

2023 Mid-Year Regional Report: Southern Plains Region

“Greetings members of the national Unity council, I hope this report finds you all in a good way.”

In this report, I hope to highlight, illustrate, and provide reassurance that UNITY as a whole is moving forward in a proactive and efficient way.

JR Cook Memorial and Healing Circle, 2022

After the national UNITY conference that was held in Minneapolis, MN, the executive committee never skipped a beat. We transitioned into this new term with the mindset and drive that was present previously. So, the first event that was to take place was JR Cook’s memorial and healing circle that took place at the FAM museum in Oklahoma City, OK. This was an extremely meaningful event that I was thankful to be a part of. Youth from all across the Southern plains were in attendance to conduct training and remember the life of UNITY’s founder JR Cook.

Fall 2022 Regional Meet-Up

Throughout the year UNITY hosts regional meet ups, these meet-ups take place virtually to ensure availability for all members and councils in our regions to attend. This year, we did things a bit different. We decided that implementing the format of merging neighboring regions would be effective in building relationships, broadening the scope of various aspects that we see in our communities, and exchanging ways to actively invest in each other and our communities.

At times throughout these terms, I can confidently say that we as the Executive Committee, are extremely thankful whenever we get to see, interact, and support the youth across the nation. For me it always brings me back to the purpose of why we work so hard, it is important to acknowledge that we are not in these positions for self benefit but in efforts to listen, support, and elevate the youth in whichever way is possible.

White-House Tribal Youth Forum

In the month of november, I was blessed with the opportunity to attend the White House Tribal Youth Forum. At this event, we were presented with administration representatives and panelists that

spoke on topics that included multiple aspects of indigeneity. Another highlight of this event was that we got to attend with the Center for Native American Youth organization (CNAY). This gave us the opportunity to network and build new relationships. In every space and opportunity such as this one, I always keep the mindset of, what can I take back to the youth. How can I effectively relay knowledge that is learned and actively implement

2023 Executive Committee Training

We started the new year off strong, to welcome in the year of 2023, the executive committee was provided the opportunity to gather at UNITY headquarters. This is where business was conducted, this is where we discussed topics such as the initiative, preparation for mid-year, and goals and objectives to fulfill for the remainder of our terms. This training / retreat allowed us to really hold each other accountable, while reinforcing our bonds.

In all actuality, the few days that we were there felt like a whole week and I can say that I was exhausted after this trip. It really shows how much work is demanded for leadership roles such as this one.

Conclusion of Mid-Year Report

Overall, this first portion of this term has been extremely busy but that is exactly what I signed up for. I am extremely thankful for all of the youth councils and members of UNITY that actively work throughout the calendar year to make this such a great organization. Unfortunately I will not be able to make it to mid-year due to job related obligations, this will not hinder any of the goals and or objects for the second portion of my term. I am looking forward to attending more events within my region and building relationships while adding councils and members in the Southern Plains Region. In the meantime, I want nothing but good things to come for all of you and nothing but love!

Elwood McClellan Jr

National Unity Executive Committee Member

Southern Plains Regional Representative

