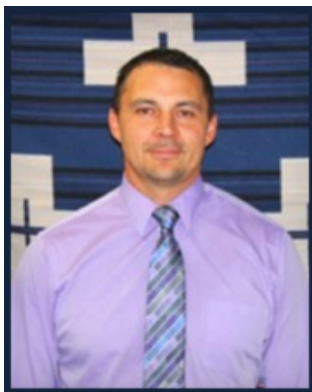




Inclusion Council Launches Ambassador Network to Elevate Organizational Impact

April 4, 2025 — The U.S Forest and Wood Products Sector Inclusion Council (IC) is proud to announce the formation of its **Ambassador Network**, an initiative designed to enhance the reach and impact of the IC's mission across organizations and communities.

The founding members of this pivotal network include **Cody Desautel**, **Rita Hite**, and **Shannon McCabe**, whose combined expertise and dedication will lay a solid foundation for the network's success.



Founding members of the Ambassador Network (pictured left to right): Cody Desautel, Rita Hite, and Shannon McCabe.

Cody Desautel, one of the founding members, serves as the **President of the Intertribal Timber Council (ITC)** and the **Executive Director of the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation**. With extensive experience in tribal forestry and land management, Cody has been a leading advocate for sustainable ecological and economic practices across tribal lands. Under his leadership, the ITC represents forest-owning tribes and Alaska Native organizations, managing over 19 million acres of timberland and woodland. Cody's work emphasizes the importance of tribal self-governance, equitable funding, and sustainable forest management to support tribal economies and cultural traditions.

Rita Hite, another founding member, serves as the President and CEO of the **American Forest Foundation (AFF)**. With over 20 years of experience in forest conservation, Rita has been instrumental in shaping strategies and policies that address critical conservation challenges, including climate change, wildfire resilience, and forest sustainability. Under her leadership, AFF empowers family forest owners to make meaningful conservation impacts, focusing on increasing carbon storage, mitigating wildfires, and improving wildlife habitats.

Shannon McCabe, the third founding member, is the **Executive Director of the Association of Consulting Foresters (ACF)**. Shannon brings a wealth of experience in forestry and association management, having previously led initiatives with the Virginia Forestry Association and the Virginia Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) Implementation Committee. At ACF, Shannon oversees a network of over 740 professional consulting foresters, promoting sustainable forest management and advancing the forestry profession. Her leadership emphasizes the importance of professional growth, ethical practices, and fostering connections within the forestry sector.

The **Ambassador Network** aims to empower individuals to follow, elevate, and support the work of the IC within their respective organizations and spheres of influence. Ambassadors will focus on key activities, including:

- Increasing awareness and access to IC information and resources, including Learning Lab events and research findings.
- Expanding outreach to engage new individuals and organizations in the IC's mission.
- Providing strategic insights to help grow the Ambassador Network itself.

The IC's mission is to build sector-wide capacity for meeting workplace and workforce needs with strategies that support growth, sustainability, and belonging through activities aligned with our 4 pillars of Knowledge, Mobilization, Workforce, and Impact. The IC invites all organizations and individuals passionate about the success of the current and future workforce for the forest and wood products sector to engage with the IC.

For further information, please contact Katie at katie@dovetailinc.org, and visit <https://usinclusioncouncil.org/> to sign up to receive updates or to follow the IC on [LinkedIn](#).

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