

TRANSPORTATION SAFETY CAREER PATHWAY SPOTLIGHT



Byron Bluehorse

Organization:
University of Alaska
Fairbanks,
Tribal Management Program

Job Title:
Assistant Professor

Training/Education:
University of New Mexico

Degree/Certification:

- B.U.S. in University Studies
- M.C.R.P. in Community and
Regional Planning

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CONNECTIONS

for Tomorrow's Transportation Workforce

Career Pathway:

Byron Bluehorse is an enrolled member of the Navajo Nation. He holds a bachelor's degree in University Studies and a master's degree in Community and Regional Planning from the University of New Mexico. From 1993-1997, Byron served in the U.S. Marine Corps, an experience which led him to Japan, Panama, and the Philippines. After receiving an honorable discharge, Byron returned home to New Mexico to pursue higher education. While in graduate school, Byron served as an AmeriCorps volunteer where he helped to establish the University of New Mexico Tribal Service Corps. Byron's past employment experience includes the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, U.S. Forest Service, Resource Center for Raza Planning and Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA). After moving to Alaska in 2005, Byron began working as a Contracts and Grants Specialist for the BIA. In this capacity, he provided technical assistance in the area of P.L. 93-638 Indian Self-Determination contracting to tribal entities in the Interior and Arctic Slope regions. Byron is currently an Assistant Professor with the University of Alaska Fairbanks, Tribal Management Program; and a member of the American Planning Association. He manages the Alaska Tribal Technical Assistance Program Center (AKTTAP).

Becoming Involved In Safety:

While working for the AKTTAP, Byron met many Tribal planners who were passionate about shedding light on the need for more safety opportunities. Those mentors opened his eyes to the safety arena. AKTTAP eventually hosted a Regional Safety Summit, which many Tribal Governments participated in, to raise awareness of available opportunities and technology to improve and develop new programs. They also worked with several Tribes to develop safety plans. AKTTAP also held a peer-to-peer safety workshop session where they utilized Tribal input to create a safety website (tribalsafety.org) where Tribes can access numerous resources. Byron has also participated in several Road Safety Audit (RSA) teams.

How do professional activities make a positive impact on society?

As manager of AKTTAP, Byron works to fulfill the Center's mission to help tribes become aware of the significance of tribal transportation issues through education and training, and to help tribes define transportation systems that enhance community and economic development, promote desired land use, protect cultural resources, and maximize efficient use of indigenous transportation resources. One recommendation that Byron would like to share with the safety community is to listen to your clients and the community, as they have the local knowledge of the roads that they drive daily and can add valuable insight to safety concerns. Quantitative data can help, but gathering local knowledge and stories leads to greater success in finding and implementing safety countermeasures that can be used.