

# Tribal Business Certificate

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## Session 1:

*Understanding Tribal Nations — History, Sovereignty & Structure*

NOTE: This session begins at 8:30 a.m. for introductions.

Presenters: Kevin Chesnik and Amanda WhiteEagle    Date: October 22, 2026    Time:  
8:30 a.m. - 12 p.m. CT

### Focus Areas:

- Overview of the 11 federally recognized tribes in Wisconsin
- Key eras of federal Indian policy and their lasting impacts
- Tribal sovereignty, governance, and legal structures
- Foundations for respectful partnership and engagement

## Session 1 Presenters:

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### Amanda L. WhiteEagle

Amanda L. WhiteEagle, with nearly twenty years of tribal law experience, provided advice and counsel to the Ho-Chunk Nation government. She previously served as a judicial officer (an Interim Chief Judge and Associate Judge), as well as the tribe's Attorney General and Executive Director for the Ho-Chunk Nation Department of Justice. She is admitted to the Ho-Chunk Bar Association, the State Bar of Wisconsin, the United States Supreme Court Bar, and the Federal Bar Association.

Additionally, she serves as a tribal court judge or justice, to tribal governments throughout the United States, including the Wampanoag Judiciary, Prairie Island Indian Community Court of Appeals, Santee Sioux Nation Judiciary, and Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians. She served as the NYU-Yale American Indian Sovereignty Project Clinical Fellow. Presently, she is the Director of the Great Lakes Indigenous Law Center at the University of Wisconsin Law School. She graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Madison with liberal arts degrees (a B.A. in Anthropology and French as well as a Certificate in American Indian Studies).

She attended the University of Wisconsin Law School, graduating with a juris doctor degree.



# Kevin Chesnik

A Oneida Enrolled Tribal member, Mr. Chesnik has more than forty years of experience in business development, transportation engineering, transit, and public policy analysis. The past 5 years Kevin spent 3 years as the strategic initiatives advisor to the Massachusetts Bay Transit Authority (MBTA) Capital Program Chief and 2 years as a VP with Bloom Companies. He has developed skills ranging from technical transportation expertise, transit program management, DBE/DEI expertise, staff supervision, and leadership experience in both WisDOT and MBTA. Kevin's work in Indian Country includes developing policy for WisDOT to further tribal relations, working on national projects for NCHRP safety research in Indian Country and BIA related transportation projects for all Federally recognized tribes.

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## Session 2:

*Economic Drivers — Gaming, Workforce Systems, and TERO*

Presenter: Amanda WhiteEagle    Date: November 5, 2026    Time: 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. CT

### Focus Areas:

- Tribal gaming: history, impact, and reinvestment
- Intertribal collaboration and economic development
- Tribal Employment Rights Ordinances (TERO)
- Workforce equity and contracting practices

## Session 2 Presenter:

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## Amanda L. WhiteEagle

Amanda L. WhiteEagle, with nearly twenty years of tribal law experience, provided advice and counsel to the Ho-Chunk Nation government. She previously served as a judicial officer (an Interim Chief Judge and Associate Judge), as well as the tribe's Attorney General and Executive Director for the Ho-Chunk Nation Department of Justice. She is admitted to the Ho-Chunk Bar Association, the State Bar of Wisconsin, the United States Supreme Court Bar, and the Federal Bar Association.

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She attended the University of Wisconsin Law School, graduating with a juris doctor degree.

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## **Session 3:**

*Building Relationships — Community Voices, Partnerships & Trust*

Presenter: To Be Announced. Date: November 19, 2026 Time: 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. CT

### **Focus Areas:**

- Native and non-Native business perspectives
- Entrepreneurial journeys and partnership experiences
- Challenges, lessons learned, and success strategies
- Building trust across cultures

## **Session 3 Presenter:**

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***To Be Announced***

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## Session 4:

### *Moving Forward: Capital, Resources & Creating Opportunity*

Presenter: Kevin Chesnik    Date: December 3, 2026    Time: 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. CT

#### Focus Areas:

- Native CDFIs and access to capital
- Business development tools and success pathways
- Key organizations and resource networks
- Turning knowledge into action

## Session 4 Presenter:

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### Kevin Chesnik

AAAn Oneida Enrolled Tribal member, Mr. Chesnik has more than forty years of experience in business development, transportation engineering, transit, and public policy analysis. The past 5 years Kevin spent 3 years as the strategic initiatives advisor to the Massachusetts Bay Transit Authority (MBTA) Capital Program Chief and 2 years as a VP with Bloom Companies. He has developed skills ranging from technical transportation expertise, transit program management, DBE/DEI expertise, staff supervision, and leadership experience in both WisDOT and MBTA. Kevin's work in Indian Country includes developing policy for WisDOT to further tribal relations, working on national projects for NCHRP safety research in Indian Country and BIA related transportation projects for all Federally recognized tribes.