



◆ 825 S. Kansas Ave Suite 500 Topeka, KS 66612 ◆ (785)233-4512 ◆ www.aala.org

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CONTACT: Scott Heidner
scott@aglaw-assn.org
785-233-4512

**JANIE HIPPI RECEIVES AALA EXCELLENCE IN AGRICULTURAL LAW IN NON-
GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION AWARD**



Janie Hipp, CEO, Indigenous Food and Agriculture Initiative, University of Arkansas School of Law, received the Excellence in Agricultural Law in Non-Governmental Organization Award from the American Agricultural Law Association (AALA) on November 9, 2019, during the association's annual conference in Washington, D.C.

The AALA's Excellence in Agricultural Law Awards recognizes AALA members for outstanding contributions to the legal profession and the agricultural community. These awards may acknowledge members from professional sectors, including private practice, academia, government and non-governmental organizations.

"Janie has had a distinguished career in both the public sector, and with non-governmental organizations", said AALA president Amber Miller of Crenshaw, Dupree & Milam, LLP. "Janie's tireless dedication to the agricultural and Native American communities makes her a great selection for this award. We are proud that she is an AALA member."

Ms. Hipp was awarded the Excellence Award for her current service as CEO of the Native American Agriculture Fund (NAAF). NAAF provides grants to eligible organizations for business assistance, agriculture education, technical support, and advocacy services to support Native farmers and ranchers.



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Before serving as CEO of the Native American Agriculture Fund, Janie Simms Hipp, a citizen of the Chickasaw Nation, was the founding director of the Indigenous Food and Agriculture Initiative at the University of Arkansas. Prior to launching the initiative, she served as national program leader for Farm Financial Management, Trade Adjustment Assistance, Risk Management Education, and the Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development programs at the United States Department of Agriculture National Institute for Food and Agriculture.

She was thereafter selected as the senior advisor for tribal relations to Secretary Tom Vilsack and director of the Office of Tribal Relations. Prior to her work in Washington, D.C., at the national level, she has enjoyed a lengthy domestic and international career spanning more than 35 years in the agriculture sector as an agriculture and food lawyer and policy expert. Her work focuses on the complex intersection of Indian law and agriculture and food law.

Ms. Hipp holds a JD from Oklahoma City University and an LL.M. in agriculture and food law from the University of Arkansas. She is the author of numerous publications, most recently joining with Wilson Pipestem, J.D., and Crystal EchoHawk to author the Feeding Ourselves report and thereafter the Regaining our Future report with Colby Duren, J.D. She serves as an advisor to the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community's Seeds of Native Health campaign and numerous other campaigns focusing on food, agriculture, health and economic development in Indian Country.

She most recently has received the National Center for American Indian Economic Development's 2017 Tim Wapato Public Advocate of the Year Award.

Established in 1980, the American Agricultural Law Association is a national professional association serving as the premier association for agricultural law and policy professionals. Its mission is informing and engaging the law and policy professionals who serve all facets of the agricultural and food communities. For more information, visit aglaw-assn.org.