



Core Planning Team Contact Information

Name	School/District/State	Email/Phone
Stephanie Hartman, CO	CO Dept. of Education	hartman_s@cde.state.co.us (775) 287-0732 (personal) (720) 498-2084 (work)
Linda Burrows, AZ	AZ Dept. of Education	linda.burrows@azed.gov (480) 734-5562 (personal cell) (602) 542-4734 (work)
JoAnna Sorensen, UT	Utah State Board of Education	joanna.sorensen@schools.utah.gov (435) 994-1386
Sara Hill, CO Teacher Leader	Mesa County District 51 (CO)	sara.hill@d51schools.org (714) 330-5578
Paul Hamel, AZ Teacher Leader	Barcelona/Alhambra Elementary/AZ	paulhamel@alhambraesd.org (480) 710-3105
Janeth Paredes, UT Teacher Leader	Orchard/Alpine/Utah	jparedes@alpinedistrict.org (385) 225-7414
Anne Beach	Cortez Cultural Center	annebeach1@gmail.com 970- (946) 6507
Becky Levy	Cortez Cultural Center	becky@cortezculturalcenter.org (970) 708-0440

Colorado Participant Contact Information

Name	School/District/State	Email/Phone
Sierra Bitsie	Poudre	sbitsie@psdschools.org (district) bitsierra@gmail.com (personal)
LeAnne Tellez	Greeley	ltellez@greeleyschools.org liltellez0128@gmail.com
Michelle Digman	D11	michelle.digman@d11.org michelletdigman@gmail.com
Jill Doyle	D11	jill.doyle@d11.org
Deborah Sims Fard	DPS	deborah_sims-fard@dpsk12.org
Linda Benton	JeffCo	Linda.Benton@jeffco.k12.co.us
Payton Dearborn	D51	payton.dearborn@d51schools.org g_paytonjdearborn@gmail.com
Whitney Gaskill	Silverton	wgaskill@silvertonschool.org
Patty Carmichael	St. Vrain	carmichael_patricia@svvsd.org (303) 834-0524
Sarah Rogers	Durango	srogers@durangoschools.org sarogers328@gmail.com
Karen McKay	Durango	kmccay@durangoschools.org karenmccay5244@gmail.com
Jocelyn Boyd	Monte Vista	jocelynb@monte.k12.co.us jocelynmauch@hotmail.com
Lily Jamison-Cash	Battle Rock School - Cortez	ljamisoncash@battlerockschool.org liljc1011@gmail.com
Betsy McMichael	Roaring Fork	bmcmichael@rfschools.com bfmcmichael@gmail.com

Arizona Participant Contact Information

Name	School/District/State	Email/Phone
Marina Demgen	Queen Creek	mdemgen@qcusd.org marinademgen@att.net
Kim Alvin De Lara	Maricopa	kdelara@musd20.org
Ariane Berry	Madison	aberry@madisoned.org arianejberry@gmail.com
Jessica Garner (Jess)	Mesa	jlgarner@mpsaz.org jlgarner1994@gmail.com
Jordyn Cyrus	Capitol Museum	jcyrus@azlibrary.gov jordyncyrus@gmail.com
Lisa Johnson	Gilbert	lisa.johnson@gilbertschools.net
Irina Gomez	Tuscon	irina.gomez@tusd1.org irina.a.gomez@gmail.com
Jenny Miller-Westcott	Blackwater Community School	jenny.miller@bwcs.k12.az.us millcott@outlook.com
Ashley Fine	Skyview	afine@skyview.k12.az.us
Tiffani Vanore	Madison	tvanore@madisoned.org vanoret@hotmail.com
Yolanda Abel	Madison	yabel@madisoned.org
James Hurwitz	Creighton	jhurwitz@creightonschools.org
Tori Thompson	Alhambra	torithompson@alhambraesd.org
Rory Hathale		hathale.rory@gmail.com

Utah Participant Contact Information

Name	School/District/State	Email/Phone
Torey Bassett	Alpine	toreybaird@gmail.com toreybassett@alpinedistrict.org
Chantelle Murakami	SLCSD	chantelle.murakami@slcschools.org chantellemurakami@gmail.com
Destiny Owens	Voyager Academy	dowens@voyageacademyutah.org destinyowens@gmail.com
Natalie May	Provo	n5sorensen@gmail.com
Aneka Tanner	Uintah	Aneka.tanner@uintah.com purtmucharanch@gmail.com
Sara McAfee	Iron	sara.mcafee@ironmail.org sara@flomlee.com
Ali Olsen	Cache	ali.olsen@ccsdut.org
Teryl Hunter	Ogden	huntert@ogdensd.org and teryl@lonnhunter.com
Stuart Baggaly	Edith Bowen Lab School	Stuart.baggaley@usu.edu Stu.baggaley@gmail.com
Keith Gunnerson	Davis	kgunnerson@dsdmail.net
Charla Andersen	Nebo	Charla.andersen@nebo.edu
Linagli Tao	Jordan	liangli.tao@jordandistrict.org
Courtney Thomas	South Summit	ct@ssummit.org ilovet41@yahoo.com
AnneMarie Hauber	Granite	ahauber@graniteschools.org amhauber@gmail.com
Sophia Chevez	Alpine	schevez@alpinedistrict.org

Resources



AMERICAN INDIANS IN CHILDREN'S LITERATURE



Native Voices Books 2021



ROCKY MOUNTAIN
SEED ALLIANCE



Sponsors



Cortez Cultural Center

BAYMONT[®]
BY WYNDHAM



WELCOME TO
CORTEZ

 **Gibbs Smith**

CORTEZ • DOLORES • MANCOS
Mesa Verde
COUNTRY
COLORADO



Post-Institute Project Timeline

- Submit Project by September 9, 2022
- Participate in post-Institute Webinars
 - July 27, 2022 4:30 MDT
 - August 31, 2022 4:30 MDT (focus on project support and sharing)
 - October 5, 2022 4:30 MDT
- Present your Geo-Inquiry Project at a local, state, or national conference

Upon completion of the above requirements, you will receive a stipend of \$500.

Notes