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The Importance of Culture in Uplifting Indigenous Youth

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August 14, 2024



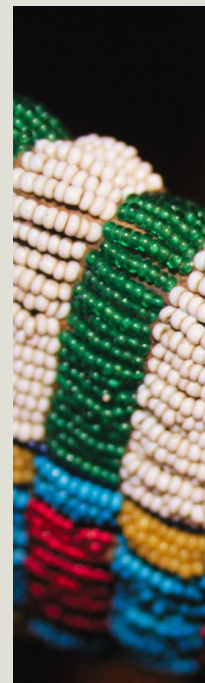
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Before We Get Started

- ⌘ This project was supported by Grant #15PJDP-21-GK-04048-MUMU awarded by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice.
- ⌘ The opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this publication/program/exhibition are those of the author(s) and do not necessary reflect those of the Department of Justice.

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Sam Schimmel

- Siberian Yupik Name: Uuyavuk
- Kenaitze Indian and Siberian Yupik
- Co-Chair of Tikahtnu Inter Tribal Fisheries
- J.D. Candidate at Georgetown University
- Founder of Operation Fish Drop





Isabella Fridia

- Lakota Name: Hanhe Wi Iyoyanpa Win
- Wichita (Waco band), Kiowa, Caddo, Hunka Oglala Lakota
- Undergraduate at the University of Denver majoring in Physiology in Health and Disease
- SuAnne Big Crow Youth Development Intern
- TYRC Young Leader





Anagali (Shace) Duncan

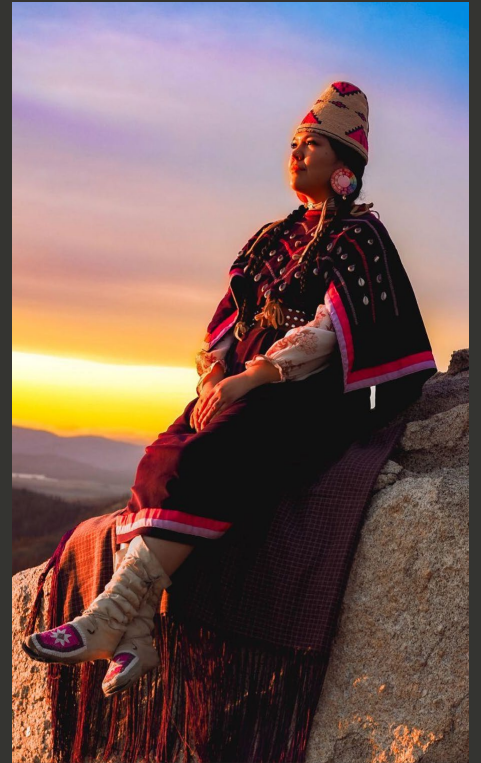
- Keetoowah, Cherokee
- Undergraduate at Stanford University
Majoring in Ethnic Studies,
Minor in Public Policy
- TLPI Summer Intern
- TYRC Young Leader





Sydney Matheson

- Traditional name - Sk^wmk^wmiwčxn' Xixw'tm' (skwoom-kwuh-my-oo-chn he-he-wa-tum) Rainbow Girl
- Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation
 - Okanogan, Moses-Columbia, Palus, Wenatchi bands
- Arizona State University - Online
 - Public Policy and Public Service (Emergency Management and Homeland Security)
- Harvard Business School Executive Education
 - Leading Tribal Nations 2023
- TYRC YL Mentor





Learning Objectives:

- Gain an understanding of how culturally-informed programming positively impacts Tribal youth.
- Identify strategies to support integration of culture into your Tribal Youth Program activities.
- Create opportunities for outreach to the community and brainstorm other resources to uplift youth through culture with your programs.



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Attempted Disconnection

- Relocation - Indian Relocation act of 1812
- Residential schools
- Commodity foods
- Banning Cultural practices
- Eradication and illegalization of subsistence





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Traditional Songs/Singing

- Songs are great ways to learn the language
- Connection to our ancestors
- Songs are used in different settings (Prayer, Ceremony, Inipi, funerals, etc...)
- Heart beat of the drum is representative of the heartbeat of our people
- Songs as storytelling





My Experience with Singing

- Intergenerational knowledge
- Cultural centered Youth programs
- Coping mechanism (stress, anxiety, mental health)
- Lessons and teachings
- Grounding in culture and spirituality





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Traditional Art

- Express cultural values and teachings through sewing, bead/quill/patch work, weaving, carving, painting, and more.
- Honor our tribes, families, and indigenous histories.
- Teach resourcefulness and learn near extinct skills.
- Develop effective and healthy coping mechanisms.



Storytelling

- Entertainment
- Impart values to youth/community
- Thousands of years of development
- Carries knowledge and principles of ancestors
- Strengthens communal bonds
- Responsibility



Subsistence

- Teaches core beliefs
- Instills sense of responsibility
- Ensures intense work ethic
- Creates sense of purpose
- Looks like:
 - Community hunting
 - Community fishing
 - Community food preservation
 - Community food distributions





Integration of Culture into Youth Programs

- Ideas and strategies that can help integrate culture into programming
- What is important when doing this?
- Tell cultural stories and implement the values into your work/translate the values to the youth



Resources & References



- Cultural-based programs
 - United National Indian Tribal Youth (UNITY)
 - Center For Native American Youth (CNAY)
 - Education North West
 - Project Venture (NILYP)
- Organizations with funding for youth program development
 - Runstrong grants
 - Native Youth and Culture Fund



**"Working together,
we can do more
than lift a pebble,
we can move
mountains."**

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Table Work

- Share how you may already be implementing cultural ways/activities into your youth programs
- How could you enhance the implementation of culture into your Tribal Youth Programs? What would help your program to thrive?
- Brainstorm and share new strategies and ideas for your youth programming when it comes to culture and outreach into the community

Outreach and Brainstorming for Youth Programs



Any Questions?






Contact Us

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