



**Representative Justice Fox
2023 Mid-Year
Great Plains Regional Report**

July

13th – Gave a speech to a summer Native Youth Group under Chance rush

I was given the honor to speak in front of a youth group about “ Why I’m Here “. It was very eye opening and motivating for me, as I too was just in high school and now I was talking to them like I was some old person with a story. I am grateful to have been in the position to have people listen to me.

29th – Attended the first healing circle and J.R Cook Memorial service

I wish I would have had the opportunity to met J.R Cook when he was still with us but I try to see what his vision was and to execute it how I thought he would’ve, being there was enough for me to know what kind man he was and it’s an honor for me to be apart of his Dream. The first healing circle was everything I thought it was going to be and more. To bring a handful of UNITY to different reservations is an amazing idea and how it’s executed in such a safe, positive manner. This was an great experience, I hope we can bring it to more regions.

October

6th – Attended National Indian Education Association conference/Healing Circle It being my first time at NIEA, I had fun interacting with the youth of Oklahoma and the older educational people who came to our booth. It was a conference I enjoyed even though I was already in college and didn’t network much with the education booths. I bought my first Handdrum there and was outside trying to practice when some native youth started coming around and wanted me to sing, unfortunately I didn’t know any songs but I did teach them the significance of the drum and it’s purpose to our people. The healing circle was nice too as it was older youth and college kids. It was fun teaching them Sweep the Teepee and hearing what they believed a perfect native community would look like and how they wanted it to be. The healing really does show itself in these environments.

29th – Attended a Native American and Immigrant Youth Story telling meet up I got invited to this event by Tribal Unite on very short notice and was hoping to see other Native Youth but they didn’t have the networking to find Native youth who could make it, So I connected them to Southern Plains Rep Elwood. Being one of the only natives there, I did my best to share the stories I can remember and the similarities our cultures have. It was just like another Healing Circle but it was intergenerational and multicultural. We had 5 minute journal writes that would show how each of us think differently and how creativity is within all of us, we just have to let it flow through us. I also got the honor to sing for them (my first time) as an opening prayer/song.

November

14th – Attended White House Tribal Youth Forum

This event was life changing for me, the amount of gratefulness and thankfulness I have, to be invited to this event can’t be put into words. Every moment I was in complete AWE. To landing, to the ride to my hotel, and every single second after that. All the training and experiences I had prior to this event couldn’t have prepared me for the place I was about to be in. Every moment I

was learning something new, soaking in all the political information and how it was run. I was surrounded by Inspiring Native Youth left and right. I felt out of place but I tried to stay composed and contribute as much as I could. To be in such a monumental place and historical site was a spectacle, that gladdened my sight. I could help but be nervous and just listen. I wish more Youth could have experienced it and been apart of the work that was happening right in front of us.

29th – Attended White House Tribal Nations Summit as a Youth Attendee

I live in gratitude for the opportunity that I was given to attend this event. It was even more nerve racking as I wasn't with my usual important place buddies (Executive Committee). The first part of this was with other youth from Center4Native, they were so inspirational and motivational. To see them excelling at such a high level was nothing but . I was attending with one of my peers from Tribal Unite, he is also a youngster who is a promising motivational speaker. All of us were in a round table with a handful of Tribal Chairmen who were there to guide us and give their input on certain topics. All the youth got to give their input as well. It was a very close and personal kind of round table, that allowed for us to know the chairman's perspective and for the chairman's to know the youths perspective. The next part of the event was when we arrived at the department of interior with the Tribal Chairman's from almost all tribes across the U.S. We were the only Youth there, this portion our only responsibility was to listen and immerse ourselves into the problems tribes were facing and how the chairman's were dealing with them. While also hearing from chairman's in the crowd voice their own opinions and thoughts on matters in hand and their own problems they were dealing with. It was an experience I am unbelievably grateful to be invited to and thankful for my mentor Chance and Thomas.

29th – MHA Youth Leadership council hosted a Native Youth hand game tournament

I was not able to attend this event Hosted by this promising youth council but it was gracefully facilitated and had a good turnout from the other native schools around. My school took the win and it was a nice experience for the youth to practice hand games and learn more about it while playing there.

Mid Year Conclusion

I cannot express enough on how grateful and thankful I am to have been able to attend any of these events. I wouldn't have these opportunities or experiences if it weren't for my Mentors and role models within UNITY. I wouldn't be here without them. Thank you.