

Arizona

Keisha Tatem

State Conservationist Since September 2011



Keisha Tatem is the NRCS Arizona state conservationist, headquartered in Phoenix, Arizona.

Tatem began her professional NRCS career as a soil conservationist student trainee in 1995. She spent over 10 years working directly with farmers and ranchers as a soil conservationist and district conservationist in Virginia and Florida.

Prior to being selected state conservationist, Tatem served as assistant state conservationist for field operations in southeastern Pennsylvania, acting state conservationist in South Carolina, and natural resources specialist (policy analyst) with the Environmental Quality Incentives Program team in NRCS's national headquarters in Washington, D.C. She also worked two years as a policy analyst with the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

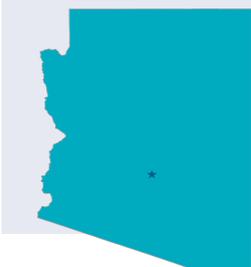
Tatem has worked on several national projects to improve agency operations and program delivery. She has assumed many collateral duties serving on the Chief's Advisory Council, Workforce Planning Advisory Team, Hiring Strategy Task Force, and Chair of the West Technical Center Advisory Committee.

Tatem has volunteered for multiple detail assignments during her tenure as state conservationist. In 2017, she served as the Northeast Region regional conservationist and special assistant to the Chief, assisting with reorganization efforts for the newly formed Farm Production and Conservation mission area. Most recently, she served as the acting director of Policy and Program Analysis Division in the Management and Strategy Deputy Area.

She has earned numerous honors and awards, including the Phoenix Business Journal 40 Under 40 Leaders of the Valley in 2014 and the Unsung Hero Award for Environmental Sustainability from the Governor's Commission for African-American Affairs in 2015. In 2023, the Arizona Association of Conservation Districts bestowed their coveted Good Hand Award to Tatem.

Tatem holds a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture with a concentration in plant and soil science from Virginia State University.

She and her husband Roy make their home in Chandler, Arizona, with their nieces Tamia, Bryanna, and Jordan, and the loving memory of their daughter Madison.



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