



# *ICC NEWS RELEASE*

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## **ICC, NACTM Agreement Will Make Tribal Land Construction Safer, More Sustainable**

The [International Code Council](http://www.iccsafe.org) and [Native American Construction Training Management](http://www.nactm.com) (NACTM), Inc. have signed a Memorandum of Understanding that combines safe and sustainable construction methods that result from building to code and continues the Native American heritage for efficient use of natural resources.

The agreement centers on strategies that will create a single, complete system of sustainable commercial and residential codes for all that live on and use Tribal lands throughout the United States. Both organizations promote greater public safety through the implementation and enforcement of building codes, professional training, and the conservation of natural resources.

“Wise and efficient use of natural resources always has been a proud and unwavering principle of The Tribal Nation, as evidenced by its long-standing heritage of respect for the land and its resources,” Jay Peters an ICC Executive Director said. “By ensuring buildings are constructed based on the Code Council’s comprehensive resource conservation provisions, the Nation will continue to demonstrate outstanding sustainable practices, setting an example for its Tribal residents and the entire country.”

“The Code Council’s long-standing reputation for outstanding codes for every building practice was a key reason we decided to enter into this agreement,” Kevin Buckles, NACTM President said. “But our dedication to conserving natural resources as a fundamental belief of our Tribal Nation, coupled with the Code Council’s clear dedication to the same as evidenced by their comprehensive resource conservation codes, finalized our decision to enter into this agreement.”

The two organizations will share information, meet regularly to establish mutual goals and team up with regards to local, state, tribal and regulatory agencies with several objectives:

- generate initiatives to assist tribal lands to conserve natural resources through the construction and operation of buildings,
- develop products and services that mutually benefit each organization and their memberships, and
- collaborate on networking opportunities where appropriate.

Since NACTM focuses on helping Native American men and women attain and advance their careers in the construction industry, the Code Council also will assist with strategic planning that facilitates self-sufficiency for construction and inspection for the Tribal Nation, along with facilitating ICC certifications, accreditations, and education and training opportunities. These measures will serve to enhance NACTM members' personal and professional accomplishments and career growth, while always being mindful of Tribal public health and safety.

"I cannot express the level of pride we have with regard to this new collaboration," Peters said. "The Tribal Nation is such a respectful and highly regarded organization. We look forward to helping bring stronger, more efficient structures to the inhabitants of their Nation. At the same time, it is paramount that these codes not only bring the safety, durability and sustainability they are known for, but allow the Nation to retain sovereignty, something we have kept at the forefront of the discussions."

The [International Code Council](#), a membership association dedicated to building safety, fire prevention and energy efficiency, develops the codes used to construct residential and commercial buildings, including homes and schools. Most U.S. cities, counties and states [choose the International Codes](#), building safety codes developed by the International Code Council. The International Codes also serve as the basis for construction of federal properties around the world, and as a reference for many nations outside the United States.

Native American Construction Training Management, Inc. (NACTM) focuses on career path development for Native American men and women. The organization liaises with Federally-recognized tribes and the Building & Construction Trades Unions which share the common goal of respecting and honoring the sovereign jurisdiction of tribes. NACTM coordinates employment and training resources with the Department of the Interior, Office of Indian Energy and Economic Development, offers training for economic development opportunities towards job creation, and works with the National

Building & Construction Trades Association, involving 13 skilled construction trades to provide employment and training opportunities nationwide.

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