

Leigh Kuwanwisiwma, Director of Hopi Tribe Cultural Preservation Office receives Governor's Archaeology Advisory Commission "Public Archaeology Award"

(by Louella Nahsonhoya, Hopi Tutuveni Staff)

At the 11th Annual Arizona Statewide Historic Preservation Partnership Conference held in Mesa on Friday, June 14, Leigh Kuwanwisiwma, Director of the Hopi Tribe Cultural Preservation Office was recognized and awarded the Public Archaeology award, in the Tribes category, by the Governor's Archaeology Advisory Commission (GAAC).

The Commission is a statutory board that advises the State Historic Preservation Officer on issues relevant to Arizona archaeology. The Awards are presented to individuals and/or organizations that have significantly contributed to the protection, preservation and education about Arizona's archaeological resources and are worthy of recognition for their efforts.

"We are pleased to present the award for an Indian Tribe to Leigh Kuwanwisiwma (Director of the Hopi Tribe Cultural Preservation Office)," said the Commissioner. "As a long-time advocate for archaeological site protection and cultural heritage preservation, he has championed these causes well beyond the current political boundaries of the Hopi Tribe. Leigh has worked with Northern Arizona University, Arizona State University and others to support innovative research projects that rely on cooperative efforts of archaeologists and the Tribe. These efforts have ensured that tribal perspectives and oral histories play a prominent role in archaeological research. In 2012, Leigh was among several Hopi co-authors of chapters in the award-winning book *Hisat'sinom—Ancient Peoples in a Land without Water*. In 2013, the Society for American Archaeology recognized these accomplishments with a symposium in his honor at its annual meeting. Leigh has also served as a member of the Governor's Archaeology Advisory Commission."

Upon hearing of this award, Herman G. Honanie Vice Chairman of the Hopi Tribe said "I am happy Mr. Kuwanwisiwma was recognized for his tireless efforts and advocacy for the protection and preservation of cultural resources and assets. He has set high standards and priorities and is an outstanding advocate and spokesperson for tribal resources. His efforts are driven in part by his own personal understanding and beliefs in Hopi customs and traditions; hence, he has a natural drive to direct efforts to preserve and serve as an effective advocate. He deserves this recognition."

"The AZ Governor's 2013 Archaeology Commission Award came to me as a surprise" said Kuwanwisiwma. "This award was presented to me at the July 14th AZ Historic Preservation Conference in Mesa, AZ. This award comes on the heels of the 2012 Governor's Arizona Centennial Historic Preservation Award given to me last year; which was also a surprise. This is quite an honor to be chosen two years in a row. I humbly acknowledge the Hopi Cultural Preservation Office staff, the Hopi Cultural Resources Advisory Team, all the Hopi and Tewa clans, religious societies and village leaders who have continued to support our efforts. Kwak'wha to the present and previous Chairmen, Vice Chairmen and members of the Hopi tribal council for the political and personal support provided to my staff and I."

"Much heartfelt thanks to my family, especially my children Robert "Beep" Jenkins, Sonwy Kuwanwisiwma, Tevesie Jenkins, and Posiwmana Jenkins; To my sisters Ethelyn Jenkins and Karen Kavena and To my parents, Marshall and Polly Jenkins, both who have passed on. All have given me the emotional support and guidance during my tenure as the Director of HCPO," said Kuwanwisiwma. "Kwak'wha to the Hopi and Tewa people who we try to represent as best as we can."

Congratulations on your Award and the Recognition of your efforts, Leigh. It is well deserved. Thank you for your advocacy. The Tutuveni Staff.