

National UNITY Conference Report

My first impression when I heard about UNITY was, it must be another gathering of nations but for youth who are determined to change the world and not just for their own community and kind. But the world as a whole. UNITY stands for United National Indian Tribal Youth, now please notice the word youth. Youth is considered as a young adult but at a sense there is a reason for having only youth at this conference. For instance, younger generations are set to be our foundations for our future and future generations to come. The purpose of Unity is to address alarming issues that we indigenous people are facing in our everyday lives weather we see or not or weather we act or not. Now during those 5 days or activities and workshops I notice one thing that never changed, was how much pride and love one another shared for being who they are. And that is something you normally don't see every day. Many others would argue which workshops or presentation is the best but for me, the one most I enjoy was the Taiwanese presentation, now I know they are not Native Americans but they indigenous people, indigenous means originating or occurring naturally from a particular place and therefore they indigenous in Taiwan. Reason for this particular activity as being my favorite is how they manage to bring smiles on every one faces with dances and games, now the games part was only for young men's but people were entertain , might I mentioned that I was part of that game and nearly almost fell off the stage, how the game is set is each man was given a stick , about the size you would use to herd sheep, then an individual would toss up a ball of yarn or some sort into the air and you would try to poke it with your stick and you would win if you did, The main reason I enjoyed the Taiwanese presentation is because it showed we not the only indigenous people in the world, you would have people in Africa, Australia, china, Tibet and many more who are indigenous who are in sense suffering with similar issues as us Natives are facing today, issues like cultural genocide, discrimination, property rights, and sovereignty.

And Unity just didn't show the Taiwanese culture but it also shared an idea on how not just one country functions but as how the world functions, how a tiny little leadership can spark an ideal to the rest of the world, meaning how the youth can have a huge impact if they choose to actually stand up and lead their communities to a righteous path. But for that to happen it takes a righteous person. And this is my definition as a righteous person, a righteous person is invincible. No opposer can possibly overcome or confound him or her; and that person needs no other protection than that of his or her own integrity and holiness. As it is impossible for evil to overcome good, so the righteous person can never be brought low by the unrighteous. Slander, envy, hatred, malice can never reach them, nor cause cause them any suffering, and those who try to injure them only succeed ultimately in bringing ignominy upon themselves. The righteous person person having nothing to hide, as they would not like others to know is fearless and unashamed for who they are, their step is firm, their body upright, and their speech direct and without ambiguity. That's the type of person that should lead our communities and that the type of leadership we need. To me that is what Unity was about, shaping our youth to be that righteous person. To walk tall without having to survive but to live.