



**Job Description**  
**Thinking Zinc — *Béésh Doot'izh Bantsáhákees***

**SRIC Community Liaison**  
**in Blue Gap-Tachee, Tselani-Cottonwood and Black Mesa Chapters**

**December 2018**

**Closing Date: COB Friday January 18, 2019**

Southwest Research and Information Center (SRIC), a partner in the University of New Mexico (UNM) METALS Superfund Research program (SRP) (Johnnye L. Lewis, Ph.D., director, and Matthew Campen, Ph.D., co-director), seeks a part-time **Community Liaison (CL)** to assist in the implementation of a pilot study to assess whether taking the daily recommended amount of zinc may help reverse the harmful effects of exposure to uranium, arsenic and other metals. METALS stands for Metals Exposure and Toxicity Assessment on tribal Lands in the Southwest.

Thinking Zinc, or ***Béésh Doot'izh Bantsáhákees*** in the Navajo language, will be implemented principally in Blue Gap-Tachee Chapter and also in parts of Tselani-Cottonwood and Black Mesa chapters where 20 abandoned uranium mines and several contaminated water sources pose risks to human health risk from long-term exposure. The study will involve recruiting and enrolling individuals who meet the eligibility requirements of the study and assisting in the administration of zinc tablets to enrolled individuals over a 9-month period in 2019 and 2020.

This is a **temporary position**, beginning in January 2019 and ending around June 30, 2020. It will require between **10 and 15 hours of work per week, and in some cases, between 15 and 30 hours per week**. The CL will work with SRIC supervisors to develop a mutually agreed work schedule. Some weekend work may be required.

Principal location of the work will in the Blue Gap-Tachee area of the Chinle Agency of the Navajo Nation. Occasional travel to SRIC and UNM offices in Albuquerque, NM will be required for training and other purposes.

Minimum qualifications for this position are:

- High school degree or GED
- Pass background check
- At least two (2) references not within your immediate family
- Valid driver's license and proof of vehicle insurance
- Personal vehicle available to travel to and from the job site in the local community
- Proficiency in Navajo language
- Access to and use of cell phone, home phone or office phone
- Ability to work independently with little direct supervision from supervisory staff
- Demonstrated written communication skills by providing at least two examples of written work

- Demonstrated competencies in using computers for word processing and powerpoint presentations
- Navajo Nation member or resident of the Blue Gap-Tachee/Cottonwood/Black Mesa communities of the Navajo Nation
- Interest in pursuing training and education in biomedical sciences or environmental health

Preferred qualifications for this position include fluency in the Navajo language, familiarity with Navajo cultural practices, successful completion of college courses in environmental and/or biomedical sciences, and demonstrated ability to communicate in writing and through public speaking. An undergraduate degree from an accredited university is an additional preferred qualification.

Specific duties of the CL will include:

- Working from an approved and mandatory schedule with, and under the supervision of, UNM and SRIC staff implementing Thinking Zinc
- Completing human subjects protections trainings and other certifications to be qualified to conduct research involving human beings
- Working with other SRIC staff to develop an outreach and recruitment strategy to enroll 50 individuals living in the study area who are between the ages of 21 and 64
- Administer informed consent to prospective participants to ensure they understanding the risks and benefits of participating in the study and their obligations over a 9- to 10-month period
- Maintain contact with participants to ensure they attend community events at which blood and urine samples will be collected from participants and zinc tablets distributed
- Assist as needed with report-backs to provide community members updates on the study
- Act as a representative of the UNM METALS SRP in community meetings, at Navajo Nation Council committee meetings, and with relevant tribal and federal agencies.

Salary is commensurate with education and experience. Benefits are available for part-time employees, subject to conditions.

Interested candidates should provide a letter of interest, résumé, writing samples and at least two references by mail to SRIC/CL, P.O. Box 4524, Albuquerque, NM 87196, or by email to [sric.chris@gmail.com](mailto:sric.chris@gmail.com) by COB Friday, January 18, 2019,