



October 2024 Meeting
Speaker Bios

Chief Financial Officer Update

Faisal Amin

Chief Financial Officer

EPA's Office of the Chief Financial Officer

Faisal Amin began serving as EPA's Chief Financial Officer in July 2021. Previously, he served as Deputy Director of the Office of Administration in the Executive Office of the President. Mr. Amin also worked on the Executive Office of the President Management and Administration Agency Review Team, as well as the Vetting Operations team, on the Biden-Harris Transition. During the Obama-Biden Administration, he served in several roles, including as Chief Financial Officer of the Executive Office of the President, where he led the team responsible for managing all aspects of finance and procurement for EOP components. Mr. Amin has spent the majority of his career as an appropriations attorney at the United States Government Accountability Office, researching and drafting appropriations law decisions, providing technical assistance to agencies and Congress, and teaching appropriations law classes. While on detail from GAO to the Senate Interior Appropriations subcommittee, he helped develop and advocate for EPA's fiscal year 2020 appropriation.



EFAB Letter: Helping Climate Capital Land in Underserved Communities

Hieu Le

Senior Advisor for Innovation

EPA's Office of the Administrator

Hieu Le is a California native and appointee in the Biden-Harris Administration, where he serves as Senior Advisor for Innovation to EPA's Chief of Staff Dan Utech. Hieu advises and supports the Chief of Staff and other executive leaders, including on implementation of \$100 billion in BIL/IRA deployment, EPA regulations, and special projects. Prior to EPA, Hieu spent four years at the Sierra Club advocating for national and state climate policies, with a focus on electric vehicles. He obtained his Bachelor of Arts from UC Santa Barbara and is currently pursuing an MBA from the University of Virginia Darden School of Business.



Arizona State University Welcome

Michael M. Crow

President

Arizona State University

Michael M. Crow is an educator, knowledge enterprise architect, science and technology policy scholar and higher education leader. He became the sixteenth president of Arizona State University in July 2002 and has spearheaded ASU's rapid and groundbreaking transformative evolution into one of the world's best public metropolitan research universities. As a model "New American University," ASU simultaneously demonstrates comprehensive excellence, inclusivity representative of the ethnic and socioeconomic spectrum of the United States, and consequential societal impact.



Lauded as the "#1 most innovative" school in the nation by U.S. News & World Report for nine straight years, ASU is a student-centric, technology-enabled university focused on global challenges. Under Crow's leadership, ASU has established more than twenty-five new transdisciplinary schools, including the School of Earth and Space Exploration, the School for the Future of Innovation in Society and the School of Human Evolution and Social Change, and launched trailblazing multidisciplinary initiatives including the Biodesign Institute, the Julie Ann Wrigley Global Futures Laboratory, and important initiatives in the humanities and social sciences.

Arizona Water Initiative

Dave White

Director

Global Institute of Sustainability and Innovation

Arizona State University

Dave White joined Arizona State University in 2001 and has helped lead ASU's evolution into one of the world's leading universities for global impact. He is Associate Vice President, Research Advancement in ASU Knowledge Enterprise. In this capacity, he advances research strategy for the Julie Ann Wrigley Global Futures Laboratory (GFL), which is dedicated to shaping a future in which life thrives on a healthy planet. White also serves as Director of the Global Institute of Sustainability and Innovation, where he coordinates more than 30 research centers, programs, and projects advancing use-inspired science for the betterment of people and the planet. He holds the rank of Professor in the School of Community Resources and Development, in the Watts College of Public Service and Community Solutions. White served as Interim Director of the Rob and Melani Walton Sustainability Solutions Service from 2020-2022. From 2012-2021, he was Principal Investigator and Director of the NSF-funded Decision Center for a Desert City (DCDC).



White is internationally-recognized for his contributions to science in support of sustainability. He has published more than 75 peer-reviewed articles advancing numerous fields including water policy, decision science, science and technology studies, sustainability science, and natural resources management. His work has also been covered in popular media including The New York Times, Washington Post, Wall Street Journal, and National Public Radio. In 2021, White was selected by a Federal Steering Committee as Chapter Lead Author for the Southwest for the Fifth U.S. National Climate Assessment. White previously served as co-author for the complex systems chapter for the Fourth U.S. National Climate Assessment, published in 2018.

White was an inaugural fellow of the PLuS Alliance, with joint appointments across ASU, Kings College London, and University of New South Wales Sydney. White is a Senior Global Futures Scientist in the Julie Ann Wrigley Global Futures Laboratory and was an inaugural fellow of the Global Security Initiative at ASU. He is a recipient of the President's Medal for Social Embeddedness from Arizona State University and the Celebrating Natural Resources Award from the University of Idaho.

White is a faculty affiliate in ASU's School of Sustainability, School of Public Affairs, School for the Future of Innovation and Society, Consortium for Science, Policy and Outcomes, Center for Biodiversity Outcomes and Swette Center for Sustainable Food Systems.

Cora Tso

Senior Research Fellow

Tribal Water Policy

Kyl Center for Water Policy

Cora Tso is a Senior Research Fellow at Arizona State University (ASU)'s Kyl Center for Water Policy. In this role, Cora works to research, analyze, and develop recommendations related to Arizona Tribal water policy, including analyzing Tribal Nations' interests, needs and opportunities in regulatory and legislative processes, collaborating with Tribal leadership and representatives, government agencies, and stakeholders in connection with the Arizona Water Innovation Initiative (AWII) and building productive, lasting relationships between the Kyl Center and the Tribal water policy and legal community.



Previously, Cora has worked with governmental, private, and non-profit organizations focusing on Indian law, water law, and environmental law and policy matters. Tso is an enrolled member of the Navajo Nation. She is of the Reed People clan and born for the Black Streaked Wood clan. Her maternal grandparents are of the Bitterwater clan and her paternal grandparents are of the Red House clan. She was born and raised on the Navajo reservation and is originally from Shonto, Arizona. Tso earned her Juris Doctor degree with a Certificate in Indian Law from the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law at ASU and her Bachelors of Science degree in Political Science and minor American Indian Studies from Barrett, the Honors College at ASU.

Sarah Porter

Director**Kyl Center for Water Policy**

Sarah Porter is Director of the Kyl Center for Water Policy at Arizona State University's Morrison Institute for Public Policy and Professor of Practice in ASU's College of Global Futures. Established in 2014, the Kyl Center promotes research, analysis, collaboration and open dialogue to build consensus in support of sound water stewardship solutions for Arizona and the West. The Kyl Center's cornerstone project is the award-winning Arizona Water Blueprint, a comprehensive online hub of information about Arizona water resources and policy.



Sarah came to the Kyl Center from the National Audubon Society, where she served as the Arizona state Director and led Audubon's Western Rivers Project, a multistate initiative to protect and restore important river habitats in the Intermountain West. Sarah was a key team member in the effort to launch the Nina Mason Pulliam Rio Salado Audubon Center, a nature education center located in a restored riparian habitat in South Phoenix. Before joining the staff of Audubon in 2006, Sarah spent fourteen years as an attorney in private practice, specializing in complex commercial litigation.

Sarah serves on Governor Hobbs's Water Policy Council, University of Arizona's Water Resources Research Center's External Advisory Council, Phoenix's Environmental Quality and Sustainability Commission and other community boards. In 2023, Sarah was named to the Arizona Capitol Times Powerlist as an "Unsung Hero" in recognition of her work on Arizona water policy.

A native of Phoenix, Sarah received her bachelor's degree with honors from Harvard College and her J.D. magna cum laude from Arizona State University College of Law, where she was a John S. Armstrong Award recipient. She clerked for Hon. William C. Canby, Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Environmental Financial Center Network Roundtable

Heather Himmelberger**Director****Southwest Environmental Finance Center at the University of New Mexico**

Heather Himmelberger is a registered professional engineer with over 38 years of experience working with water and wastewater utilities and in the environmental arena. She has a BS in Environmental Engineering from Penn State University and an MS in Environmental Engineering from Johns Hopkins University. She joined the Southwest Environmental Finance Center in 1994 and served as its Director since 1996. As Director, she has assisted state, local, and tribal governments with the broad financial implications of providing environmental services, such as water and wastewater, complying with state and federal regulations, and accessing infrastructure funding. Heather was recently appointed to be one of the vice-chairs in the newly created Historically Black Colleges and Universities and Minority-Serving Institutions Federal Advisory Council. In





the past, Heather served as an expert witness to EPA's Environmental Financial Advisory Board (EFAB) from 1996 to 2013 and was appointed an official board member to EFAB in spring 2014 where she served until 2019. She has been a presenter at numerous national, international, regional, and local conferences, workshops, and meetings.

Heather has been project lead on hundreds of projects, the majority related to assisting small water and wastewater systems throughout the United States. In this capacity, she has provided trainings and/or technical assistance in all states and territories and has provided assistance in topics such as asset management, water loss and water efficiency, accessing funding, regionalization, capacity development, green infrastructure and regulatory compliance. She was a member of the Dona Ana County Water and Wastewater Alliance back in the late 1990s, which was one of the first collaborative efforts in the State of New Mexico. She helped these systems understand the benefits of mutual cooperation, and this group resulted in the formation of a regional water entity. She facilitated the meetings in Texas that lead to the formation of the Texas Water Infrastructure Coordinating Committee (TWICC). The TWICC includes all water and wastewater infrastructure funding groups as well as the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. This group now meets quarterly to coordinate funding in Texas.

While Heather has primarily worked with small, rural, and tribal systems, many of whom are disadvantaged, she has also worked with large systems and gained valuable perspectives from working across the country and with a wide array of systems (both water and wastewater.) She has also worked extensively in the Pacific territories on topics such as water loss, asset management, lead service line inventories, and general capacity building.