

WORLD INDIGENOUS BUSINESS FORUM 2026



OCTOBER 26-28, 2026

RBC CONVENTION CENTRE
375 YORK AVENUE

WINNIPEG, MANITOBA, CANADA

REGISTRATION

WWW.WIBF.CA

**PANEL
SPEAKER**

CHRIS JAMES

President & CEO, The National Center for American
Indian Enterprise Development
United States of America



INDIGENOUS
LEADERSHIP
DEVELOPMENT
INSTITUTE INC.



WINNIPEG
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM

CHRIS JAMES



Chris James has served as President and CEO of The National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development since 2017. During his tenure, he has doubled The National Center's revenue, expanded procurement and training programs throughout the country, and significantly expanded the organization's premier event, the Reservation Economic Summit (RES). He also leads The National Center's advocacy work, coordinating with allies and tribal governments to advance policy changes that support access to capital and resources for tribes, tribally owned businesses, and Indigenous entrepreneurs.

Prior to his work with The National Center, Chris served as Associate Administrator at the U.S. Small Business Administration and as an Associate Program Manager at the U.S. Department of the Treasury. He also worked for the Sequoyah Fund, the Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) for the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians. Chris grew up in Cherokee, North Carolina, the home of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians.