

National Indian Gaming Association to honor Native American Casting Director with the Chairman's Leadership Award

Washington, D.C. — March 20, 2017 — The National Indian Gaming Association announced today that they will be honoring Native American Film and Television Casting Director Tricia Wood with the coveted Chairman's Leadership Award at the Indian Gaming Tradeshow and Convention in San Diego, California.

Wood is known for her work as Casting Director of the Oscar-nominated film "La La Land" and other films such as "American Pastoral," "Deepwater Horizon," "Eye in The Sky" and "My Week with Marilyn," as well as "Fracture" and "Twilight" and over 100 other motion picture film throughout her career. Her illustrious career includes casting responsibilities for such television hits as "The Shield," and "Dexter."

Born and raised in Oklahoma, Tricia is a member of the Seneca-Cayuga Nation and Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma. She studied Architecture at Oklahoma State University before moving to Los Angeles to pursue a career in Film. She is a member of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences and the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences.

Tricia Wood started her casting career as an intern in 1993 in the Features Casting Department at Paramount Pictures Studio under her mentor and then Sr. VP of Casting, Deborah Aquila. During the next three years, Tricia continued her casting education in the Features Casting department, moving up from Casting Assistant to Casting Associate. After a brief period of working in production, Tricia reunited with Deborah Aquila in 1999 as an independent casting team. After several years as a successful independent casting company, in 2014 Aquila Wood Casting joined Lionsgate Entertainment as their in-house casting department.

National Indian Gaming Association Chairman Ernie Stevens, Jr. said: "We want to celebrate the outstanding contribution of Tricia to the film and television industry and Indian country." Each year the Chairman's Leadership Award is presented to a Native American individual who has shown an exceptional representation of Native America.

The annual Chairman's Leadership Award will be held on Tuesday, April 11, 2017, at the Chairman's Awards Luncheon. Wood will join other past distinguished recipients such as Lynn Valbuena, Chairwoman of the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians, LaDonna Harris, Founder and President of Americans for Indian Opportunity and Steve Ortiz, Chairman of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation and Stanley Jones, Sr. former Councilman of the Tulalip Tribes, to name a few.

The Indian Gaming Tradeshow and Convention will be held at the San Diego Convention Center in San Diego, California, April 10 – 13, 2017. The largest gathering of tribal leaders and casino executives in the country, the Indian Gaming Tradeshow & Convention is both the meeting

place where the community gathers to learn, network and exchange industry-specific ideas and a cultural celebration of success, strength, and self-reliance.

Entering its 32nd year, the Indian Gaming Tradeshow & Convention has established itself not only as the premier event for the Indian Gaming industry but as the figurative heartbeat of Native American success.

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ABOUT NIGA

The National Indian Gaming Association (NIGA), established in 1985, is a non-profit organization of 184 Indian Nations with other non-voting associate members representing organizations and businesses engaged in Tribal Gaming. The common commitment and purpose of NIGA is to advance the lives of Indian peoples economically, socially and politically. NIGA operates as a clearinghouse and educational, legislative and public policy resource for tribes, policymakers and the public on Indian gaming issues and tribal community development. For more information visit www.indiangaming.org