



U.S. Department of the Interior Indian Affairs

Office of the Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs
Bureau of Indian Affairs
Bureau of Indian Education

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Biographical Statement for Ann Marie Bledsoe Downes Deputy Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs for Policy and Economic Development and Acting Director of the Bureau of Indian Education



Ann Marie Bledsoe Downes, an enrolled member of the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska, is the Deputy Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs for Policy and Economic Development (DAS-PED) and Acting Director of the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) in the U.S. Department of the Interior in Washington, D.C. She was appointed to the Obama Administration on September 2, 2014. The DAS-PED oversees the Office of Indian Energy and Economic Development and the Office of Self-Governance. The BIE Director oversees the management, policies, procedures and the supervision of all Indian Education programs at the Department of the Interior.

Prior to joining the Department, Ms. Bledsoe Downes had been since December 2013 executive director of the Indian Legal Program (ILP) at Arizona State University's Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law in Tempe. She has served as director of ILP's graduate and academic programs (August 2005 to May 2010), as the ILP's interim executive director (October 2011 to October 2012), and as an ILP faculty associate since October 2012. She also served briefly as executive director of the National Native American Bar Association from October 2012 to March 2013.

In September 2003, Ms. Bledsoe Downes joined Arizona Governor Janet Napolitano's administration as Policy Advisor for Tribal Affairs, a post she held until the following September. From June 2000 to September 2003, Ms. Bledsoe Downes served as president of Little Priest Tribal College, an institution of higher learning chartered by the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska in 1996, and again from May to July 2013 as interim president. In December 1996, Ms. Bledsoe Downes was named to the Hoopa Valley Tribal Gaming Commission, an appointment she held until April 1998.

Ms. Bledsoe Downes has been a member of the Ho-Chunk, Inc., board of directors since 2008 and a member of the Little Priest Tribal College Board of Trustees since 2012. She also served as a member of the White House Initiative on Tribal Colleges and Universities Advisory Board from 2002 to 2005. She received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Social Sciences Education from Wayne State College in 1991 and a *Juris Doctorate* from ASU in 1994.

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1849 C Street, N.W., MS-3658-MIB
Washington, D.C. 20240
Phone: 202-208-3710/Fax: 202-501-1516
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