

P. Benjamin Smith

Acting Director

Office of Tribal Self-Governance

Mr. Smith is an enrolled member of the Navajo (Diné) Nation and is named among the Navajo Nation's prestigious Chief Manuelito Scholars. As the Acting Director for the Office of Tribal Self-Governance, he oversees all aspects of the administration of the Tribal Self-Governance Program authorized by Title V of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (ISDEAA), including providing information, technical assistance, and policy coordination in support of IHS Tribal Self-Governance activities.

Prior to his Federal service, he worked as a Self-Governance Specialist for the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma performing research, advisory services, and consultation on health programs with national, state and local health departments. He has received IHS National Directors Awards for his Agency contributions to efforts such as the IHS Strategic Plan Update and for the development of the Agency Lead Negotiators Curriculum. He has also received numerous IHS Superior Support Service Awards for his involvement on IHS/Tribal Workgroups and special projects.

Mr. Smith has a MA degree in International Peace and Conflict Resolution from American University and a BA from Brigham Young University. He also holds post-graduate certificates in Senior Executive Leadership and Business from Georgetown University and a graduate certificate in Epidemiology and Biostatistics from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. He has extensive international development fieldwork experience in Western Africa and Europe. In 2003, American University conferred Mr. Smith a Lou Torres Fellow to promote American Indian and Alaska Native involvement in international affairs. At the same time, he assisted in building, promoting, and honoring self-sustaining American Indian and Alaska Native communities through education and leadership as an American Indian Graduate Fellow.

