



2025  
**MIDYEAR**  
FEBRUARY 7 - 9

“DIGITIZE YOUTH VOICES, INSPIRING INDIGENOUS STORIES!”

**#MYUNITY25**

**UNITYINC.ORG**

# SPONSORS/PARTNERS

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

MAJOR SPONSOR:



CHAMPION SPONSOR:

**Bank of America**



PHOTO BOOTH SPONSOR:



ROUND DANCE SPONSOR:



**redw**  
Advisors & CPAs



**TRIBAL**  
Ready™

A Native-owned, controlled and governed company.



ARIZONA  
SCIENCE  
CENTER



GILA RIVER BROADCASTING CORP.



## PARTNER'S INCLUDE:

Mashantucket Pequot Tribe  
Bank of America Charitable Foundation  
Vadon Foundation  
Tribes Forward  
Walmart  
William and Helen Thomas Charitable Trust  
Center for Native American Youth  
First Nations Development Institute  
Cook Native American Ministries Foundation

Seminole Tribe of Florida  
Fund for Shared Insight  
Illuminative  
NCAIED  
Christopher Porcaro  
AISES  
HOKA  
Arizona Science Center  
Skoll Foundation

# CODE OF CONDUCT

I agree to uphold the standards set forth within the following Code of Honor:

- **Maintain and promote a healthy mind, body, and lifestyle.**
- **Observe high standards of taste and decency. This includes refraining from disorderly, lewd, indecent, or obscene conduct or expression in-person or virtually.**
- **Refrain from drug and alcohol abuse. This includes refraining from the possession, use or distribution of any illicit drug (as defined by applicable law) and the abuse of alcohol.**
- **Be honest.**
- **Respect all personal rights. This includes not physically or verbally abusing any person and not engaging in conduct that threatens or endangers the health or safety of others and their property—not obstructing or disrupting others in the performance of official duties by officers, functions, or other authorized activities of the National UNITY Council. Refraining from theft, concealment of weapons, damage, or misuse of the property of others.**
- **Honor the law of the land.**
- **I will conduct myself in a positive manner and in the best interest of UNITY at all times, I understand that failure to comply shall result in disciplinary action(s) as warranted by a Peer Mediation Committee.**

*UNITY events are alcohol-free and drug-free!*

# CONFERENCE AGENDA

Don't forget your badges!



## Thursday, February 6th, 2025

- 9:00 am - 12:00 pm Indigenous Youth Leadership Cohort Gathering  
(Maryvale A - 2nd Floor)
- 11:00 am - 4:00 pm Explore the Arizona Science Center  
(Mention UNITY for Free Admission - Refreshments provided)
- 2:30- 3:30 pm CEO - welcome  
(600 E Washington St, Phoenix, AZ 85004)
- 12:00 pm - 2:00 pm Arizona State University Downtown Campus Tours  
(Sign up Required)
- ASU Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication
- 12:00 pm - 3:00 pm Healing Circle Training - Sponsored by Cook Native American Ministries (Maryvale - 2nd Floor)
- 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm Meet up with other Native Youth from your regions!
- Empowerment Night - NUC reps and NUC EC  
(Valley of the Sun Ballroom 2nd Floor)

## Friday, February 7th, 2025

- 7:00 am - 5:00 pm Conference Registration  
(Valley of the Sun de foyer - 2nd floor)
- 8:00 am - 5:00 pm College & Career fair Exhibitors & Vendors  
(Valley of the Sun ABC foyer - 2nd floor)
- 8:30 am Emcee one and DJ Tribal Touch- Morning music  
(Valley of the Sun Ballroom - 2nd floor)
- 9:00 am Opening General Assembly  
(Valley of the Sun Ballroom - 2nd floor)
- NUC EC Co-President Welcome
    - Watson Whitford, Male NUC EC Co-President
    - Katy Johnston, Female NUC EC Co-president
  - UNITY News
  - Land Acknowledgement, Young River Peoples Council - SRPMIC
    - Jizelle Juan, President
    - Cruz Lasiloo, Vice President
  - Cultural Blessing
    - San Carlos Apache Youth Council and San Carlos High School
    - Miss Indian Arizona - Isabella Newman, San Carlos Apache Tribe
  - Roll Call
    - Jalen Harvey, Navajo Nation, Pueblo of Acoma, Hopi tribe - NUC EC Secretary

# Don't forget your badges!



Friday, February 7th, 2025 (cont'd.)

9:30 AM

Native Youth Digital Storytellers Panel  
(Ballroom foyer - 2nd floor)

- Moderator: Mahiya Ramirez, NUC EC Vice-President
- & Southern Plains Representative
  - Mariah Hernandez - Fitch, 25 Under 25 Awardee
  - Evelyn Enos, 25 Under 25 Awardee
  - Ian Teller, 25 Under 25 Awardee

10:00 AM

Keynote Presentation: Q&A with Kusem Goodwin, Coeur d'alene - Actor in Netflix film - Rezball

- Moderator: Jalen Harvey, NUC EC Secretary

10:45 AM

Meet your Trainers - Breakout instructions

- Rachel Mosley, Paiute-Shoshone tribe
- Lovina Louie, Coeur d'alene, Colville, Nez Perce
- J'Shon Lee, White Mountain Apache Tribe
- Tommy Ghostdog, Burns Paiute, Oglala Lakota
- Advisor Trainer - Dr. Pearl Yellowman, Navajo Nation
- Videographers - Gila River Broadcasting Support Team

11:00 AM

Break

11:15 AM

Digital Storytelling - Curriculum session I (1 hour)

- Rachel Mosley (Camelback room - 2nd floor )
- Lovina Louie (Maryvale A room - 2nd floor )
- J'shon Lee (Paradise Valley room - 2nd floor )
- Tommy Ghostdog (Deer Valley room - 2nd floor )
- Dr. Pearl Yellowman (Valley of the sun - 2nd floor )

12:15 PM

Lunch

2:00 PM

Curriculum session II  
(Return to assigned rooms)

- Advisor training - Dr. Pearl Yellowman  
(Valley of the Sun Ballroom - 2nd floor)

3:30 PM

Snack Break - Visit exhibitors

3:45 PM

Curriculum session III  
(Return to assigned rooms)

5:15 PM

Dinner (on your own)

7:00 PM

UNITY Intertribal Round dance  
(Valley of the Sun Ballroom - 2nd floor)

- Meet & Greet at UNITY store
    - Kusem Goodwin, Coeur d'alene, actor - Netflix film Rezball
- Curfew - 12:00 am - get some rest!*

# Don't forget your badges!

## Saturday, February 8th, 2025



7:00 AM	<p>NUC EC Business Meeting (Maryvale b - 2nd floor )</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Youth Council reports</li><li>• Executive Committee Updates &amp; Initiatives</li><li>• National Conference Theme &amp; Logo</li></ul>
8:00 AM - 5:00 PM	<p>College &amp; Career day (Exhibitors &amp; Vendors) (Valley of the Sun ABC - 2nd floor)</p>
8:00 AM - 3:00 PM	<p>Conference Registration (Valley of the Sun de foyer - 2nd floor)</p>
8:00 AM	<p>Emcee one and DJ Tribal Touch - morning music (Main Ballroom - 2nd floor)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Day I Evaluations - Announcements of Winners<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ Hoka Shoe Giveaway</li></ul></li></ul> <p><i>8:25 am Special message from Chris (live streaming)</i></p>
8:30 AM	<p>General Assembly (Valley of the Sun ballroom)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cultural blessing: Chi'chino Spirit O'odham dance group</li><li>• Day I Evaluations - Announcements of Winners</li><li>• UNITY news</li><li>• Native Youth Emcees Welcome</li></ul>
8:45 AM	<p>Indigenous stories of hope (Panel discussion)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• International Indigenous Youth Leadership Cohort</li></ul>
9:30 AM	<p>Keynote Presentation: Dr. Corey Still, Cherokee - Unity drum &amp; Alumni</p>
10:00 AM	<p>Speed workshop Instructions</p>
10:15 AM	<p>Break, college &amp; career fair - visit exhibitors</p>
10:30 AM	<p>Speed Workshops</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 10:30 am - Speed Workshop I</li><li>• 11:00 am - Speed Workshop II</li><li>• 11:30 am - Speed Workshop III</li><li>• 12:00 pm - Speed Workshop IV</li></ul>
12:30 PM	<p>Luncheon &amp; UNITY mock pageant (Valley of the Sun Ballroom)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 12:30 pm Lunch is served</li><li>• 12:45 pm UNITY Mock pageant</li></ul>
1:30 PM	<p>Break</p>
1:45 PM	<p>Curriculum session IV (Return to assigned rooms)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Advisor Training - Dr. Pearl Yellowman (Valley of the Sun ballroom )</li></ul>

## Don't forget your badges!

### Saturday, February 8th, 2025 (Cont'd.)

- 3:15 PM Snack Break- visit exhibitors
- 3:30 PM Curriculum Session V  
(Return to assigned rooms)
- 5:15 PM Dinner (On your own)
- 7:00 PM UNITY O'odham Cu:dk (social Dancing)  
(Valley of the Sun ballroom - 2nd floor)
- 8:30 PM Chicken Scratch Dance - Tohono O'odham Nation  
*Curfew - 12:00 am - get some rest!*



### Sunday, February 9th, 2025

- 8:30 AM - 12:00 PM Exhibitors & Vendors  
(Valley of the Sun foyer)
- 7:00 AM NUC EC Business Meeting  
(Maryvale b - 2nd floor )
- Youth Council reports
  - Executive Committee Updates & Initiatives
  - National Conference Theme & Logo
- 8:30 AM Emcee one and DJ Tribal Touch - Morning music  
(Valley of the Sun ballroom)
- 9:00 AM General Assembly  
(Valley of the Sun ballroom)
- Cultural Blessing: San Felipe Youth - Cultural Throw
  - Day II Evaluations - Announcement of Winners
- 9:30 AM Top Team Projects: Top 10 Issues
- UNITY News
  - Team Project Videos & Graphics
- 10:15 AM Keynote Presentation
- Colton Shone, Anchor - Good Morning Arizona
  - Mary Kim Titla, Executive Director - UNITY
- 11:00 AM UNITY Earth Ambassador & Healing Circle presentation
- Save the dates - Regional trainings
  - Earth Ambassador applications
- 11:30 AM Closing Message
- Mary Kim Titla, Executive Director - UNITY
- 11:45 AM Closing Prayer & Friendship Circle  
*See you in San Diego!*



# 2025 HEALING CIRCLES

Join us for this free training for Native youth ages 14-24 years old. UNITY is seeking partners interested in hosting these upcoming trainings.

## COMING TO A STATE NEAR YOU:

- April - Washington
- July - Montana
- September - Oklahoma
- December - Louisiana



(480) 718-9793



la.buford@unityinc.org



www.unityinc.org



# 2025 REGIONAL EARTH AMBASSADORS GATHERINGS

Connect with fellow youth leaders passionate about environmental stewardship. For more information contact youth programs.

## COMING TO A STATE NEAR YOU:

- August - Michigan
- September - Florida
- October - Arizona
- December - Hawaii



(480) 718-9793



youthprograms@unityinc.org



www.unityinc.org



# 25 UNDER 25



**Alyssa Mosley**  
Naticoke Lenni-  
Lenape, NJ



**Anagali Duncan**  
Cherokee Nation, OK



**Carmella Bear**  
Penobscot, ME



**Dasia Peters**  
Mashpee Wampanoag,  
MA



**Derek Capitan**  
Laguna Pueblo/Navajo,  
NM



**Evelyn Enos**  
Akimel O'odham/Tohono  
O'odham, AZ



**Elise Lamas**  
Tohono O'odham, AZ



**Faith Iukes**  
Tulalip Tribes, WA



**Gabriel Jurado**  
Confederated Tribes of  
Siletz



**Gabriella Nakai**  
Choctaw/Navajo, AZ



**Georgia Harjo**  
Muscogee (creek), OK



**Raquel Jean Oliver-  
Britton**  
Round Valley Indian Tribes,  
CA



**Jori Cowley**  
Cherokee/Shawnee, OK



**Kiara Tanta-  
Quidgeon**  
Mohegan Tribe, CT



**Laney Marie Lupe**  
White Mountain Apache  
Tribe, AZ



**Mariah Hernandez-  
Fitch**  
United Houma Nation, LA



**Natallie Battiest**  
Choctaw Nation, CA



**Nizhoni Deschene**  
Navajo Nation, MD



**Sophia  
Turningrobe**  
Spokane/Siksika, WA



**Samantha Eddy**  
Navajo Nation, AZ



**Steve Harvey**  
San Carlos Apache  
Tribe, AZ



**Ian Teller**  
Navajo Nation, AZ



**Talon Watchman**  
Navajo Nation, AZ



**Precious Vicente**  
Akimel O'odham/Hopi,  
AZ



**Jenna Makes Good**  
Spirit Lake Nation, KS

# UNITY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



**Watson Whitford**  
Co-President, Chippewa  
Cree/Navajo, MT



**Kaytlynn Johnston**  
Co-President, Bishop  
Paiute, CA



**Mahiya Ramirez**  
Vice President, Southern  
Plains Representative,  
Muscogee (Creek), OK



**Jalen Harvey**  
Secretary, Western  
Representative,  
Navajo/Pueblo of  
Acoma/Hopi, AZ



**Sophie Landin**  
Great Plains  
Representative,  
Mandan/Hidatsa/Arikara,  
ND



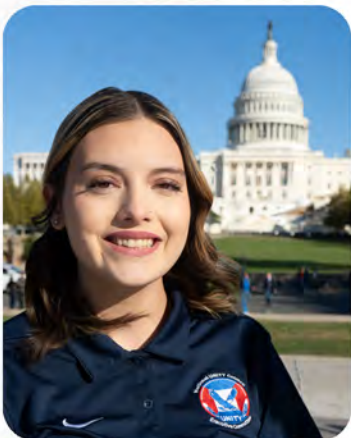
**Marla Mesarina**  
Midwest Representative,  
Leech Lake Band of  
Ojibwe/Sisseton Wahpeton  
Oyate Sioux, MN



**Liliana Mars**  
Northeast Representative,  
Narragansett/Navajo, RI



**Mazie Countryman**  
Northwest Representative,  
Northern Arapaho/Eastern  
Shoshone/Shoshone  
Bannock/Navajo, ID



**Ashley Johnston**  
Pacific Representative,  
Bishop Paiute, CA



**O'Shay Birdinground**  
Rocky Mountain  
Representative, Apsaalooke  
(Crow), MT



**Kaylee Evans**  
Southeast Representative,  
Haliwa-Saponi/Lumbee, NC



**Jamie Crowe**  
Southwest Representative,  
Pueblo of Tesuque/Pueblo  
of Santa Clara, NM

# SPEED WORKSHOPS

10:30 AM - 12:30 PM

Saturday, February 8, 2025

Table Number	Presenter Name	Category	Workshop Title	Workshop Description
1	Brenda Whitehorse	Culture	Learning your culture and language can make a difference in your future success!	Students will create a mini vision board to explore how learning about their heritage will help them with their vision for future success.
2	Tamana Begay	Career	Imagine yourself as a tooth fairy... with superpowers!	Presenters are American Indian/Alaska Native Dentists. They will share their journey to dentistry and a hands-on activity with participants.
3	Ann Williamson	Health	"The Spirit of Wellness: Tools for Thriving Every Day"	In this hands-on workshop, youth will learn how to use traditional practices, like storytelling, mindfulness, and spending time in nature, to feel connected and supported.
4	Ann Williamson	Health	"Advisor Wellness Matters: Honoring and Strengthening Your Spirit to Support Native American Youth"	Advisors will learn practical ways to recognize and manage burnout, build resilience, and create balance in their work.
5	Shannon Hadley	Coding	Build, Code, Play	Youth will build a Lego bot and code them to move.
6	Cassandra Scott	Career	Tohono O'odham Community College Info Session	Learn about Tohono O'odham Community College; a two-year college for individuals from all walks of life who want to further their education.
7	Johnny Poolaw, Ph.D.	Career	College and Career Readiness Success through AISES	This workshop will share the multiple programs and student support initiatives that AISES has implemented to support our students' pathways to a STEM College and Career.
8	Melody Billy	Environment	Suicide and Substance Abuse Awareness within our Native American Youth	The workshop will focus on addressing the critical issues of rising suicide rates and substance abuse among youth on reservations, aim to create awareness and foster open dialogue about these topics.
9	Jori Cowley	Culture	Building an Indigenous Leadership Institute	Participants will learn about the initiative's goals and discuss innovative ways to develop leadership skills while preserving and promoting Indigenous values.
10	Mazie Countryman & Mahiya Ramirez	Culture	Exploring self identity in "2 worlds" through creative expression	In this workshop, participants will explore their personal identities through creative activities such as creating an Identity Collage and an Identity Map.

**10:30 AM - 12:30 PM**

**Saturday, February 8, 2025**

Table Number	Presenter	Category	Workshop Title	Workshop Description
11	Kaylee Evans	Environment	<b>Climate Change: Shaping a safe future for tribal communities.</b>	Our workshop will explore the drastically changing climate and its exacerbated effects on tribal communities.
12	Watson Whitford	Culture	Cultural Connections	Creating a discussion about culture and how each youth practices their culture. Hoping to encourage youth to take action to learn about who they are.
13	Kelly Vallo	Culture and Mental Health	Our Healing Seal	The purpose of this training is to implement self-healing through cultural and traditional storytelling, for our Indigenous youth to feel a sense of belonging and to take control of their healing journeys.
14	Daniel Hatcher	Health	"My Best Self" Bracelet Making	Youth will make their own bracelet featuring a word or phrase that reminds them of 'your best self'. Attendees will also receive a copy of a Healthy Day Checklist and other free resources to support wellness.
15	Katherine Lacy	Community Development	How Can We Make Real and Lasting Positive Impacts in Our Community?	This workshop will cover opportunities to serve with AmeriCorps as a way to positively impact communities and ways to engage with them in the future.
16	Marla Mesarina	Health	Slime With Us	The goal is for Youth to build strong, long-lasting relationships and connections with each other while participating in a hands-on activity (making slime).
17	Trena Bizardi	Career	Level Up Your Financial Game	Get ready for a fast-paced, fun, and interactive workshop designed to boost your money management skills! Learn the basics of budgeting, saving, and understanding credit.
18	Kiara Tanta-Quidgeon	Culture	Culture is Medicine: Fostering Healing Through Cultural Connectedness (Speed Workshop)	This workshop aims to educate and empower Indigenous youth by highlighting the significance of cultural engagement and revitalization in maintaining and promoting health and well-being.
19	Georgia Adeline Harjo	Culture	Revitalizing Culture in the City: Hands-On Urban Gatherings	This session introduces a series of urban cultural gatherings to reconnect Native youth with their heritage and explore how urban environments can become hubs for cultural revitalization.
20	Evelyn Enos	Storytelling	Indigenous Youth Write our Futures	Participants will learn about the initiative's goals to amplify Native voices in literature, celebrate youth talents and explore the collaboration with the Labriola Center at ASU in its role supporting this creative journey.

10:30 AM - 12:30 PM

Saturday, February 8, 2025

Table Number	Presenter	Category	Workshop Title	Description
21	Alyssa Mosley	Personal Growth	Finding Your Personal Style Through Social Media and Search Engine Optimization	In this hands-on workshop, you'll learn how to harness search engine optimization (SEO) techniques, such as targeted keywords and hashtags, to curate inspiration that resonates with your unique identity and aesthetic.
22	Derek Capitan	Culture	A Journey of Cultural Resilience	Join this fruitful conversation with Derek about culture resilience and how to keep your communities moving forward. Have fun and unwind with art and storytelling.
23	Anagali Duncan & Gabriella Nakai	Storytelling	Empowering Through Stories: The Indigenous Literature Book Drop Initiative	The workshop highlights the power of indigenous literature in fostering cultural pride, promoting awareness, and inspiring young readers. Discuss how youth can advocate for more indigenous representation in educational materials.
24	Sophia Many Turning Robes	Career	Grounded in Tradition: Indigenous Pedagogy's Impact on Entrepreneurial Development	Explore the critical role of Indigenous pedagogy in entrepreneurial training, emphasizing the need to align business education with tribal values. Learn about the principles of Indigenous pedagogy and brainstorm strategies to integrate these methods into entrepreneurial education.
25	Nizhoni Deschene	Career	Building and Growing a Community-Based Brand	Learn how to turn your passion into a thriving community and brand! Explore strategies to build, grow, and sustain a community-centered brand with purpose. Participants will gain practical tools for community engagement, social media growth, and creating value for their audience.
26	Jamie Crowe	Culture	Culture and Mental Health	Speak about the ways culture can help in mental health aspects. Providing a space where all can feel comfortable and safe.
27	Shawna Begay-Cowdell, PhD	Career	Grand Canyon University-Find Your Purpose!	GCU offers many educational opportunities for students including over 200 degree programs on campus and online. Learn about campus visits and dual enrollment opportunities.
28	Candice Nez	Financial literacy	Better Money Habits - Student guide to managing money	Participants of this workshop will have the opportunity to learn about managing money including balancing wants & needs and understanding the role of credit.
29	Noah Martin	Health	Healthy Habits	This interactive workshop is designed to empower Native youth with the knowledge, tools, and skills to create and maintain healthy habits that support their physical, mental, and emotional well-being.

**10:30 AM - 12:30 PM****Saturday, February 8, 2025**

<b>Table Number</b>	<b>Presenter</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Workshop Title</b>	<b>Description</b>
30	Talon Watchman	Health	Mental Health and the Environment	The goal is to share with native youth how interconnected our mental health is with our surroundings such as the environment. In this workshop attendees will have meaningful discussions through shared personal experiences.
31	Raquel Britton	Culture	Pine needle basket making and pine nuts necklace making	Learn how to make traditional Northern California jewelry and the history behind it. Keeping history alive while learning about the skills to make traditional jewelry.
32	Mei-Jing Ang Peralta	Career	Mindful Leadership through Breath	By the end of the session, participants will be equipped to embark on their leadership journeys with breath as a tool to make decisions, create internal awareness, and have a broader sense of impact.
33	Leala Pourier	Storytelling	The Original Storytellers: Empowering Native Voices in Filmmaking	Join Jeremy Charles and Josiah W. Jones of Pursuit Films for an engaging conversation about the art of filmmaking. Explore how to translate the inherent storytelling abilities Natives possess and how to translate it into the world of contemporary filmmaking.
34	Julia Eischeid	Career	University of Arizona Resources	Learn about all the many different ways the University of Arizona supports Native American and Indigenous students in the state of Arizona and around the country.
35	Lelani Gonnig	Health	Breathe Free	This speed workshop empowers youth to take charge of their health and advocate for a drug-free lifestyle. Participants will learn the risks associated with vaping and drug use while gaining tools to educate and support their peers in making positive choices.
36	Cadence Hardy	Environment	Defending the Sacred through political advocacy	Discuss the ongoing fight to protect the Sacred site of Oak Flat and learn about what the Brophy Native American Club is doing to protect mother earth through political advocacy and prayer.
37	Johann Webber	Career	LEGOs and STEM education in Native American & Indigenous communities	Build bridges and structures while exploring engineering principles. Discover the power of staggered walls and bridge types, fostering a new generation of Indigenous innovators in STEM.
38	Jalen Harvey	Culture	Inspiring Change: Developing the Next Generation of Role Models	Through discussions, storytelling, and hands-on activities, participants will explore the impact of mentorship, the importance of representation, and how they can take active roles in guiding and inspiring others.

**10:30 AM - 12:30 PM****Saturday, February 8, 2025**

<b>Table Number</b>	<b>Presenter</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Workshop Title</b>	<b>Description</b>
39	Ian Teller	Career	The Democracy's Indigenous Project	Participants will explore the initiative's goals, discuss its potential impact, and brainstorm creative strategies for boosting voter education and turnout.
40	Jenna Makes Good	Personal Growth	Building an Indigenous Youth and Elders Community Center	Featuring language immersion, cultural workshops, mental health support, and sustainable living programs, the center will serve as a dynamic space for learning and growth.
41	Mariah Fitch-Hernandez	Storytelling	Telling Our Stories: Film as a Tool for Change	Participants will explore how film can empower Indigenous youth to share stories, learn technical skills, and raise awareness about community challenges.
42	Precious Vicente	Culture	Empowering Native Youth: Hosting Cultural Events at National Parks	This speed workshop empowers youth to take charge of their health and advocate for a drug-free lifestyle. Participants will learn the risks associated with vaping and drug use while gaining tools to educate and support their peers in making positive choices.
43	Kathleen Frank	Financial literacy	College Budgeting	Uncover hidden expenses like textbooks, housing, and meal plans, and learn how to budget effectively.
44	Wesley Benally	Career	Building Your Financial Future: A Guide to Financial Literacy for Native Teens	Life after college/job searching. Professional track and growth within public accounting. Opportunities/challenges of work and how to maintain success in work environment.
45	Dougherty Tsalabutie	Health	Osteopathic Medicine	Introduce A.T. Still University's osteopathic medicine programs and how the National Center for American Indian Health Professions can help and assist potential students on their journey towards a healthcare program.
46	Tribal Ready	Career	Broadband Jobs: Building Futures, Connecting Tribes	Join this workshop to explore how broadband careers can inspire the next generation of leaders and create lasting growth for your Tribe.
47	Denise Jensen	Culture	Utilizing the Diné (Navajo) Philosophy of Learning to Achieve Success	In this hands-on workshop, the presenter will share applicable ideas on how the components and process of the Diné Philosophy of Learning can be used and applied to one's leadership development.
48	Vanessa Ramirez Gutierrez	Career	Tints and Prints	Explore the history, science, and art behind natural dyes that are native to Latin America. Extract beautiful colors from plants onto fabric.

# Take Charge of Your Future. Claim Your Financial Power.

Connect with our Tribal Finance professionals to explore pathways to financial literacy. Whether it's through coaching, mentoring, or comprehensive financial programs, we're here to support Native Youth—our future Tribal Leaders.

By embracing financial knowledge, you're not just planning for tomorrow—you're empowering your community, honoring your roots, and taking control of your path.



**redw**  
Advisors & CPAs



Hattie Mitchell and the rest of REDW's National Tribal Practice team stand ready to guide you with wisdom and insight, blending tradition with innovation. Join us!



Working Together for Our Future



# KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



## **Kusem Goodwind**

---

Kusem Goodwind is a fast-rising actor, model, and public speaker. He made his acting debut in the Netflix film REZ BALL, produced by LeBron James, directed by Sydnee Freeland, and written by Sterlin Harjo (Reservation Dogs). The film premiered at the 2024 Toronto International Film Festival. Goodwind plays 'Nataanii Jackson,' the team's star player who struggles with depression. His breakout performance has resonated with audiences and he has used this platform to speak on mental health and its impact. Goodwind is of Coeur d'Alene and Nez Perce descent.



## **Mary Kim Titla**

---

Mary Kim Titla, San Carlos Apache, has served as a Native American youth advocate for more than 30 years. She's served as UNITY's Executive Director since 2013 and prior to that served as a Trustee. A former TV News broadcaster, she spent most of her career working for NBC affiliate stations in Arizona. She estimates telling as many as 5,000 stories during her career receiving awards from the Associated Press, Arizona Press Club and the Native American Journalists Association. After leaving TV News, she spent nearly five years working as a Communications Officer and Administrator for the San Carlos Unified School District in the community where she was born and raised. Mary Kim has a Bachelor's degree in Journalism from the University of Oklahoma and two Masters degrees, one in Mass Communications and another for Education Leadership and Supervision, from Arizona State University.

# KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



## Colton Shone

---

Colton Shone loves waking up dark and early, and has been doing so for the better part of a decade. He co-anchors Good Morning Arizona with Tess Rafols from 4:30 a.m. to 6 a.m. on weekdays, then reports out in the community and covers live segments throughout the rest of the morning show.

It's a dream come true for him to anchor and report in his hometown! Colton joined Arizona's Family in August 2022. Prior to his homecoming, Colton was an anchor and reporter in Albuquerque and Tucson. In Albuquerque, Colton co-anchored the number one morning show for nearly seven years. His coverage of the Navajo Nation's fight against COVID-19 garnered him three Emmy Awards. It culminated in a 30-minute documentary called The People vs. The Pandemic.



## Dr. Corey Still, Ph.D

---

Dr. Corey M. Still, an enrolled member of the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians, is a distinguished leader in higher education and Indigenous research. He earned his Ph.D. in Educational Leadership & Policy Studies from the University of Oklahoma, where his dissertation explored the experiences of Native men in higher education through Indigenous methodologies. Dr. Still specializes in student affairs, higher education administration, and Indigenous research paradigms.

Dr. Still's impactful career spans roles as an educator, administrator, and researcher, focusing on the intersections of Indigenous leadership, education equity, and community empowerment.

# NEW MEMBER CHECKLIST

---

- Youth organize by getting a letter of support or resolution from a tribe or sponsoring organization.
- A youth coordinator or advisor is designated by the sponsoring organization.
- A resolution is drafted to make the youth council part of the organization's permanent structure (*Sample Resolution Available*)
- The steering committee creates youth council bylaws, which are approved by members and then presented to tribal or organizational officials.
- An advisory council is formed, including parents, elders, and adult representatives.
- Elections for youth council officers are held.
- Youth conduct meetings and define their course of direction.
- Once organized, the council votes to join the UNITY Network, and the bylaws and resolution are submitted to UNITY.

Scan the QR code to explore  
UNITY's Youth Council Handbook.



# UNITY SUPPORT TEAM

## Meet the Team!



### **J'Shon Lee**

---

J'Shon Lee is White Mountain Apache from Hondah, Arizona. She is of the Butterfly clan and born for the Pinetree People. She is a mother, daughter, wife, godmother, and sister and enjoys being on the land with her family. J'Shon is currently a doctoral student in the Learning, Literacies, and Technologies program at the Mary Lou Fulton Teachers College at Arizona State University. Through her research, she is considering the possibilities of how social studies teachers can teach about the land, particularly by engaging Indigenous ways of knowing. Before heading back to graduate school, J'Shon taught middle school social studies in New Mexico.



### **Dr. Pearl Yellowman, Ph.D**

---

Pearl Yellowman is a member of the Navajo Nation and is now a full-time Trainer focusing on Youth Development, Community Development, Government Development, and Executive Leadership Trainings. In 2019, Pearl Yellowman was appointed by then Navajo Nation President Johnathan Nez and Vice-President Myron Lizer, as the Executive Director of the Division of Community Development. As Executive Director and Cabinet member, Pearl advised President Jonathan Nez on policy matters and fiduciary concerns impacting the Navajo people.



### **Lovina Louie**

---

LoVina Louie, Coeur d'Alene/Colville/Nez PerceLoVina is schitsu'umsh (Coeur d' Alene) Tribe, nselxcin (Okanogan/Colville), Nimipu (Nez Perce) she is a descendant of Chief Morris Antelope of the schitsu'umsh and Chief Manuel Louie of the Inkaneep Band in Oliver BC Canada. She is a graduate of the University of Idaho where she received her Bachelors in Organizational Sciences with an emphasis in Community and Tribal Wellness. She was recently featured on Lifetime Movie Network 50 Women in 50 States and a speaker at the TEDx Coeur d'Alene event.



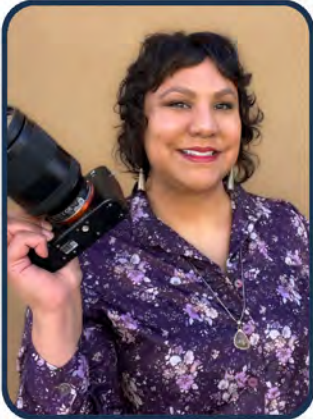
### **Thomas Lee Ghostdog Jr.**

---

Thomas Lee Ghost Dog Jr., (Burns Paiute, Oglala Lakota), is the Project Coordinator for We R Native at the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board, in Portland, Oregon. He assists with several adolescent health promotion projects, including Native VOICES, Native It's Your Game (IYG), and We R Native. He manages We R Native's monthly contests, community service mini-grants, gear requests, and shepherds 130 Native Youth Ambassadors. Tommy blends his own life experiences growing up on the Burns Paiute reservation into his work.

# UNITY SUPPORT TEAM

## Meet the Team!



### Rachel Mosley

Rachel Mosley serves as a Digital Organizer in the Communications Department for PLAN (Progressive Leadership Alliance Nevada). In addition to her primary role, she offers freelance services in videography, photography, and graphic design. As a member of the Paiute-Shoshone community from Northern Nevada, she currently resides in Reno, NV.



### Marcus Guinn, Emcee One

Marcus Anthony Guinn, (emcee one) is a member of the Osage & Potawatomi Nations of Oklahoma & Puerto Rican. EMCEE, DJ, Event Producer, But also a Youth Advocate, & National Speaker. Currently an official DJ for Nike N7, International DJ/Tour Support for Taboo (The Black Eyed Peas), MTV Video Music Award Winner, & Official DJ for Oklahoma City Thunder NBA Also, President of One Innertainment Inc. Where he leverages his work in the entertainment world to speak into the lives of young people. Marcus has served with many youth, and youth organizations nationally.



### Shawn Martinez, DJ Tribal Touch

Shawn Martinez grew up in Fort Defiance, Arizona, in the Navajo Nation and is an enrolled member of the Diné/Navajo Tribe. He received his bachelor's degree in communications and fine arts and launched an entertainment career under the stage alias DJ Tribal Touch. Martinez continued his basketball journey spending 22 years in the NBA Live Presentation field in Denver & Detroit before joining his home states NBA team. In Phoenix, Martinez helped lead and played a pivotal role in his home teams efforts to recognize the local Native American community in unique ways, headlined by a symbolic turquoise 2022-2023 City Edition ORIGINATIV platform, which celebrated the cultures and traditions of the 22 Tribal Nations of Arizona.



### UNITY Safety Team

A conference safety team is a group of people who work together to ensure the safety of attendees at a conference. Look for Safety Team members wearing yellow polo shirts work diligently to identify hazards: Conference safety teams identify and assess potential hazards at the conference. Assist in developing or securing prevention plans to prevent hazards from occurring. Communicate: Conference safety teams communicate with attendees about any safety concerns. Review incidents: Conference safety teams review incidents that have occurred at the conference.

WE ARE PROUD TO  
SUPPORT THE NEXT  
GENERATION OF  
NATIVE VOICES



ARIZONA  
**SCIENCE**  
CENTER

[azscience.org](http://azscience.org)

# DIGITAL STORYTELLING

## 2025 MIDYEAR CURRICULUM “Digital Storytelling for Native American Youth”

### Raising Awareness of the National UNITY Council's Top Ten Issues

**Goal:** Teach youth how to utilize digital storytelling to raise awareness of the National UNITY Council’s annual Top Ten Issues by producing content tailored to specific audiences.

#### Output per group:

- One 1-minute *UNITY news video* targeted at community leaders.
- Four *social media graphics* for awareness-raising.
- One 30-second *reel* targeted at peers.

### UNITY Learning Outcomes

1. Understand how to use digital storytelling for advocacy and community engagement.
2. Develop skills in content creation, including planning, filming, editing, and publishing for diverse platforms.
3. Collaborate effectively within a team to research and create impactful multimedia content.
4. Tailor storytelling techniques for different target audiences.





## Why Digital Storytelling?

**Native Americans have often not been accurately portrayed in media. By creating our own videos, we can change the narrative and show our communities' strength, resilience, and beauty.**

### **What is Digital Storytelling?**

- **Depicting a story using videos, pictures, and sounds to share important messages.**

### **Why is this important?**

- **It helps us take control of our own narratives.**
- **We get to share our stories from our perspectives instead of others telling it for us.**

## Creating Positive Content



### **Focus on Solutions, Not Problems:**

- **Important! Your PSA video should not portray Native communities as “broken” or “hopeless”.**
- **Focus on what the community can do to solve the problem.**
- **Show strength, unity, and hope in your videos.**

**Example: Instead of saying, “Our community has so many problems,” you could say, “Our community is coming together to solve [issue]. Here’s how...”**



# Decolonizing Through Storytelling

## “What It Means to Decolonize Storytelling.”

Decolonization means removing negative stereotypes and showing the true beauty of Native cultures from our perspectives.

Example: Showing a young Native person leading a cultural event or working on a community project positively represents our people.

## The Power of Youth

### Why Should Youth Get Involved?

- Youth are the future of our community! Our voices are powerful.
- When we speak out, we can inspire change.
- Digital storytelling can help reach people of all ages, from adults to peers to younger generations.



# The Top Ten Issues Facing Native Youth



## What are the Top Issues?

1. Substance Abuse
2. Suicide
3. Education/School Dropout
4. Missing & Murdered Indigenous Relatives (MMIR)
5. Single-Parent Households
6. Bullying/Gossiping
7. Lack of Cultural Identity
8. Unhealthy Relationships
9. Blood Quantum
10. Connecting with Positive Role Models
11. Climate Change - Earth Ambassador

**Team Question: Which issue would you like to address?**



# Types of Media Being Created

## UNITY News Video (1 minute)

- **Goal:** Educate adults, community members, and decision-makers.
- **Content:** Show the problem and the solution. Make it clear and informative.

## Reel Video (30 seconds)

- **Goal:** Engage youth and peers.
- **Content:** Be quick, creative, and fun. Focus on the solution and call to action.

## 4 PSA Graphics (1 minute)

- **Goal:** Connect with youth peers on social media.
- **Content:** Share actionable ideas for youth to get involved.

# Research Your Topic

## Guidelines:

- Find facts, stories, and statistics related to the issue.
- **Ask:** What is the impact of this issue on Native communities?
- Look for solutions and examples of what is already being done in your community or others.
- **Avoid Negative Stereotypes:** Try not to only focus on the struggles —highlight strengths and actions to create change.
- **Avoid anything that may trigger your audience members.** To avoid triggers in media production, proactively identify potentially sensitive content and place a focus on available resources or encourage help-seeking behaviors.
- Ask your self “Does this messaging inspire hope.”



# Scriptwriting and Storyboarding



## PSA Video (4-minute)

- **What to include:**
  - **Brief intro to the issue.**
  - **Facts or statistics to explain the issue.**
  - **Solutions: What is being done, and how can the community help?**
  - **Call to action: What can the viewer do?**

## Reel (30-second)

- **Keep it short, engaging, and direct. Focus on the issue and how youth can make a difference.**

## Four PSA Graphics

- **Show how youth can get involved and why it matters.**

# Filming Tips

## Filming Your Videos:

- **Lighting: Make sure you are filming in a place with good lighting (natural light is best).**
- **Sound: Avoid background noise. If you have a mic, use it.**
- **Camera: Hold the camera steady or use a tripod to keep the footage clear.**

**Reminder: Make your videos authentic and true to our culture. Being solution-focused will avoid over-dramatization, stereotypes, or potential triggers. Refocus your filming on the solutions to the problem to showcase indigenous resilience.**

# Editing Your Videos

## Editing Basics:

- **Trim the footage to keep it short and clear.**
- **Add text overlays to emphasize key points.**
- **Make sure the video flows well and is easy to understand.**
- **Include subtitles for accessibility.**

**Tip:** Use music and effects to make the video engaging, but always keep the focus on the message.

# Uploading and Sharing Your Videos

## Uploading Your Videos:

- **Once your videos are ready, your Trainer will upload them to UNITY's YouTube and Instagram Stories.**
- **The Trainers will approve the final edits before posting.**
- **Make sure to include your descriptions and hashtags to help others find your videos when your Trainer posts.**

**Tip:** Make sure you credit any music or images you use that are not your own.



# Presenting Your Videos

## Sharing with the Group:

- Each group will present their videos and graphics.
- After each video and graphic, you will have a chance to give feedback and ask questions.

# Reflection

## Reflection Time:

- What did you learn about using digital media to address community issues?
- What was your favorite part of creating your videos?
- How can digital storytelling help make positive changes in Native communities?

## Great Job!

- You've learned how to tell powerful stories and raise awareness about important issues.
- Keep creating! Continue using your voice and videos to inspire change.
- Thank you for your participation and commitment to community empowerment!



# Thank You!



**Plan, Prepare, Progress**  
It's time to become a Sun Devil!

**#IndigenousSunDevil**  
**#FutureSunDevil**

**Proud Sponsor of the Midyear Round Dances**

UNITY Intetribal  
Round Dance  
Friday 7PM



UNITY O'odham Cu:dk  
Social Dancing  
Saturday 7PM

# UNITY STORE

All proceeds go to UNITY Youth Programs



**UNITY Since 1976 T-shirt**  
color - black  
\$30



**UNITY Since 1976 T-shirt**  
color - sand  
\$30



**UNITY Tote bag**  
color - natural  
\$15



**Inspire+Change T-shirt**  
color - black  
\$30



**UNITY est. 1976 Crewneck**  
color - sand  
\$40



**UNITY est. 1976 Hoodie**  
color - black  
\$45



**Stickers**  
\$3 or 2 for \$5



**NATIONAL UNITY CONFERENCE  
JUNE 27 - JULY 1, 2025  
TOWN & COUNTRY RESORT  
SAN DIEGO, CA**

**NATIONAL UNITY CONFERENCE  
JULY 10 - 14, 2026  
OKLAHOMA CITY CONVENTION CENTER  
OKLAHOMA CITY, OK**

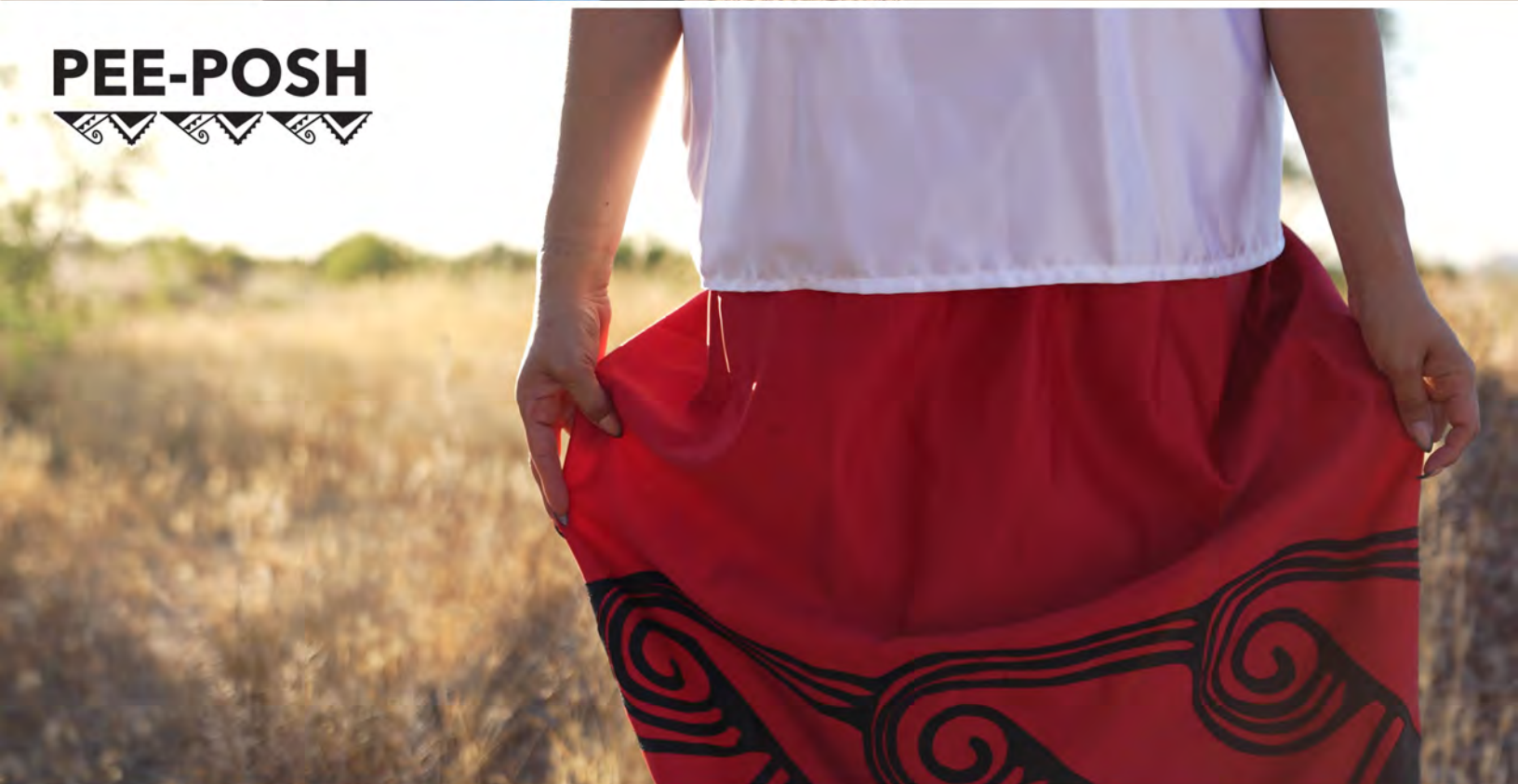
**NATIONAL UNITY CONFERENCE  
JULY 1 - 5, 2027  
GAYLORD PALMS RESORT &  
CONVENTION CENTER  
ORLANDO, FL**



**AKIMEL  
O'OTHAM**



**PEE-POSH**



*The Gila River Indian Community is proud to sponsor  
the 2025 UNITY Midyear Conference*



/GilaRiver



@gilariver



@GRIC\_Official

MYGILARIVER.COM

| GILARIVER.ORG