

Northeast Regional Report

Presented by Nathan Solorio

Northeastern Regional Rep

Boozhoo/Hello northeast region! Ever since I got elected the Northeast Representative, life has changed for me in many ways. I have got to travel my region and meet with a lot of youth councils, Native organizations, and many native youth from different parts of the northeast region. Throughout my journey of being the Northeast representative I have learned many skills, one being community service. I am excited to share with you my service so far in the northeast region.

July 2022

In the month of July 2022 I attended my first ever UNITY National Conference in Minneapolis Minnesota. I had an amazing time, here I was elected Northeast Regional Representative and awarded a 25Under25 award.



I was so bummed about the conference coming to an end, but I had an amazing time at the National Conference. I can't wait for the next!

August-September 2022

In the first week of August I got to meet with the New Dawn youth council, and attend their retreat in New Jersey. The youth that are in the New Dawn youth council are all from Nanticoke Lenni-Lenape Tribe in New Jersey. There I got to meet with all the youth and talk about UNITY, socialize, learn their teachings, and overall fellowship. I learned a lot from the New Dawn youth council such as wanting to attend upcoming conferences, and wanting “more representation from the northeast region.



The second week of August I got invited to come and meet the Running Strong for American Indian Youth Program. I meet so many amazing people there, they are so supportive of my work with UNITY.



In the middle of September I got invited by Native American Lifelines. They invited me to attend their Gathering Of Native Americans(GONA) retreat in Maryland, because many native youth attending wanted to get involved with UNITY and start a youth council. While at the retreat I meet with 14 native youth from different states along the northeast region. I talked to them about what UNITY is about and what they can help you achieve. It was a great weekend, I was great to come and represent and get more native youth from my region involved with UNITY.



October 2022

In the end of October I had an amazing opportunity come to me, I was interviewed by the TODAY show, about my work with UNITY and my platform Heartmedicine. I am so grateful for this opportunity, after this interview I have had many more amazing opportunities come to me. My interview was posted on TODAY.com at the beginning of November.

PARENTS

An Indigenous teen was mocked for having long hair. Now he's helping his bullied peers

Nathan Solorio of Pennsylvania has become a leader for his Indigenous peers who feel excluded at school.



Pennsylvania teen Nathan Solorio is creating an online safe space for Indigenous students who are bullied.

Courtesy Nathan Solorio

November-December 2022

The month of September was filled with some amazing opportunities. On November 14th I had the honor to attend the White House Tribal Youth Forum in Washington D.C, along with UNITY and the Executive Committee!



The day after the White House Tribal Youth Forum, I got to attend Dr. Jill Bidens Native American Heritage Month Celebration at the White House! This was truly a great opportunity for me, I got to meet Secretary Deb Haaland, many Indigenous actors and models, and more. Forever so grateful to have been able to attend this!



The following week I attended UNITY's Northeast healing circle in Connecticut, here I met with youth from the Mashantucket Pequot Tribe. While attending this event my leadership skill really kicked in! I made so many new connections here. It was so nice seeing native youth gather and talk about problems in there communities, and how they can overcome it.



I had an amazing time helping lead the Northeast Healing Circle that weekend! All the youth did such an amazing job. Can't wait for the next!!



January 2023

In the first month of the new year I kicked it off with Morning Star Powwow hosted in Maryland. I have gotten asked to speak about UNITY at this powwow. After my speech about UNITY, I got approached by many native youth wanting to get involved with UNITY. It made my heart happy to see so many youth wanting to attend the National Unity Conference 2023 in Washington D.C.



I am grateful and thankful for my community who has supported me these past months. It is such a honor to serve as Northeast Representative. This is my report.

- Nathan Solorio