

# INDIANnet Info Systsem opens in Washington, D.C.

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Americans for Indian Opportunity (AIO) has opened an operations office in Washington, D.C. Judi Kane was appointed Director of DC Operations and INDIANnet Information Systems.

The AIO Operations Office will be the headquarters for all INDIANnet activity. INDIANnet Information Systems is a special project of AIO. This initiative helps to insure that tribes are on the cutting edge of one of the most vital innovations of our time. INDIANnet is the first Indian owned and operated national telecommunications network. Connected to the Internet, INDIANnet is available to anyone with a computer, modem, telecommunications software and a telephone. When fully developed, INDIANnet will be multi-purpose, acting as a catalyst to facilitate the exchange of information among Indians about Indians.

"Indian Tribes of the United States must act now to avoid being 'road kill' on the information highway," said LaDonna Harris, President of Americans for Indian Opportunity and a member of the U.S. Commerce Department's National Council on the Information Infrastructure. "Tribes must seek out and determine for ourselves how technology will be used by

Native peoples and how we will be affected by the information age. For the first time, Indians have the opportunity through computer technology and electronic information to create and share information about ourselves. Through INDIANnet tribal governments and communities can tap into the national information infrastructure and begin to build their own networks," said Harris.

To access INDIANnet dial 605/394-6858 with your computer modem or through the Internet telnet to indianet.sdsc.org. Access to INDIANnet Information Systems is free. Connection to the Internet is offered through INDIANnet for a nominal fee. Currently, on INDIANnet, one can find information about upcoming events and conferences, job opportunities and federal resources. Americans for Indian Opportunity encourages all INDIANnet users to participate fully by sharing and providing information to the system. The DC Operations Office is located at 1000 Thomas

Jefferson Street, NW, Suite 506, Washington, D.C. For more information about INDIANnet contact Judi Kane at 202/342-5846, fax 202/965-5187 or through INDIANnet e-mail.

Under an Interagency Personnel Agree-

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ment, Kane is on detail to AIO from the Environmental Protection Agency where she was the Indian Programs Manager in the Office of Solid Waste for five years.

Headquartered on the Santa Ana Pueblo reservation in New Mexico, American for Indian Opportunity serves as a catalyst for new concepts and opportunities for Native Americans in a constantly changing envi-

ronment. AIO works with tribal governments and tribal peoples to develop leadership, institutions and structures that can deal with change using new ideas and creative initiatives based on traditional tribal values. By finding new ways to manage change, tribes can make positive contributions while maintaining a strong tribal identity. AIO is based on three major premises. First, the strength of Indian peoples, both collectively and individually, is in the tribe. Second, strong tribal communities and governments can have a significant impact on the world. And third, tribal governments are sovereign units of government with the power and ability to determine their own futures.