

BUSINESS



Choctaw Nation IT Director Dustin Stark and Administrative Manager DeAnna Moore accept the Laserfiche Visionary Award from Charles Suzara, Laserfiche Regional manager and Steve Wilcox, VP Intertribal Software Consultants.



Left to right: Travis Chibitty, IT director Comanche Nation; Charles Suzara, Laserfiche Regional manager; and Steve Wilcox, VP Intertribal Software Consultants. PHOTOS COURTESY INTERTRIBAL SOFTWARE

Choctaw, Comanche Nations honored for technology use

LAS VEGAS – In October, Laserfiche presented the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma with its Visionary Award and the Comanche Nation of Oklahoma with its Pioneer Award. Both awards were presented at the TribalNet 2009 conference in Las Vegas, NV.

Choctaw Nation Administrative Manager Dee Ann Moore and Information Technology Director Dustin Stark accepted the Visionary Award on behalf of Chief Gregory Pyle and the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, which is the third largest tribe in the

U.S., with 175,000 members and 12 districts. The Choctaw Nation has used Laserfiche since 2001.

The Choctaw Nation continually strives to find ways in which to better serve our tribal members and we have found that leveraging technology has helped the Choctaw people," Stark said.

The Choctaw Nation uses Laserfiche to manage documents and maximize productivity through increased data organization, accessibility and availability. With Laserfiche Rio enterprise content management,

the Choctaw Nation automates business processes in the Tribal Council, Head Start, Housing Authority, Career Development and Low Income Home Energy Assistance Programs.

IT Manager Travis Chibitty accepted the Pioneer Award for the Comanche Nation, which has 14,732 members. The Comanche Nation has used Laserfiche since 2008 to manage information in the Finance, Land and Surveying, and Legislative Departments.

Laserfiche reseller Inter-Tribal Software Consultants (ISC) has

worked with the Choctaw Nation for the last 12 years and the Comanche Nation for the last 4 years. ISC has also developed Tribal Assistance Manager (TAM), a Tribal member tracking software, and integrated Laserfiche in order to help tribes manage member assistance programs, automate workflow and track different funding sources. ISC is headquartered in Durant, Okla. and is a certified Woman Owned Minority Business. ISC's President is Ida Curley Wilcox, a full blood Navajo from the Window Rock area of Arizona.

ISC's Tribal Clients include the Absentee Shawnee Housing Authority, Choctaw Nation Housing Authority, the Housing Authority of the Seminole Nation, the Cheyenne-Arapaho Tribe of Oklahoma, the Comanche Nation, The Comanche Nation Housing Authority, the Leech Lake Band of the Ojibwe, the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe, the Rosebud Sioux, the Pine Ridge Oglala Sioux, the Seneca-Cayuga Tribe of Oklahoma and the Susanville Rancheria Tribe in California.

Treasury Dept. selects Native-owned investment firm to help manage assets

OKLAHOMA CITY – The U.S. Department of the Treasury recently announced that Oklahoma-based Avondale Investments, LLC, is one of the selected six firms from more than 200 submissions nationwide to help



J.D. Colbert, Avondale Senior Advisor

manage its portfolio of assets in the wind-down phase of the Capital Purchase Program (CPP) and other programs under the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act (EESA) commonly known as the "bank bailout bill." CPP, which is currently only open to small banks, will effectively close at the end of the year. These assets include preferred shares, senior debt, equity warrants, and other equity and debt obligations.

Avondale Investments was founded by Don Dillingham (Muscogee-Creek), who serves as President, and earlier this year, J.D. Colbert (Muscogee-Creek/Chickasaw) joined Avondale as a Senior Advisor. Avondale Invest-

ments, LLC is a Native American-owned asset management firm with a special expertise in working with community banks. The firm has specific geographic expertise of financial institutions in the Mountain West and South West regions of the country.

"This is a big honor for Avondale and we will execute our duties to the highest degree of fiduciary standards and with the highest standards of performance excellence," said Dillingham.

Dillingham founded Avondale Investments in 2001. With more than 25 years in investment experience, Dillingham's financial background includes managing portfolios that contain growth and domestic large cap equities. He has also served as an MBA Program Adjunct Professor in Finance at OU. He is a Certified Public Accountant, Chartered Financial Analyst and Certified Financial Planner. He serves on the Native American Education and Cultural Authority Board, and also on the Board of Directors for Gulfport Exploration, Inc, The Beard Companies, Geohedral LLC, and Adair's Inc. He is an enrolled member of the Muscogee-Creek Nation.

Prior to joining Avondale, Colbert served as President and CEO of Native American Bank, N.A., in Denver where he engineered the bank's turnaround that led to profitability and more than doubled the bank's total assets. In 2006, Colbert was ap-

pointed by The White House to the Community Development Advisory Board of the Community Development Financial Institutions Fund, a division of the U.S. Treasury. He serves on the Board of Directors of First Nations Oweesta Corporation; the National Advisory Board of Native American Capital, LP; and the American Indian Science and Engineering Society Foundation. He is an enrolled member of the Chickasaw Nation.

"This is an exciting opportunity for Oklahomans to play a major role to help stabilize our nation's economy," said Colbert. "Don and I are proud to be representing Native Americans as the only two who were selected. This is a huge honor for Oklahoma and Native Americans as a whole."

Avondale Investments will begin work immediately by providing ongoing valuations of the equity and debt securities issued by public and private financial institutions in the Capital Purchase Program and other programs, including many of Treasury's investments in small and community banks. In addition, Avondale will provide Treasury with analysis of the financial condition, capital structure, and risks of financial institutions, and will assist in executing transactions consistent with the Treasury's investment policy for the management and disposition of its assets.

Native-owned Flintco wrapping up Memphis airport project

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) – The businesses typically associated with the Memphis International Airport are FedEx and Delta Airlines, but another company is leaving an indelible imprint on the major airport.

Flintco Cos. Inc. is wrapping up completion on the airport's \$55 million air traffic control tower and last week the contractor was awarded a \$89.5 million contract for a seven-story ground transportation center.

The facility will house long-term parking and rental car operations.

Kevin Moyes, Flintco's Memphis division president, told The Memphis Daily News that the company "feels fortunate" to associated with a major economic engine like the airport. The airport provides an impact of \$28.6 billion annually and accounts for one in three local jobs.

Flintco is a Native American-owned

business, based out of Tulsa, Okla., and its contract meets the airport authority's disadvantaged business enterprise requirements – meaning the inclusion of minority- and women-owned businesses for subcontracts.

Moyes said construction of the ground transportation center will create more than 300 jobs in the short term.

"Certainly for Flintco, it's a great project to have," Moyes said. "It's going to be a high-visibility project, and a project that will literally impact our community in multiple ways."

Construction on the tower is expected to be completed next summer and then the facility will be handed over to the Federal Aviation Administration, which will install the tower's radar equipment and systems. Once the new tower is operational, about a year later, Flintco will demolish the old tower.



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