



FISE Fights Back: July 30, 2025

Preparing for What Comes Next

While the Department of the Interior has not communicated their reorganization plan with FISE, we are aware that a new EPAP system was implemented and sent out to the FISE bargaining unit. The rating period began on July 18 and will conclude on October 18. Members who have issues with the EPAP should connect with a Board member.

Reductions in Force: Our Collective Bargaining Agreement (contract) has clear language on the Reduction in Force procedures in Article 32 and Appendices N and O. The link to this information is located on the [FISE website here](#).

Check out this Resource!

[Feds Forward](#) is a new website resource that provides information to federal workers who may be in a time of transition.

Steward Highlights

We are excited to welcome these new stewards at the following worksites:

- Robert Hicks - Haskell University
- Rachel Brown - Haskell University

For a full list of stewards, please see the [FISE website](#). Does your worksite location not have a steward? Reach out to Jackie Spencer at JSpencer@fise-aft.org or 505-243-4088 and learn how YOU can become a steward and build power in your workplace.

Upcoming Important Dates

- FISE Board Meeting - Thursday, July 31
- Haskell University staff meeting: to be scheduled
- Labor Day September 1 Connect with a Labor Day activity in your area registering at the [Workers Labor Day website](#).

Building our union power!

Federal employees and our unions are stretched thin and under attack from forces that do not believe in public service, nor do they feel that federal workers should have a union voice. We are taking back the narrative.

BE HEARD

We continue to need stories about the critical work you are doing for Indian Country and how the administration is harming our tribal communities. If you or someone you know has a story to share, go to the [FISE website](#) and [fill out this form](#)! Can we count on you to spread the word?

Indian Country and federal workforce...in the news

- [Opinion: Establish Haskell Indian Nations University by federal charter](#). Robert Odawi Porter, a former president of the Seneca Nation who taught at Haskell University from 1995-2002, writes in support of establishing Haskell University as an independent entity under a federal charter.
- [Tribal leaders step up opposition to federal budget cuts, worry about financial pressure on Indian Country and gaming](#). In the proposed budget of the Trump Administration, Indian Gaming Association (IGA) Executive Director Brian Giles said the cuts in the Trump Administration's proposed budget are severe and deep, with tribal education and health care funding among those items at risk.
- [House Committee Approves \\$8.4B for Indian Health Service, Including Advance Appropriations for 2027](#). The House Appropriations Committee last week passed the Fiscal Year 2026 appropriations bill for Interior, Environment and Related Agencies. Included in the \$8.41 billion earmarked for IHS is \$6.05 billion in advance appropriations for FY 2027.

You are receiving this update at your personal email address as a member of the FISE bargaining unit. Federal workers and our unions under attack by this anti-worker administration, and FISE is adapting to the changing national landscape. **We can not sit on the sidelines.**

If members you work with are NOT receiving this communication, please encourage them to email Jackie Spencer to give her their personal email address. JSpencer@fise-aft.org We strengthen our union work by expanding our solidarity, and organizing a strong membership across the country, in the 26 states where our members work and live.

Please contact us in Albuquerque with questions or concerns. We will continue to update our website with news and will email you regularly as things unfold.

In Solidarity,

Sue Parton, FISE President

Jim Gertner, FISE Secretary Treasurer

Christina Bennett, FISE BIA Representative

Cameron Johnson, FISE BIE Representative

Federation of Indian Service Employees

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