

The background of the cover is a solid grey color. It is decorated with several thick, curved, parallel stripes in blue and red. The stripes enter from the top-left and bottom-right corners and curve towards the top-right and bottom-left corners, creating a sense of motion. In the center of the cover is a white square with a thin white border. Inside this square, the words "MIDYEAR REPORT" are written in a bold, white, sans-serif font, stacked on two lines. Below this, the year "2023" is written in the same font style.

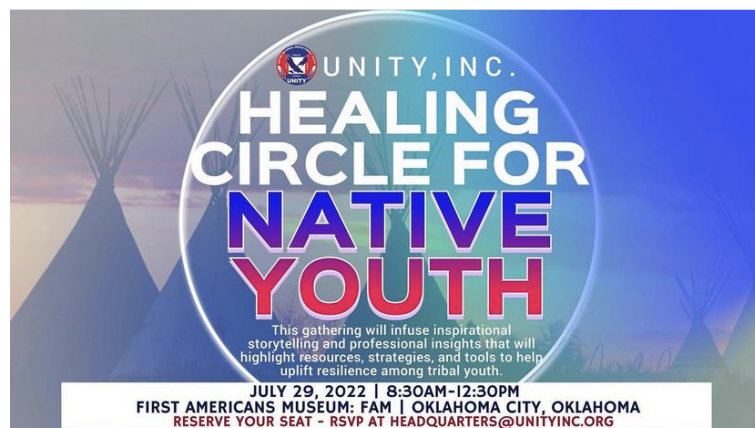
MIDYEAR REPORT 2023

**Chenoa Scippio
NUC EC Co-President**

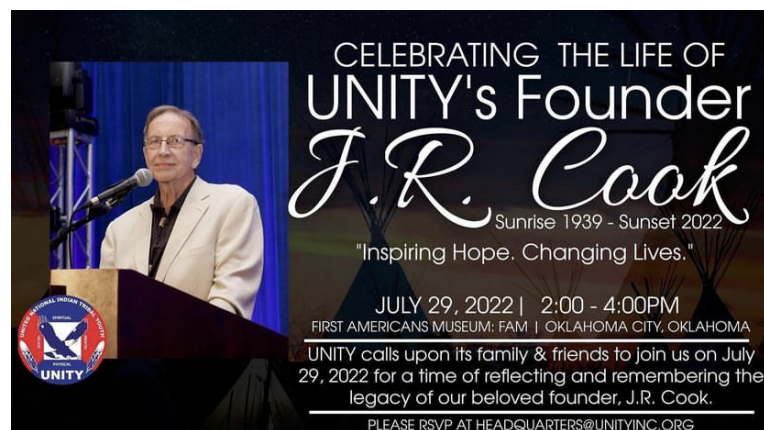
OKLAHOMA HEALING CIRCLE | CELEBRATION OF LIFE | INDIAN HILLS POWWOW

July 29, 2022
First Americans Museum - Oklahoma City, OK

A few weeks after the 2022 National Conference, I joined some of the Executive Committee members in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma for a few very important things. The first of which was the first regional Healing Circle at the First Americans Museum. The UNITY Peer Guides worked hard for four years



to develop a training for native youth to address community safety and gain the skills needed to present innovative ideas to tribal council members. The train-the-trainer approach means that as UNITY Peer Guides and Executive Committee members, we work closely with a small group of youth to model how to facilitate Healing Circles for their communities, schools, youth councils, etc. This first Healing Circle was unique in the fact that we had to condense two days worth of material down into four hours. Even though we didn't get to cover everything in the curriculum, I was still impressed by the participation - especially from my small group. I could see that they were connecting with each other and critically thinking through the community asset mapping portion of the Healing Circle.



In the afternoon, UNITY hosted a Celebration of Life for our late founder, J.R. Cook. It was so wonderful to be surrounded by so many people who shared beautiful stories and memories about J.R. Colby and I were able to share proclamations made by various tribes about J.R.'s legacy.

In addition to the Celebration of Life, UNITY and J.R. were honored with an honor song that evening on the first day of the 2022 Indian Hills Powwow. My time in Oklahoma City last summer was full of inspiration, celebration, and hope. I am honored to have been a part of J.R.'s celebration, a peer leader for the first UNITY Healing Circle, and to feel the power of the powwow circle - all in one day.

NATIONAL NATIVE AMERICAN BOARDING SCHOOL COALITION 7 WEEKS OF ACTION FOR THE NEXT 7 GENERATIONS

September 13, 2022 - Virtual Event



SEVEN WEEKS
of action for
SEVEN GENERATIONS

UPLIFTING S.2907/H.R.5444,
THE TRUTH AND HEALING
COMMISSION ON INDIAN
BOARDING SCHOOLS
POLICIES ACT.

**TUESDAY,
SEPTEMBER 13, 2022**
3PM ET | 2PM CT | 1PM MT
12PM PT | 11AM AK | 9AM HI

PARTICIPANTS

- + **Deborah Parker** (Tulalip Tribes)
CEO, National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition
- + **President Fawn Sharp** (Quinault Nation)
National Congress of American Indians
- + **Dr. Ramona Klein** (Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa)
Elder/Boarding School Survivor
- + **Sharice Davids** (Ho-Chunk)
U.S. Congresswoman, K-03
- + **Peggy Flanagan** (Anishinaabekwe)
Lt. Governor of Minnesota
- + **Chairman Reno Franklin** (Kashia)
Kashia Band of Pomo Indians
- + **Chief Benjamin Barnes** (Shawnee)
Shawnee Tribe
- + **Chenoe Sippio** (Navajo Nation)
National UNITY Council, Co-President
- + **Kutoven "Ku" Stevens** (Yerington Paiute Tribe)
Youth Ambassador
- + **Dallas Goldtooth** (Mdeveakanton Dakota & Diné)
Actor/Writer/Environmentalist, Reservation Dogs,
Rutherford Falls, & 1491's
- + **Sedelta Oasahwee** (Mandan, Hidatsa, Arikara)
National Education Association, Sr. Program Specialist
- + **Stacy A. Bohlan** (Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians)
National Indian Health Board Representative

The National Native American
Boarding School Healing Coalition

The National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition (NABS) reached out to UNITY requesting a youth speaker for their 7 Weeks of Action for the Next 7 Generations kick-off event. NABS invited everyone to take part in this momentum building step of advocacy for the Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies Act, formally known as S.2907 and H.R.5444. This act is revolutionary to say the least. As Indigenous Peoples of this continent, we have the absolute right to know what happened in the 360+ boarding schools that symbolize heartbreak and pain for the majority of Native families. This act will establish a Congressional commission to not only locate records of Indian boarding schools, but bring survivors and tribal representatives and experts together. If passed, this act will ensure the following:

A thorough investigation of United States Indian boarding schools including locating and documenting all children buried at or near boarding school facilities; documenting evidence of the ongoing effects of intergenerational trauma in Native communities; and collect and analyze all records on Indian boarding schools

Collection of testimony from survivors, tribes, and subject matter experts through public forums for victims, survivors, families, communities, Native organizations, and tribal leaders; and through knowledge gathering from entities such as churches, the federal government, state and local governments, and organizations

Creation and dissemination of commission findings and recommendations by producing a final report to be shared publicly within 5 years; and by providing recommendations for legislation and administrative actions to address the impact of current Indian boarding school policy

There were people from all generations and various tribes represented on the virtual event, but spoke specifically about the youth perspective related to this act. Youth that are my age and younger may have never participated in voting, locally or nationally, so I took that into account and I reminded them that there are other ways that we have our voice be heard at the national level. I encouraged youth to be proactive and look up their respective senators, representatives and to write letters and make phone calls expressing their support for the Truth and Healing commission on Indian Boarding School Policies Act.

[BEGIN:] NATIVE ORGANIZERS ALLIANCE COMMUNITY ORGANIZING FELLOWSHIP

September 16, 2022 - Virtual Fellowship

NOA's Mission, Vision, & Purpose

Native Organizers Alliance amplified the power of tribes, organizations, and communities to drive policy change in Indian Country.

Native Organizers Alliance's vision is to support and mobilize Native peoples and tribal communities in the protection of our lands, waters, resources, and ways of life.

Native Organizers Alliance's purpose is to build grassroots organizing and coalitions on an array of national initiatives and events.

NOA provides training and an organizing toolkit for a 3 month campaign. Fellows will learn about the Indigenous framework for grassroots organizers as a whole, including how NOA works on a national level to help support a national movement for sovereignty. The fellowship is remote, so I was able to stay in Albuquerque and still learn all I can about NOA and community organizing in Indian Country. I volunteered for Americans for Indian Opportunity's National Voter Registration Day event at a local K-12 charter school called the Native American Community Academy (NACA). NACA is truly a community based school, born out of necessity to care for our urban Indigenous students in Albuquerque. The National Voter Registration Day event was held at the elementary/middle school campus on a field that parents/guardians must drive past to pick up their students. Even though we didn't get as many people registered to vote as we had hoped, it was still a great opportunity to engage youth in the conversation about voting and democracy.

RED ROAD TO D.C. TOTEM JOURNEY CEREMONY | PROTECTION OF SACRED SITES ADVOCACY

September 27-28, 2022 - Washington, D.C.



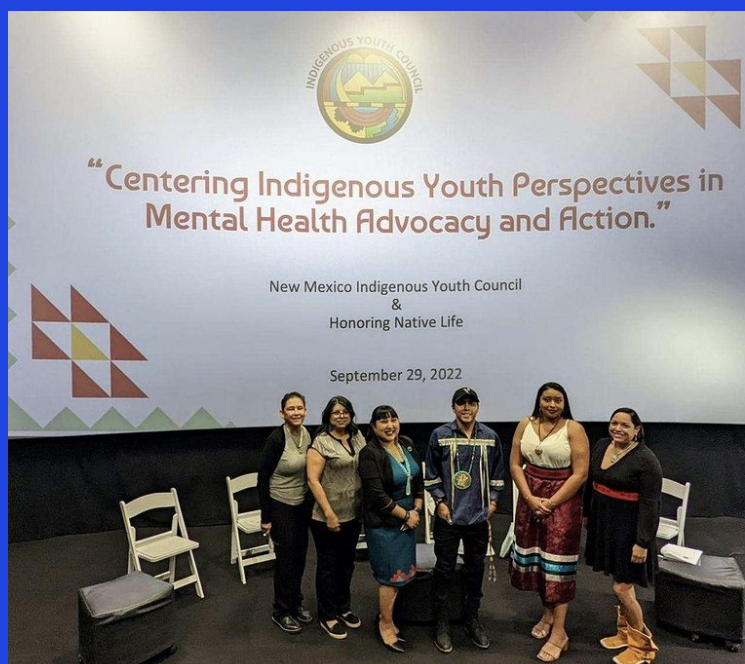
As a part of this fellowship, I was fortunate to be included in this trip to Washington DC. This trip was a result of the Red Road to DC rally that happened during the summer of 2022. NOA and it's network was a huge part of this rally and many different tribes and their sacred sites were honored. NOA was invited to meet with Secretary Deb Haaland about the protection of sacred sites after the rally. During our time in DC, we had a Red Road to DC Totem Journey Ceremony, and we went to capitol to attend meetings with various staff members of senators and representatives. The Red Road to DC Totem Journey Ceremony was at the National Conservation Training Center at the US Fish and Wildlife Services. During this ceremony, we heard from so many powerful people from Native Organizers Alliance, the Yankton Sioux Tribe, Utah Dine Bikeya (Bears Ears), the Greater Chaco Coalition, and the House of Tears Carvers. While we were at the capital, we joined meetings to advocate for two very important bills currently in the House of Representatives. H.R. 8108 or Advancing Tribal Parity on Public Lands Act will prohibit the sale of public land containing a tribal cultural site, where a tribal nation retains treaty or other rights, or that contains a former reservation. This act would also require that, when selling public land, the United States Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management must offer the land at fair market value first to tribal nations with historic connection to the land; and second to land grants for public lands containing historic common lands. The Advancing Tribal Parity on Public Lands Act urges Congress to ensure that tribal

governments get the respect and rights due to them, and increases protection of sacred sites. H.R. 8109, The Tribal Cultural Areas System Act, would establish a national Tribal Cultural Areas System, to be made up of culturally significant sites on public lands. This system would allow tribes to have more influence over the protection and management of lands they have always used.

URBAN LAND INSTITUTE PRESENTATION

September 29 , 2022 - Santa Fe, NM

Representatives from the Urban Life Institute found the New Mexico Indigenous Youth Council's Report and Recommendations online when they were planning an agenda for their annual fellows convening. The ULI's fellows cohort included architects, urban/rural planners, health professionals, and leaders from all over the world. ULI requested a presentation from the Indigenous Youth Council related to involving youth in city/urban/rural development and how to work with Indigenous Peoples in general. We presented on the history of the Indigenous Youth Council and the Healing Native Lives Initiative, as well as our Youth Wellness Summits, the Gathering of Native Americans (GONA) model and approach used in our report, and the landback movement from the youth perspective.



2022 AMERICAN INDIAN SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING SOCIETY NATIONAL CONFERENCE

October 6-8, 2022 - Palm Springs, CA



I traveled out to California with UNITY staff member William Mosely and Jared Massey to attend last year's AISES conference. AISES and UNITY are very similar in a lot of aspects as far as general assemblies, break out sessions, and vendors, but AISES has the largest Native college & career fair in the country dedicated to advancing Indigenous Peoples in healthcare, science, technology, engineering, and math. At the college and career fair, I was at the UNITY booth alongside William and Jared talking to UNITY alum, current UNITY youth council members, and representatives from various organizations wondering how they can partner with UNITY.



2023 NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS ANNUAL CONVENTION

November 1-4, 2022 - Sacramento, CA



Colby, Jonathan, and I attended the last NCAI where we did a few things on behalf of UNITY. We spent sometime at the marketplace, at UNITY's booth engaging with tribal leaders, community organizations, and youth. We were promoting the Midyear and National Conferences as well as the formation of new youth councils, and just answering questions overall. In addition to the booth, we hosted a UNITY101 workshop for youth attendees. And most importantly, we gave an address to the general assembly of tribal leaders from across the country to talk about UNITY, starting youth councils. And advocating for greater youth involvement.



INDIGENOUS LIFE CELEBRATION

November 5, 2022 - Albuquerque, NM

For the 2nd Annual Indigenous Life Celebration in Albuquerque, I was asked to be the keynote speaker. This was an exciting opportunity for me because I have never been the main speaker at any kind of event. For this celebration, there were only two speakers, myself and an elder from Cochiti Pueblo. I felt honored to be able to speak to the crowd after the elder prayed and sang a song for blessing. During my speech I reminded the youth that being a good relative doesn't only mean being a good kid and helping out from time to time, but it means that we must stay up to date on issues affecting Native people at home and across the world. Being a good relative means to advocate for tribal sovereignty in everything you do, and finally I reminded them that we must be aware of how our actions impact others.



In addition to speaking, I had a resource table with materials provided by Native Organizers Alliance. I was giving away shirts, posters, stickers, buttons, and handing out brochures and one pagers about joining NOA. I also had my laptop open on the side and after I explained everything about Get Out the Native Vote, and NOA, I also had an opportunity for people to sign the NOA petition for support of the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA). Last year's Indigenous Life Celebration was amazing, and I cannot wait to be a part of this year's!



WHITE HOUSE TRIBAL YOUTH FORUM

November 14-15, 2022 - Washington, D.C.

The National UNITY Council Executive Committee, UNITY 25 Under 25 Awardees, and other UNITY youth were invited to join Center for Native American Youth and the Bureau of Indian Education for the 2022 White House Tribal Youth Forum. I was super excited to be the morning Co-MC. I loved all of the topics for the sessions and discussions. I wish we had more time and more opportunity to speak to these high ranking people in the U.S. government. I thought it was amazing that we were exposed to many great leaders and had the opportunity to ask a few of them questions. Afterwards we got to attend a mixer for youth attendees at the National Indian Gaming Association office.



The next day, all youth attendees from the White House Tribal Youth Forum were extended an invitation to attend the 2022 Native American Heritage Month Celebration at the White House. This event was amazing! It was hosted in the White House (my first time being inside), and the room was full of so many well-known figures across Indian Country. We heard from Dr. Jill Biden and Secretary of the Interior, Aunty Deb Haaland. Then we had an opportunity to mingle with all the guests in different rooms and we enjoyed some refreshments. I am beyond grateful for the opportunity to be a part of the inaugural Native American Heritage Month at the White House!



NORTHWEST HEALING CIRCLE

December 3-4, 2022 - Tulalip, WA

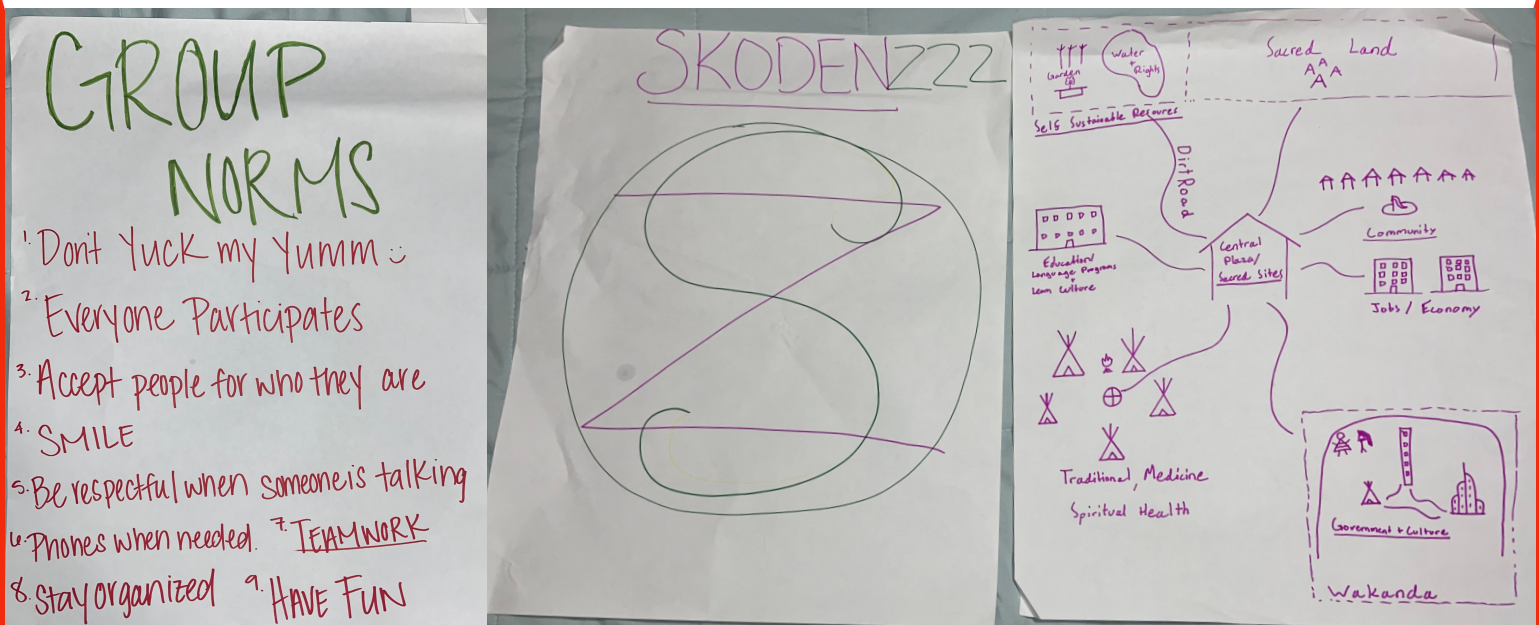


During this Healing Circle and trip to the PNW, I was able to experience so many new and exciting things about coastal Natives in this part of the country. I loved seeing the commitment the Tulalip Tribe of Washington has for the success and future of their youth. The Tulalip Tribe has a beautiful youth campus dedicated to the safety and wellbeing of their youth, and this is where the Healing Circle was hosted. I felt so much acceptance and overwhelming joy from the community members who came out to participate in the Coastal Jam we had on Saturday night. Some of the youth projects that came out of this Healing Circle included building tribal apartments for homeless relatives, building a dedicated youth center, and trash pick up.

SOUTHWEST HEALING CIRCLE

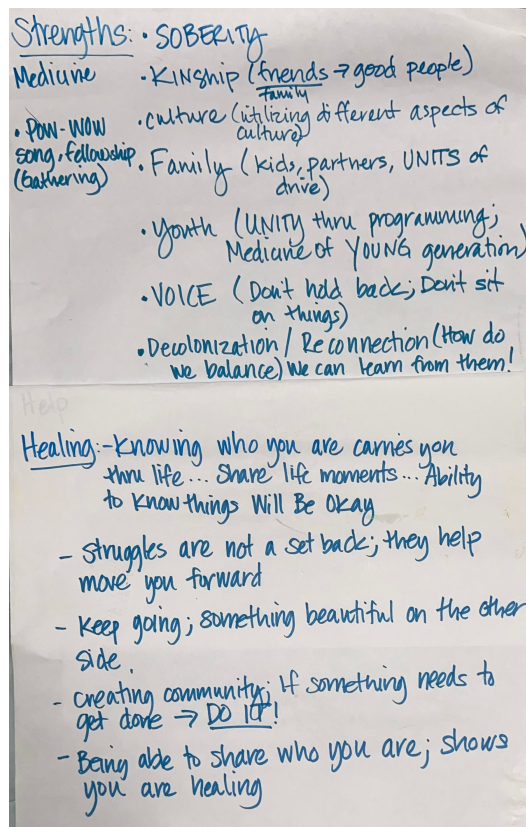
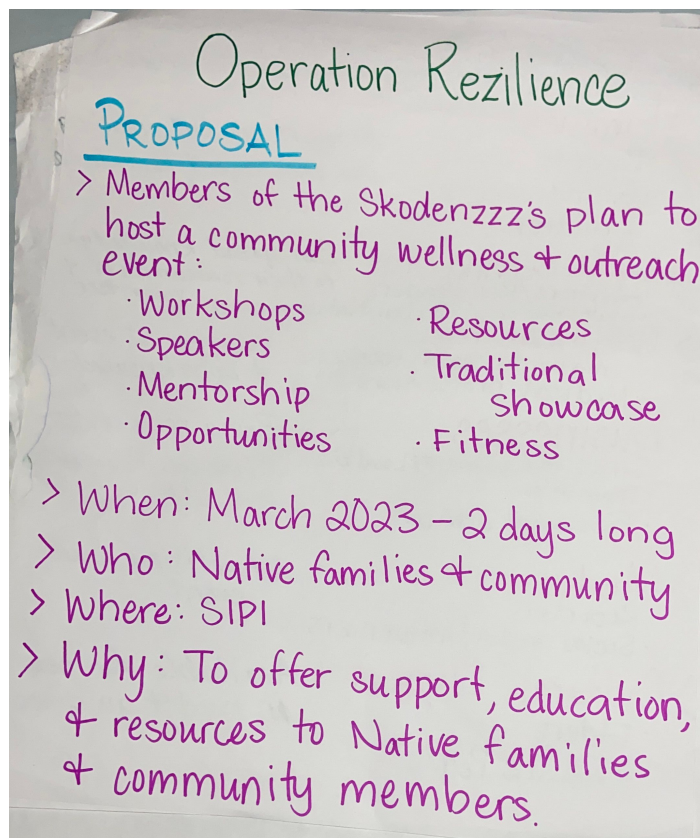
December 10-11, 2022 - Albuquerque, NM

This Healing Circle was hands down my favorite of all the ones I attended in 2022 because it was right here in Albuquerque. My youth council, the New Mexico Indigenous Youth Council were peer leaders among myself, our Southwest and Rocky Mountain Representatives, and some 25 Under 25 Awardees. Instead of randomizing the groups like we had done in the Healing Circles in the past, we decided to break everyone up by region/tribe. This way, the results of the community project planning are more specific, and therefore more attainable.



On the second day, our mock tribal council was made up of staff members from the New Mexico Indian Affairs Department, Americans for Indian Opportunity, Pueblo Action Alliance, and graduate students from The University of New Mexico. I was very impressed by the community project presentations, and I know our mock tribal council was too. The projects being proposed included environmental awareness and returning back to traditional agricultural practices; creating financial wellness and bringing back the trade and bartering systems of our ancestors; monthly community events to raise awareness about different community issues; and community education events addressing substance use.

I absolutely loved this Healing Circle because of the strong participation we had from everybody. Even the adults in their own group were following along with the curriculum and planned their own community project. For the one youth council that came, this was their first UNITY event since 2019. So it felt amazing to be able to provide that restorative feeling that only UNITY can provide.



N.U.C. E.C. TRAINING

January 13-14, 2023 - Mesa, AZ

At the beginning of 2023, the Executive Committee got together for a training focused on our new initiative, 'Healing the Spirit of Native Youth'. Before we really got to work, we met with the Mesa STRENGTH Youth Council and the Ft. McDowell Youth Council for some socializing and skill building. As an EC, we guided the youth councils through an elevator speech workshop, to teach them how to effectively communicate their ideas, solutions, or projects in under a minute. For two days, the EC met at the UNITY office in Mesa, Arizona and completed various team building exercises and mind mapping sessions. In addition to brainstorming and resolution writing, we also attend a Késhje, or Navajo Shoe Game, hosted by the Phoenix Indian Center. It was wonderful to spend time together as an Executive Committee to re-examine our goals before our midyear conference.

INDIGENOUS STUDENT MIXER

January 27, 2023 - Albuquerque, NM

Kiva Club and Americans for Indian Opportunity hosted a student mixer at UNM. There were about 25 high school students and about 10 college students that attended. This mixer, or social night, is Kiva Club's attempt at creating a safer community on the UNM main campus. It was a great night to just hang out and play games and get to know each other. This is a great way for high school students to feel like they belong on a college campus, and they are now in a position to ask us any questions they have about applying, living on campus. Taking classes, etc.



INDIGENOUS YOUTH COUNCIL WELLNESS SERIES

February 8, 2023 - Virtual Event



During the month of February, my youth council started a Health and Wellness Webinar Series where we have a wellness/fitness coach talk about different aspects of health and wellness as it relates to food, biofeedback, planning meals, and living an active lifestyle. I introduced the first of this four part webinar titled, Debunking Myths: Finding Balance with Good & Bad Foods. I really like the approach that our coach has when it comes to destigmatizing these themes in Native communities. Instead of labeling each food as good or bad, we learned about the macronutrients and how we can categorize food based on that, and we learned how to balance our meals based on macros. We plan on having the rest of the sessions once a week every Wednesday until March 1.