

NWF- ECO CAREERS CONFERENCE
APRIL 2, 2020 (MY BIRTHDAY 😊)

APRIL TAYLOR

TRIBAL LIAISON



SOUTH CENTRAL
CLIMATE ADAPTATION SCIENCE CENTER

April Taylor- About Me

- **Chickasaw Citizen**
- **Family tradition of Native American grafted pecans**
- **Bachelor of Science (B.S.) Texas A&M University in Marine Science**
- **Undergraduate Research Scholar/ Undergraduate Thesis**
Taylor, April. “An Investigation of Sediment Transport behind the Texas City Dike,” 17-Sep-2007.
<http://handle.tamu.edu/1969.1/5725>
- **Texas Coastal Geology- Consulting**



- **Non-traditional way of getting in to grad school and funding**
- **S.C. Geological Survey (in state tuition)**
- **T.A. in Geology 101 labs and Marine Biology 102 labs**
- **Masters in Earth and Environmental Resource Management (M.E.E.R.M) from University of South Carolina**
 - **Thesis: Taylor, April. “Improving Wetland Mitigation In The Coastal Plain Of South Carolina With The Watershed Planning And Mitigation Banking Aspects Of The New Mitigation Rule,” April-2012.**
- **Getting my job at the South Central Climate Adaptation Science Center**



My Position

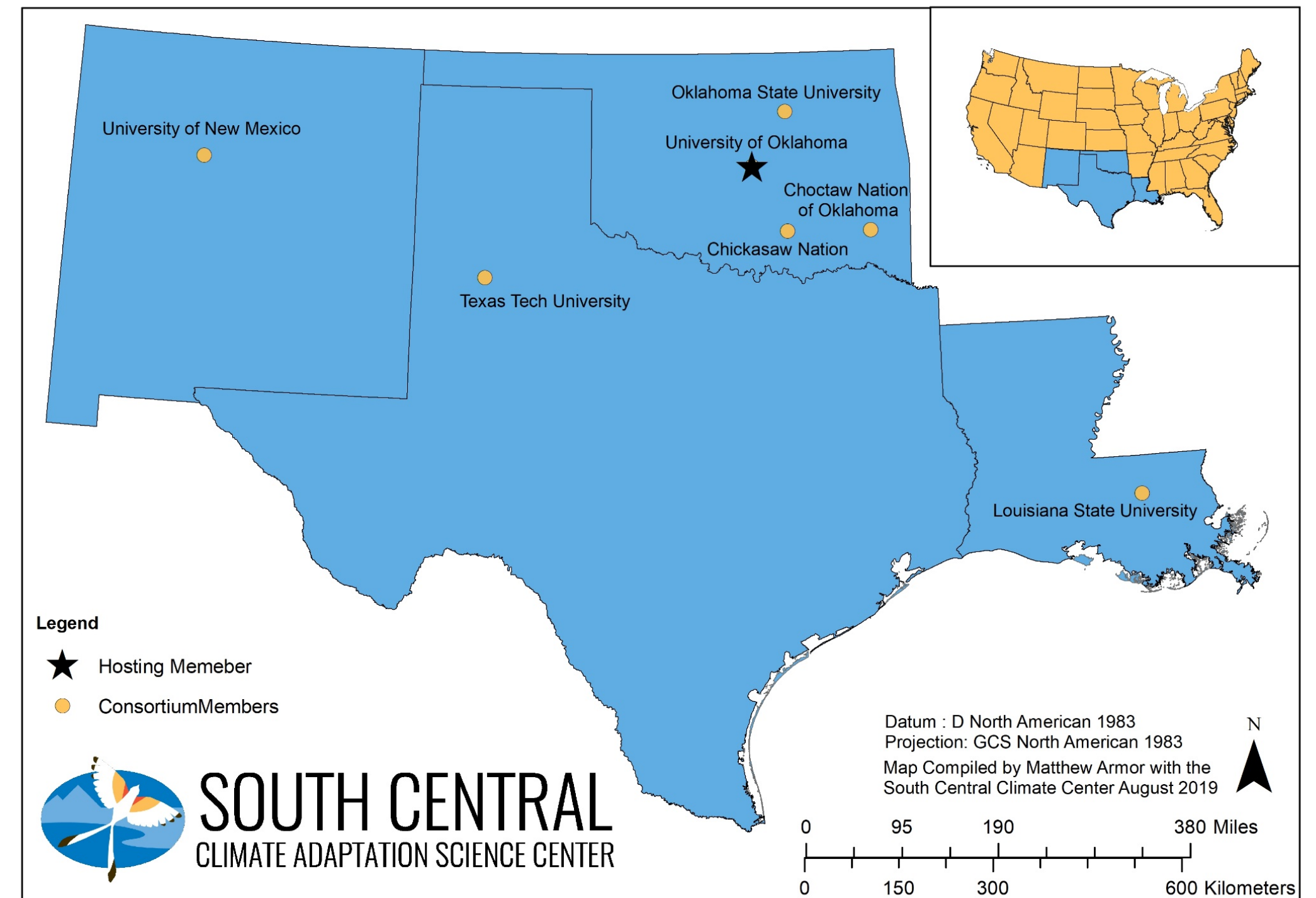
- Facilitate building relationships between tribes and the South Central Climate Adaptation Science Center (i.e. OK, TX, NM, and LA)
- Matchmaking tribal staff and climate researchers
- Aiding in the translation and communication of climate science to tribal staff
- Building tribal capacity and providing training for tribal staff for vulnerability assessments and climate adaptation planning



South Central CASC

Established in 2012, the South Central Climate Adaptation Science Center provides natural and cultural resource managers with the science, tools, and information they need to address the impacts of climate variability and change on their areas of responsibility.

South Central Climate Adaptation Science Center & Consortium Members





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NATIVE YOUTH OUTREACH EXAMPLE

- 2019 Native Youth Community Adaptation and Leadership Congress
- Over 100 Native high schoolers
- Over 12 Federal agency partners
- SC CASC supported six people to attend NYCALC 2019. This included two Chickasaw employees (April Taylor and Kylie Arter), two SC CASC employees (Maurice Cruz and Gabriel Pelayo), an intern from the Bureau of Indian Affairs (Tyler Delmedico), and a SC CASC sponsored Speaker (Devon Parfait).



TRAINING EXAMPLE

Climate Workshop for Tribes Chickasaw Nation | May 9-10, 2019 Carl Albert Service Center, Ada OK

The Chickasaw Nation hosted a Climate Workshop Training event on May 9-10, 2019, at the Carl Albert Service Center.

There were 32 Chickasaw Nation employees in attendance from many different departments, including Environmental, Cultural Resources, Education, Horticulture, Communications, Natural Resources, and Risk Management and Insurance Operations.



RECIPIENT OF 2015 ENVIRONMENTAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FROM U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

- Climate Science and Partnerships – Increasing Tribal Capacity for Climate Change Adaptation
 - for building capabilities of Indigenous Peoples to adapt to climate change



SUCCESS STORY – BIA EXPANDS LIAISONS

- New DOI Bureau of Indian Affairs Liaisons at CASCs
 - In Year 3 (of South Central CASC), BIA Climate Program at DOI Headquarters decided to place liaisons at other CASCs
 - Cooperative agreements with intertribal organizations
 - In Years 5 & 6, new BIA liaisons hired & located at CASCs
 - In Year 6, BIA provided funding for NM liaison at South Central CSC



SC CASC TRIBAL ENGAGEMENT ROLES

- Provide climate data or technical assistance
- Climate Related Trainings
- Youth Outreach
- Mentor Native Students
- Tribal Climate Meeting Opportunities
- Help Identify Funding Resources
- Partners for projects (sometimes us written in proposals)

= all for free!



DAY IN THE LIFE OF A TRIBAL LIAISON

- Emails and calls with tribal staff
- Lots of traveling to tribal professional meetings and tribal locations
 - Speaking on climate data or approaches to planning
- Lots of developing trainings and meetings to build tribal capacity
- Coaching Research Ethics
- Lots of grant reporting and tracking

EARTH TO SKY WORKSHOP SOUTH CENTRAL REGION

Earth to Sky (ETS) is a partnership between NASA, NPS, and USFWS that enables and encourages informal educators to access and use relevant NASA science, data, and educational and outreach products in their work. The partnership's focus is on climate change science and communication. Learn more here: <https://www.earthtosky.org/>

DESCRIPTION

Join us for three days of training with native informal educators from across the South Central region who recognize the importance of teaching climate change. This workshop will be packed with interesting topics and fun activities for you to bring back to your community. The following is a sneak peak into what exciting experiences this workshop offers:

- NASA Arctic and Earth Signs Training
- NASA Living Landscape Project
- Shar-A-Thon of Youth Activities
- Field Trip to Chickasaw National Recreational Area
- And Many More!

The participants will apply as teams with two options:

- Option 1: Tribal environmental educators/ outreach staff and tribal education staff
- Option 2: Tribal environmental educators/ outreach staff and DOI education staff

WHEN AND WHERE

The workshop will take place July 15-17, at the Chickasaw Retreat and Conference Center in Sulphur, OK.

Address: 4205 Goddard Youth Camp Rd., Sulphur, OK 73086

REGISTRATION AND TRAVEL SUPPORT

Travel support will be available! Follow this link to apply: <https://bit.ly/2wQwJSp>

If you have any questions, email April.Taylor@chickasaw.net



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EARTH TO SKY



Landsat 8 image courtesy of the U.S. Geological Survey.



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ADVICE FOR THOSE INTERESTED IN JOINING US:

- Go to grad school (i.e. physical or social sciences or communications)
- May need cultural sensitivity training and awareness of tribal research ethics and tribal sovereignty/ trust responsibilities
- Have the will to want to do something significant for tribal communities and want to work with vulnerable communities
- Be optimistic and willing to commit long term or entire career
- Self care goes a long way in creating work life balance in what can be a challenging/ politically charged field (i.e. avoid burnout)



QUESTIONS?

April Taylor (April.Taylor@Chickasaw.net)



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