



**SENSE** INCORPORATED ...  
*S.I. SOLUTIONS, LLC*

## **BACKGROUND ON ORGANIZATION AND PROFESSIONAL STAFF**

SENSE Incorporated is a minority-owned, small business which provides specialized services to advance and improve American Indian and Alaska Native Tribal interests in Washington, DC. These services include development of options and analysis on key issues to advance major goals identified by Tribal governments; strategic planning; training and technical assistance; meeting planning and facilitation services.

Founded in 1979, SENSE Incorporated is a Washington, D.C. based firm, providing liaison and advocacy services. In 2011, SENSE Incorporated established S.I. Solutions, LLC (SIS) with the goal of expanding opportunities available under the Small Business Administration 8(a) program as a minority and woman-owned business.

Under the long-term leadership of C. Juliet Pittman, President/CEO, SENSE has established a stable and effective team of professional and administrative staff. SENSE has a proven history and long-term track record of success and has worked with a diverse variety of clients and on a wide range of projects.

Since the initiation of the Tribal Self-Governance movement in the late 1980's and ultimate passage of legislation to permanently establish Tribal Self-Governance under the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (ISDEAA) in both the Department of the Interior (DOI) – Indian Affairs (IA) and the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) – Indian Health Service (IHS), SENSE Incorporated has worked for more than three decades to increase and coordinate Self-Governance presence on national efforts in Washington, DC. These activities include communication and outreach, training, technical assistance to Self-Governance Tribes across the country and the development and implementation of the Self-Governance National Strategic Plan.

SENSE has extensive experience in Self-Governance planning, negotiation, and implementation; and professional staff was actively involved in the drafting of Self-Governance legislation (Title III, IV, V and VI of the ISDEAA) and promulgation of regulations.

### **C. Juliet “Pitt” Pittman, President/CEO**

“Pitt” is one of the original founders/owners of SENSE Incorporated. She has over four decades of experience with specialized knowledge in American Indian and Alaskan Native affairs. As the lead “face” of SENSE and SIS, Pitt is well known, respected, and recognized in Washington, DC for her long-standing advocacy on Native issues and advancing and protecting Tribal sovereignty and governmental rights. She has an extensive working knowledge of Capitol Hill and has built a solid network to include Congressional and Administrative officials and staff. Pitt has been actively involved in all aspects of Self-Governance, including, but not limited to:

- Drafted of Self-Governance legislative amendments to the ISDEAA, P.L. 93-638
- Served and supported the Tribal/Federal Negotiated Rulemaking Committee on the promulgation of Title IV and Title V regulations.
- Served as the professional technical resource for the Chairperson of the IHS Tribal Self-Governance Advisory Committee (TSGAC) during the conduct of the DHHS Tribal-Federal Self-Governance Workgroup (SGTFW) to advance recommendations to expand Self-Governance within the Department of Health and Human Service
- Served as the Washington, DC technical resource office for the DOI Tribal Self-Governance Title IV Task Force working to amend the Self-Governance authority in DOI by aligning it with provisions currently in Title V for IHS (P.L. 106-260). Title IV amendments enacted on October 21, 2020, P.L. 116-180, The PROGRESS Act
- Provided Self-Governance Communication and Education outreach efforts, including development of training materials, educational brochures, development of white “issue” papers and national strategic planning.
- Serves as long-term technical member to the Department of the Interior Self-Governance Advisory Committee (SGAC) and Indian Health Service Tribal Self-Governance Advisory Committee (TSGAC).

### **Cyndi Ferguson, Self-Governance Specialist/Policy Analyst**

Cyndi also has widespread Self-Governance experience, including planning, negotiation, management, and implementation of Tribal Self-Governance at the local Tribal level for Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) and the Indian Health Service (IHS) programs. Cyndi joined SENSE Incorporated in March 2010 as a Self-Governance Specialist/Policy Analyst. In that capacity, she is responsible for assisting in national Self-Governance Communication and Education efforts, including training and technical assistance, and development and coordination of priority legislative, budget, and policy issues. For more

than 6 years, Cyndi served as the Facilitator to the National Indian Health Board Medicare and Medicaid Policy Committee; and for nearly 8 years has served as the Project Manager for the Self-Governance Affordable Care Act/Indian Health Care Improvement Act (ACA/IHCIA) outreach and education activities. Further, she has facilitated numerous Self-Governance and ACA/IHCIA trainings and webinars, and strategic planning discussions with both small and large Tribes and Tribal organizations.

Other special projects include:

- Worked with the IHS Office of Tribal Self-Governance in 2004 to develop two documents for Tribal governments under Title V of the ISDEAA: (1) Self-Governance Negotiation Handbook; and (2) IHS Headquarters Programs, Services, Functions and Activities Manual.
- Served as Technical Representative on the Title IV, Title V legislative teams and Tribal/Federal Negotiated Rulemaking Committees.
- Participated in the Tribal/Federal team to develop and finalize the 2003 Title VI Feasibility Study.
- Served as the Project Evaluator under two W. K. Kellogg Foundation grant funded programs to evaluate the effectiveness of a State-Tribal Relations Project- a 9-year initiative designed to promote intergovernmental cooperation between States and Tribes to develop policy solutions on issues of mutual concern.
- Lead presenter on national and regional Tribal Self-Governance Trainings.
- Active, long-term participant on several Tribal/Federal Workgroups, including the SGAC and TSGAC. She also served as the TSGAC Tribal Technical Workgroup Co-Chair for 15 years.

Before joining SENSE Incorporated, Cyndi worked for the Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe (located in Washington State) for 21 years serving as the Director of Governmental Affairs and Self-Governance Coordinator.