

# First Kids 1<sup>st</sup> Newsletter

August-September 2015

Edition 4

We're excited to share the positive work of tribal nations and communities, Native families and organizations, and the Administration that empowers our youth to thrive. In partnership with the My Brother's Keeper, Generation Indigenous ("Gen-I"), and First Kids 1<sup>st</sup> Initiatives, please join our First Kids 1<sup>st</sup> community and share your stories and best practices that are creating a positive impact for Native youth.

To highlight your stories in future newsletters, send your information to [firstkids@ncai.org](mailto:firstkids@ncai.org).

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# YOUTH HIGHLIGHTS

## Sault Ste. Marie Celebrates Youth Council’s 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

On September 18 and 19, the Sault Ste. Marie Tribal Youth Council (TYC) 20-Year Anniversary Mini Conference & Celebration was held at the Kewadin Casino & Convention Center. It was a huge success with approximately 40 youth attending from across the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians service area. For the past 20 years, tribal youth grades 8-12 have taken on Childhood Obesity, Suicide and Bullying Prevention, Drug Abuse, and Domestic Violence in their communities. The Youth Council has produced PSAs, workshops, and presentations that have been done on local, tribal, state, and national levels and also hold the annual Bike the Sites event, a 47-mile bicycle ride to raise awareness on Childhood Obesity and its effects. TYC alumni provided testimony on their experiences with the youth council and how TYC has helped them in their walk in life. The celebration continued during the evening with approximately 100 community members expressing their support during the potluck feast and drum social held at the Sault Tribe’s Culture Building. Over the last 20 years, youth and adults have created a safe place for youth to explore and embrace their traditions and culture, to confidently take their place among their peers, and to find their footing as leaders in their communities. As children of the first TYC members are coming of age to be TYC members themselves, the next 20 years of youth leadership has never looked brighter.



## Ho-Chunk Nation Youth Council Hosts Suicide Prevention Conference

The Pac Haci Youth Council of the Ho-Chunk Nation – and respective collaborative partners – organized and hosted its “Prevent Suicide Conference” at the Northcentral Technical College in Wausau, Wisconsin September 18-20. Formed in 2011, the Pac Haci Youth Council is driven to combat suicide rates through public education and outreach and have cultivated a number of positive efforts such as establishing a suicide task force within the local

high school, serving as mentors to younger students, running marathons and raising funds to make the most recent conference free to all attendees.

Pac Haci Youth Council President, Aliyah Cloud, reflects on the Prevent Suicide Conference:

*My name is Aliyah Cloud. I am a 17 year old senior at Wittenberg-Birnamwood High School. I am the current Pac Haci Youth Council President. When I began attending youth council meetings they were talking about youth suicide prevention and I was intrigued by the openness of this topic discussion. I wanted to help, so I volunteered to do research for the Prevent Suicide Conference. In researching for the conference I learned how many people out there are trying to make a difference, but I also noticed that many of these programs were adult-run and saw very little from a youth's perspective let alone a Native American's perspective. This helped me see how important what we were trying to do truly was.*

*To help raise funds for the Prevent Suicide Conference, I sold baked goods at my high school as well as selling a lot of raffle tickets for blankets, baskets, beaded earrings, brewer's tickets, and whatever else was donated by our local community members. We also held two silent painted chair auctions. Both chair auctions raised nearly \$7,500 that went straight towards the cost of the conference since we wanted to make sure this could be a free event to all who attended. The Pac Haci Youth Council worked together with our advisors, which include youth services staff, a behavioral health clinician and family services life skills coordinator to assist in utilizing positive coping skills in our fundraising efforts. This also brought awareness to our families and communities by showing them how much we were willing to do for ourselves.*

*At the Conference, Dr. Don Bartlette immediately had everyone's attention with his captivating story. His story made everyone emotional, but was very inspiring and motivational. Some of the other keynote speakers were Dr. Iris PrettyPaint and Waylon Pahona. Dr. Iris PrettyPaint talked about suicide specifically and discussed the correct, people-sensitive terms and phrases regarding suicide. Waylon Pahona talked about leadership and why it's important to have young leaders in our communities. He also told his life story, talked about his family and how he became the person he is now. Some of the workshops involved domestic violence, AODA, QPR, and understanding mental health. After the workshops ended we finished the conference by running the Fox Cities Relay Marathon in Appleton, Wisconsin. We had 7 teams running for suicide prevention, which was our positive way to continue spreading our message.*

*I gained enough knowledge from the conference that I feel confident enough to pass on what I now know to others. I also learned a lot from the other youth that attended the conference: the Gila River youth group from Arizona, LCO and Menominee Nation youth. The research I've done, positive coping skills learned and the conference itself has helped give me a better understanding of how to stay positive and focused on what I want for my future as well as the knowledge to possibly save a life.*



Left to Right: Aliyah Cloud (Pac Haci Youth Council President), Dr. Don Bartlette, Dr. Iris PrettyPaint, Waylon Pahona and Lauren WhiteEagle (Pac Haci Youth Council Secretary).

## Boys & Girls Club Opens on the Colville Reservation

In May, The Boys and Girls Club of Snohomish County partnered with the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation to open a new Club within the Inchelium community, located on the Colville Reservation in northeast Washington State. The new Club features an exceptional amount of resources for honing important life skills and developing new interests and hobbies including a gymnasium, game room, computer lab and a multi-purpose room. The Boys & Girls Club of Inchelium becomes the second Native American Boys & Girls Club in Washington State.



For more information on the Inchelium Club, click [here](#).

## Grant Provides School Supplies for 800 Native Students in Milwaukee

The Milwaukee Indian Education Committee, a local nonprofit, held their annual school supply drive on August 5, 2015 in Milwaukee, WI. In years past, the committee managed a steady \$2,000 budget used for school supplies, food and clothing and future drives. This year, the Potawatomi Foundation – established by the Potawatomi tribe to assist charitable organizations, among other objectives – granted the committee \$20,000 that will directly contribute to 800 Native students' education.



For the full story, click [here](#). To learn more about the Potawatomi Foundation, visit [here](#).



## Tule River Tribe Opens Own School

The Tule River Tribe of California opened its very own culturally and linguistically based school, the Towantis School, at the start of the 2015-16 school year. The Towantis School currently has 37 enrolled students grades K-3, with overall goals of students outperforming their public school peers in reading, math and English and expanding to more grades in the future. To visit the Tule River Tribe Education Department webpage, click [here](#).



## Northern Cheyenne's Chief Dull Knife College Hosts 18th Annual Language Immersion Camp

On July 31, Chief Dull Knife College (CDKC) of the Northern Cheyenne Reservation in southeast Montana concluded its 2015 Cheyenne Language Immersion Camp. The camp, which has been held each summer for the past 18 years, included two

weeklong sessions with 20 students each – one for students ages 5-10 and the other for students 11-18. Throughout the week students were only spoken to in the Cheyenne language, while being exposed to an array of traditional ceremonies and practices, including proper use of tobacco and preparation of clothes for prayer; smudging; an introduction to drumming, singing, and beadwork; conducting a water ceremony after field-tripping to a local lake; and indulging in drymeat and chokecherry pudding. Tribal leaders were pleased with the youth turnout, but also stated the need for more male participants – and role models – in the future. The future is especially notable for Native language immersion efforts as the State of Montana recently passed a law in May of this year to continue supporting such efforts, backed by additional funding.

To learn more about CDKC, visit [here](#). To learn more about MT's language immersion law, click [here](#).

## Osage High School Students Receive Community College Credits, Hold Immersion Classes for Children

The Osage Nation Education Department in Hominy, Oklahoma partnered with Tulsa Community College (TCC) to host college classes for high school students and community members. The partnership began three years ago, and this year's August enrollment grew to 70 students. High school juniors and seniors from Pawhuska, Hominy, Woodland, Barnsdall, Cleveland and Wynona receive basic college credits for \$36.75 a class, and are also eligible for scholarships to assist with class and book costs. This is a huge cost savings to the parents and a wonderful opportunity for the students to begin their college careers. Many of the students attending are leaders at their schools, including class valedictorians and salutatorians. To participate, juniors must possess a 3.5 grade point average and seniors must have a 3.0, and both groups must complete the ACT with minimum scores of 19 in each subject area.



The Osage Nation also held inaugural immersion classes on August 17, 2015 for 18 children ages Infant – 4 years. Staff from the Osage Nation Language Department utilized age-appropriate words, commands and praises and also incorporated music to increase the kids' participation and understanding of the Osage language. Parents of the immersion students are also involved in their child's language

development, joining evening classes and participating in a once a month language activity workshop as well as sharing the language at home. The Osage Nation is sending a message to its people that language acquisition begins with the youngest and can continue to the oldest, it just needs to begin!

## Morongo Band Awards \$40,000 in Scholarships

On August 3, 2015 the Morongo Band of Mission Indians awarded 4 Native students the Rodney T. Mathews, Jr. Scholarship – named in honor of a Morongo Band member who served for more than a decade as a tribal judge. The scholarship is open to any student enrolled in a federally recognized California tribe, and provides each student \$10,000 to continue their education. Below are the recipients and their remarks:



**Ish-Kaysh Tripp**

*Yurok Tribe and Karuk Tribe  
Humboldt State*

Major: Environmental Resources  
Minor: Native American Studies

“Growing up in ceremony, I have come to love my peoples’ traditions. With the right education, I can help them flourish. I very much appreciate the Morongo Band of Mission Indians’ investment in my college education and career goals, and I look forward to giving back to California tribal communities.”

**Shanice Britton**

*Round Valley Indian Tribes  
UC Davis*

Major: Biological Science

“From a young age, I decided that I would graduate from college despite any obstacles, but paying for college has been the most difficult obstacle to overcome. Fortunately, the generous scholarship support from the Morongo tribe has given me the opportunity to continue my education. I will continue to work hard toward my degree and return home and help my tribal community.”

**Shayna McCullough**

*Yurok Tribe  
Humboldt State*

Major: Social Work  
Minor: Indian Education

“Morongo has not only helped me but also my family, my tribe and my tribal communities.”

**Cara Owings**

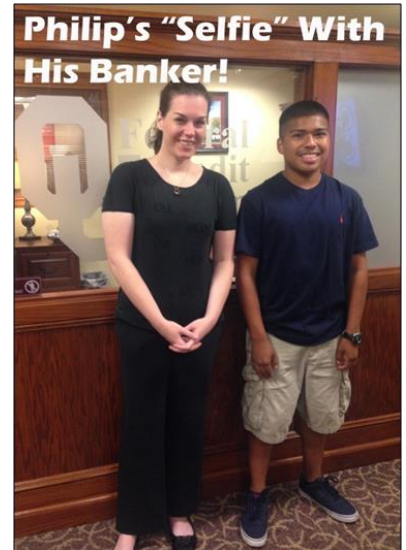
*Tolowa Dee-Ni’ Nation  
Humboldt State  
Pursuing MBA*

“The continued support from the Morongo Band of Mission Indians throughout my academic journey has provided me with the energy and encouragement that I needed to continue on with my education.”

## NAT\$VE in the BANK Youth Spotlights

Building on its First Kids 1<sup>st</sup> initiative and its work advancing Generation Indigenous (Gen-I), the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) has joined forces with the Native Financial Education Coalition (NFEC) to launch NAT\$VE in the BANK. Native youth building relationships with financial institutions by **opening a bank account** is a proven difference-maker in them making smart financial decisions over the course of their lives.

Each month, NCAI and NFEC will cast a spotlight on a Native youth who has answered the NAT\$VE in the BANK call. For August and September, we spotlight Philip Douglas, a 15-year-old citizen of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma who lives in Norman, Oklahoma; and Harmani Wilson, a citizen of the Oglala Sioux Tribe and high school senior who lives in Henderson, Nevada. (Both pictured at right).



### Why did you decide to answer the NAT\$VE in the BANK call?

**Philip Douglas (PD):** "I heard about the program during a Generation Indigenous Youth Ambassador conference call, and I thought that it was a good idea for Native youth to learn about financial responsibility."

**Harmani Wilson (HW):** "I saw the ad for NAT\$VE in the BANK when my mom sent it to my Facebook wall and I said, 'Why not give it a try?' It was pretty easy to understand and do. I am happy I did it because I learned a lot from it. My mom talked about keeping our money secure and opened an account for me."



### What was the most interesting/eye-opening part about opening an account?

**PD:** "I like the idea of having a safe place to put my money where no else can spend it unless I say so. I received \$600 from my tribe, the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma, a few months ago and I got out \$100 for school clothes and another \$100 for my trip to attend the White House Tribal Youth Gathering and UNITY Conference in Washington, D.C. this past July. I still have \$400 in my bank account."

**HW:** "The most eye-opening thing about opening a bank account is how much easier I can control my money without losing it or it being stolen by my siblings! Ha ha! It was amazing how much money I was saving by putting it in the bank because I was not spending it like I would if I had cash in my pocket. It helped me budget better and I was able to save up for items I really wanted, and I learned that I can take my time and don't need to buy things immediately."

### What are your financial goals in life and how do you plan to achieve them?

**PD:** "I want to be able to buy my own house and buy a car of my choice as an adult. I plan on getting these things by getting a college education and having a good job that pays me enough so I could pay all my bills and put the rest in a savings account."

**HW:** "One of my goals is to open a savings account and save enough money to get my own place when I am older. How I am going to get there is to deposit \$150 every month out of my paycheck. This is just a starting point while I am in high school. I know that things cost, and learning that I need to be

responsible for how I spend my money in the end is my choice. I always hear people say, 'If only I had this much I could do this,' then they go out and eat an expensive dinner or go buy a Starbucks coffee. Sometimes I see them even buy things that they don't really need but just want. Eventually, I want to stay debt free and still be able to live the life I want through savings."

### How are you going to get your friends to answer the NAT\$VE in the BANK call?

**PD:** "Any time my friends are talking about their finances and projects outside of school, I'll mention this program because it will teach them how to be smart with their money. Thank you to NCAI for the opportunity!"

**HW:** "I have been sharing that it was pretty easy and had fun learning modules. They were interesting and made me think about what I do with my own money. I think that most kids think it is not really important how they think about money so I am telling them to do it so we can get the shirts and maybe win an iPad or even the trip. My siblings are planning on doing it too soon. Maybe I could host a party or something with kids I know."



## First Alaskans Institute's 2015 Elders & Youth Conference

The 2015 Elders & Youth Conference, October 12-14, creates time and space for the transfer of knowledge between Alaska Native Elders and youth to empower the advancement of Native peoples. The conference, "Not in Our Smokehouse!," is expected to gather approximately 1,000 elders and youth in promoting understanding of the issues and challenges of the times, while utilizing Native relationships, values, and Native knowledge along with other knowledge systems. The theme was born from the youth of a local village using the term while playing on the school grounds – the young but keen observation of not only what is important to Native peoples, but also of the ingrained responsibility indigenous peoples have to protect their homelands and Ways of Life.



## Madeline Sayet Directs NY Theatre Festival Production

Madeline Sayet, a member of the Mohegan Tribe, directed a theatre opera production for the esteemed Glimmerglass Festival in Cooperstown, New York. *The Magic Flute* occurred 12 times between July 10 and August 23, 2015, and New York Times critics suggest the production gave audiences an "American Indian sensibility" and "magical" quality. Sayet, who was one of the first Native youth to receive the White House's Champion of Change Award in 2011, is the resident artistic director





at American Indian Artists, Inc. in New York, NY – an organization dedicated to the empowerment of Native artists and promotion of intercultural understanding of Native culture.

To learn more about the production as told by Madeline Sayet, click [here](#). To learn more about American Indian Artists, Inc., visit [here](#).

## National Indian Child Welfare Association (NICWA) Update

### **Establishing federal data and accountability for Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) implementation**

The Indian Child Welfare Act is almost 36 years old and continues to provide the most significant protections for AI/AN children and their families from biased or unnecessary removal from their homes due to child abuse and neglect allegations. Several states still have disproportionate numbers of AI/AN children in care that go as high as 12 times their population rate. The Department of Health and Human Services Secretary’s Tribal Advisory Committee (STAC) with NICWA’s assistance has been advocating for the establishment of new data elements in the existing Automated Foster Care and Adoption Reporting System (AFCARS) that would track how tribal children are doing in state child welfare systems. This would fill a major gap in information that has existed since the passage of the Indian Child Welfare Act that has been a barrier in holding both states and federal agencies accountable for ICWA implementation. NICWA has also been supporting tribal leaders on the STAC to ensure that DHHS completes a federal report for dissemination to tribes that details how states are doing in meeting federal requirements to consult with tribes on how they will meet ICWA requirements in their state. NICWA will continue to have an active presence at STAC in coordination with tribal leadership to identify new opportunities to support the well-being of AI/AN children.



**NICWA**

## ADMINISTRATION UPDATES

### Department of Commerce Secretary Penny Pritzker Visits Youth in Bay Mills Indian Community

U.S. Secretary of the Department of Commerce (DOC), Penny Pritzker, visited the Upper Peninsula of Michigan and sat down with a group of Native youth students at Bay Mills Community College on July 31, 2015. Secretary Pritzker expressed the support and commitment from both the DOC and Obama Administration for “tribes & Native-owned businesses to diversify their economies, attract investment, and inspire a new generation of entrepreneurs.” The Native Tribes Roundtable discussed DOC programs and services readily available to Indian Country to jumpstart and sustain economic growth and opportunity.



For more on Secretary Pritzker’s visit, click [here](#).

### \$5.3 Million Awarded to Several Communities by U.S. Departments of Education & Interior

On Thursday, September 24, U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan and U.S. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewel announced that \$5.3 million in grants will be awarded to a dozen Native communities across Indian Country. The funding is part of President Obama’s commitment to improving the lives of American Indian and Alaska Native youth through the Generation Indigenous (Gen-I) initiative. The funding is intended to support coordinated, focused partnership approaches between schools, tribes and other organizations to help Native Youth become college and career ready using culturally appropriate, community specific objectives. In total, the grants will affect over thirty tribes and forty-eight schools.

For a list of recipients, click [here](#).

### Department of Interior Transfers \$10 million to Cobell Education Scholarship Fund

On Thursday, October 1, the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) transferred \$10 million to the Cobell Education Scholarship Fund, bringing the total amount contributed to nearly \$30 million. Funded in part by the Land Buy-Back Program for Tribal Nations (Buy-Back Program), and authorized by the *Cobell* Settlement, the Fund is designed to be a permanent endowment which provides financial assistance through scholarships to American Indian and Alaska Native students wishing to pursue post-secondary and graduate education and training. The scholarships are administered through the American Indian

Graduate Center (AIGC), and will disburse approximately \$2 million in funds in its first round of awards over the next several months. Scholarship recipients represent more than 80 tribal nations who will be attending more than 175 different academic institutions. The Cobell Board of Trustees is responsible for the oversight and supervision of the activities of the fund’s administering organization.

For more information on the scholarship fund, click [here](#).

## Gen-I Native Youth Challenge

As part of [Generation Indigenous \(Gen-I\)](#), the White House is calling on Native American youth ages 14-24 to get engaged and address community issues through the [Gen-I Youth Challenge](#). By taking the Challenge, youth pledge to do something positive of their choosing (for example: starting a community garden; hosting a culture night; or becoming a mentor to a younger person) and sharing back what they did with the [Center for Native American Youth](#). Youth who take the Challenge will be eligible to participate in events in DC this fall/winter. To take the Challenge, click [here](#).

Organizations, colleges, universities, as well as tribal colleges and universities can take the Gen-I Challenge too by committing to help their youth and students complete the Gen-I Challenge! Just follow [this link](#) to get signed up!

### The following organizations have already committed to take the Gen-I Challenge:

- [American Indian College Fund](#)
- [American Indian Higher Education Consortium](#)
- [Boys and Girls Club of America](#)
- [Center for Native American Youth at the Aspen Institute](#)
- [First Nations Development Institute](#)
- [National American Indian Education Association](#)
- [National Congress of American Indians](#)
- [National Indian Child Welfare Association](#)
- [National Indian Health Board](#)
- [United National Indian Tribal Youth](#)

## Gen-I Tribal Leaders Challenge

During NCAI’s 2015 Executive Council Winter Session, the administration announced the latest installment of the Gen-I Initiative with the [Gen-I Tribal Leaders Challenge](#). The White House is inviting tribal leaders to take concrete steps to engage with Native youth in their communities, including: working with or creating a youth council; hosting a joint meeting between youth and tribal leaders; and partnering with youth to plan a program to support positive change in their community.

### The following tribes have already accepted the Gen-I Tribal Leaders Challenge:

- |  |                                    |
|--|------------------------------------|
| • Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians                       | • Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes      |
| • Aroostook Band of Micmacs                                    | • Coeur d’Alene Tribe              |
| • Cedarville Band of Piscataway Indians                        | • Crow Tribe                       |
| • Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska | • Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians |
|  | • Gila River Indian Community      |

- Ho-Chunk Nation of Wisconsin
- Lummi Nation
- Mashpee Wampanoag
- Native Village of Afognak
- Navajo Nation
- Nez Perce Tribe
- Oneida Tribe of Wisconsin
- Osage Nation
- Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians
- Ponca Tribe of Nebraska
- Puyallup Tribe of Indians
- Round Valley Indian Tribes
- Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians
- Southern Ute Indian Tribe
- Three Affiliated Tribes
- Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians
- Tsimshian/Pawnee
- Tulalip Nation
- White Mountain Apache
- Wilton Rancheria
- Yakama Nation

For more information, such as the Gen-I toolkit, latest news, and other resources, visit [www.genindigenous.com](http://www.genindigenous.com).

## Legislative Updates

### **Native American Children’s Safety Act:**

The Native American Children’s Safety Act was introduced earlier this year in both the Senate and House by Senator John Hoeven (R-ND) and Congressman Kevin Cramer (R-ND). The bill would amend the Indian Child Protection and Family Violence Prevention Act to prohibit the final approval of any foster care placement or a foster care license from being issued until the tribal social services agency: (1) completes a criminal records check of each covered individual who resides in the household or is employed at the institution in which the foster care placement will be made, and (2) concludes that each of those individuals meets the tribe’s standards established pursuant to this Act. The bill would also direct the Department of the Interior to issue guidance regarding procedural implementation and the sharing of best practices.

The Senate passed [S. 184](#) introduced by Senators John Hoeven (R-ND) and Jon Tester (D-MT) in early June. The House wrote its own version in early June as well – [HR. 1168](#) – which was introduced by Congressman Kevin Cramer (R-ND). The two chambers are now currently conferencing the two bills to find a compromise bill for final Congressional action.

### **Alyce Spotted Bear and Walter Soboleff Commission on Native Children Act:**

The Alyce Spotted Bear and Walter Soboleff Commission on Native Children Act ([S. 246](#)) was introduced earlier this year by Senators Heidi Heitkamp (D-ND) and Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) that would establish the Commission in the Office of Tribal Justice of the Department of Justice. The Commission would be comprised of individuals appointed by the President and Congress with significant background experience and expertise in health care issues facing Native children, Indian education, juvenile justice programs, and social service programs used by Native children. The Commission would conduct a

comprehensive study of federal, state, local, and tribal programs that serve Native children by evaluating several components. The Commission would report its findings and recommendations to the President, Congress, and the White House Council on Native American Affairs for legislative and administrative action.

The Senate passed [S. 246](#) in early June and has since been referred to the House Subcommittee on Indian, Insular and Alaska Native Affairs. The House has since introduced a bipartisan companion bill – [H.R. 2751](#) – sponsored by Representatives Betty McCollum (D-MN) and Tom Cole (R-OK).

### **Elementary and Secondary Education Act Reauthorization:**

#### **Senate: S. 1177 – the “Every Child Achieves Act”**

On July 16, 2015 the Senate passed its reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), [S. 1177 - the "Every Child Achieves Act."](#) The bill maintains the Indian Education Title VII with greater flexibility for early childhood education programs and includes a provision added by Senator Al Franken (D-MN) that would establish a Native language immersion grant program within Title VII. During the floor debate a series of additional Native education amendments were voted upon and added to the bill that include: restoration of key Title VII grant programs, enabling of the Bureau of Indian Education to apply for competitive grants (similar to state education agencies), creating a demonstration project and federal grant at the Department of Education for Native language immersion education programs, among others. To learn more on the Native education amendments that were adopted, [visit here](#). The Senate and House are now tasked with going to conference to devise a compromise bill between their respective chamber's versions of the ESEA rewrite.

#### **House of Representatives: H.R. 5 – the “Student Success Act”**

The House of Representatives passed its rewrite - [H.R. 5 - the "Student Success Act."](#) The bill maintains the Indian Education title as "Title V - The Federal Government's Trust Responsibility to American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian Education."

### **Family Stability and Kinship Care Act of 2015**

S.1964, Family Stability and Kinship Care Act of 2015 was introduced August 5, 2015 and looks to improve access to federal funding to support child abuse and neglect prevention services for American Indian and Alaska Native families and children. The federal finance system that supports tribal and state child welfare has been heavily focused on providing funding after children are removed from their families related to child abuse and neglect. Funding to prevent further risk for maltreatment and strengthen families is in short supply. Less than a quarter of the current federal funding supports these preventive services. Senator Wyden (D-OR) understands how this imbalance affects our tribal children, families, and communities and responded by introducing a bill (S. 1964) that would open up existing funding sources to cover these preventive services (Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance) and expand existing sources that already do (Title IV-B Promoting Safe and Stable Families). NICWA worked closely with his staff to develop provisions that would provide direct tribal access to these federal funds

and allow tribes to develop services with the funds that are culturally appropriate for their communities. NICWA developed formal comments on the legislation that you can access by contacting NICWA staff member David Simmons at [desimmon@nicwa.org](mailto:desimmon@nicwa.org).

NCAI will continue monitoring these bills, advocating for tribal priorities, and keep our members updated on developments.

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## SCHOLARSHIPS, ANNOUNCEMENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

### Nike N7 Fund and CNAY Extend Grant Opportunities for Native Youth

As part of their pledge to President Obama’s Gen-I Initiative, Nike’s N7 Fund has partnered with the Center for Native American Youth (CNAY) to extend grants to Native youth who are making strides to better their communities through sport and physical activity. N7 has been a longtime contributor to healthy programs throughout Indian Country, but the recent grant announcement enables Native youth to apply for up to \$10,000 for furthering health and wellness programs and initiatives of their own.



To apply for N7 Fund grants, click [here](#).

### WeRNative Offers Community Service Grants For Native Youth

WeRNative, the all-inclusive health and wellness website made by and for Native youth, is offering Community Service Mini Grants to those ages 13-21 interested in making a positive impact in their community. WeRNative will provide funding and staff to help implement the action plan.



To apply and to learn more about the application process and current and/or past success stories, visit [here](#).

### UNITY, Inc. to Host Native Youth Training in Spokane

The United National Indian Tribal Youth (UNITY) Inc. has partnered with the Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) to host the “Today’s Native Leaders” (TNL) youth leadership and training event. The event will take place November 6-8, 2015 in Spokane, Washington and will include 120 Native youth on a **first-come-first-serve** basis to participate in team-building, action planning and community service activities, while qualifying for the annual National UNITY conference in July, 2016.

For more information and to enroll in the TNL event, click [here](#).

## George Washington Announces Richard M. Milanovich Fellowship



The Richard M. Milanovich Fellowship honors an exceptional Tribal Chairman of 29 years to the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians (California). The fellowship offers qualified Native students an all-expense-paid semester of study at a prestigious institution – The George Washington University (GW) in Washington, D.C. The fellowship is a partnership between the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians and GW. Students enroll in two core classes within the Native American Political Leadership Program (NAPLP) from January 11-April 29, 2016; attend a weeklong seminar consisting of briefings and interactions with key policy makers, advocates, and other community leaders within the nation’s capital; and gain experience and feedback regarding leadership skills. Both undergraduate and graduate students are eligible to apply.

**Priority Deadline:** October 1, 2015; **Final Deadline:** November 1, 2015. To apply for the fellowship, click [here](#). To learn more about GW’s NAPLP, click [here](#).



Native American  
Political Leadership Program

## AmeriCorps Hoopa TCCC Seeking Applicants

As the only tribal residential AmeriCorps program in the United States, the Hoopa Tribal Civilian Community Corps (TCCC) is searching for applicants ages 17-24 to participate in its 1,700-hour (6-9 month) program. The program takes place on the Hoopa Valley Indian Reservation in Northern California, where participants engage in community and life skills development projects with a variety of organizations and agencies including home building with Habitat for Humanity, FEMA disaster missions, environmental work for military veterans and various work with other tribes, to name a few. Participants work in teams of 10-15 and receive a bi-weekly living stipend, free room and board, student loan forbearance, health and child care benefits and an AmeriCorps Education Award of \$5,550 upon completion of the program.



For more information and to apply, click [here](#).

## NIEA to Host 46<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention & Trade Show

The National Indian Education Association (NIEA) will host its 46<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention & Trade Show October 14-17, 2015 in Portland, Oregon. Saturday, October 17 will feature the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual College Fair & Showcase, NIEA’s co-hosted event with College Horizons, where all students are welcomed to meet and hear from representatives on various programs, scholarships and other offers from some of the most prestigious colleges and universities in the country. The day-long College Fair will offer several aspects, tips, and strategies of the college application and financial aid process for students, parents, and educators.



For more information on NIEA's Annual Convention, visit [here](#).

## LEDA Organization Searching for Next 100 Scholars

The Leadership Enterprise for a Diverse America (LEDA) is searching for 100 qualified scholars to attend its free 7-week summer program at Princeton University. The program is designed to empower **high school juniors** who exhibit leadership qualities but may lack the support and exposure necessary to apply to selective colleges. LEDA also provides ongoing support throughout college, all in effort to diversify the leadership pipeline and ensure America's leaders are truly reflective of its citizens.



**Deadline:** December 11, 2015. To apply now, click [here](#). To learn more about the program, click [here](#).

## CNAY 2016 Champions for Change Applications Now Open

The Center for Native American Youth (CNAY) is accepting applications for the 2016 Champions for Change Award. The award is given to young movers and shakers in Indian Country dedicated to making positive and lasting impacts in their communities. Adults, tribal leaders and other youth are also invited to nominate an individual. Once nominated, CNAY will reach out to the respective nominee and encourage them to apply for the award. If selected, youth will participate in a series of recognition events hosted in Washington, DC in late February.

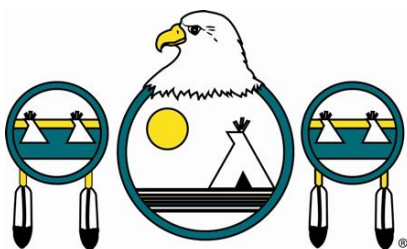


**Deadline:** January 11, 2016. To apply for the Champions for Change award, click [here](#). To nominate someone for the award, click [here](#).

## Cheyenne River Youth Project Seeking Volunteers

The Cheyenne River Youth Project (CRYP) began over 25 years ago in a run-down Main Street bar on the Cheyenne River Reservation in central South Dakota. Since then, it has served as a key service and program provider for community members of all ages, including families and passersby. The non-profit consists of individual teen and youth centers, a café and gift shop, a community garden sustaining the community farmers market, and a year-round Family Services program. CRYP is currently searching for volunteer support to contribute to its remarkable, all-purpose efforts for the remainder of the fall.

If interested in volunteering, email CRYP Executive Director Julie Garreau, [julie.cryp@gmail.com](mailto:julie.cryp@gmail.com). To learn more about the CRYP, visit [here](#).





# More Scholarship, Internship, and Fellowship Opportunities!

Please visit the websites of our partner organizations to learn about more upcoming opportunities:

- [American Indian College Fund](#)
- [Center for Native American Youth](#)
- [National Indian Education Association](#)

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## CALL FOR FUTURE CONTENT

### We'd Like To Help Tell Your Stories!

If you have any content that you or your organization/tribe want to share please send to [firstkids@ncai.org](mailto:firstkids@ncai.org) and we'll be sure to include it in the next issue! Pictures and external links are especially welcome!

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*You have been added to our subscriber list because of your prior involvement with NCAI and/or Native youth issues. If you do not wish to receive this newsletter, please email [firstkids@ncai.org](mailto:firstkids@ncai.org) to be removed from the list.*

