



AIHEC STUDENT CONGRESS FALL 2013 NEWSLETTER

Hello Indian Country!

The ASC is pleased to inform you that they continue to work hard to make the tribal college student experience memorable and meaningful. Here are a few events that took place since their election at the AIHEC Annual Student Conference in Green Bay, WI.

The main focus of the ASC officers in the spring after their inauguration consisted of finalizing the details of the 2013 AIHEC-SAIGE Summer Leadership Conference in Spokane, WA. Historically, the ASC officers have worked solely with the American Indian College Fund and AIHEC to host a 2-day leadership institute at a tribal college. This year, the officers of the ASC also collaborated with the Society of American Indian Government Employees to ensure a successful weeklong conference at the Northern Quest Casino that brought 29 TCU students together to discuss common challenges, instill Native leadership skill building, and inspire and motivate the students to lead their campuses and communities into a more peaceful and prosperous future.



June 2013 SAIGE-AIHEC Student Leadership Conference

During the leadership conference the students heard from great leaders of Indian Country. They were joined by Cheryl Crazy Bull President of the American Indian College Fund, John Herrington, the First American Indian NASA Astronaut, Charlene Teters, American Indian Artists and Activist, and Jody Tallbear from the Office of Economic Impact, Department of Energy, among many others. Each of these distinguished speakers lent their time and shared their wisdom to the young leaders of Indian Country engaging the group in discussion, laughter, and inspiration.

After the Leadership Conference, the ASC turned their attention to the monumental AIHEC 40th Anniversary Conference in Santa Fe, NM. The ASC used the AIHEC 40th Anniversary theme, Nation Building, to begin their annual initiative focused this year on food sovereignty. The ASC officers recruited 13 tribal college students to join them in a 3-day workshop with organizations specializing in community support and service. Organizations such as the PeaceCorps, AmeriCorps, the Indigenous Environmental Network, Focus the Nation, Tribal Tech, LLC, and the Minger Foundation led discussions on beginning a service project or initiative, the benefits and challenges of social entrepreneurship, the effects of sustainability on indigenous people, and the importance of fire and campus safety. The student participants learned service skillsets and ideas that they were able to apply to the initiatives they had already began at their college campuses or would implement at their campus in the fall.



August 2013 AIHEC 40th Anniversary Student Workshop

Currently, the ASC is working towards their two chosen initiatives: one in food sovereignty and the other in a marketing campaign. For their food sovereignty initiative, the 7 officers have divided into two committees to begin planning the specifics. The hope is to have one committee develop a strategy to help tribal colleges plant the seeds of an official food sovereignty program at their campus. The other committee will work closely with the Montana Host Committee of the 2014 Annual Student Conference in Billings, MT, to develop a food sovereignty competition for tribal colleges with a full-fledge food sovereignty program. For the marketing campaign initiative, with support from graphic design students

at IAIA, the ASC will design 4 posters to display at each tribal college; a poster each for AIHEC, the ASC, the AIHEC Alumni Association, and the Tribal College Movement. The hope is to boost awareness across all the tribal colleges about the different functions of AIHEC and how these functions contribute to the lives of the tribal college students.

The ASC welcomes any student or faculty involvement in their Food Sovereignty or AIHEC Awareness initiatives and looks forward to a successful college year as AIHEC Student Congress Officers!



MEET YOUR AIHEC STUDENT CONGRESS OFFICERS



AIHEC STUDENT CONGRESS PRESIDENT

Hello there, I am Dwight Carlston and a member of the Navajo Nation. I am born to the Water Flows Together clan (To'aheedliinii) and born for the Sage Brush Hill clan (Ts'ah yisk'idnii). Originally from Falcon Nest, New Mexico and currently attending Navajo Technical University located in Crownpoint, NM, majoring in Environmental Science with an emphasis in Natural Resource.

In 2012, I was named student of the year for Navajo Technical College at the time and received a scholarship from the American Indian College Fund. Through my major from the university, I was selected for an internship with the U.S Forest Service in Big Timber, Montana. I worked with the field biologist to find solutions in the fight against the pine bark beetle. I then enlisted into being a Wild Land Fire Fighter and served on engine 642. I am currently serving as the 2013-2014 AIHEC Student Congress President.

I am truly blessed to hold this position as Student Congress President along with its great responsibility, because every TCU student should have the opportunity to learn about their people, history and future. Each TCU student has the ability to become what he or she wants to become so that they can make a difference in their well respected Nations.



VICE PRESIDENT

Jamelyn Ebelacker was born at Warner Robins Air Force Base, Georgia in 1991, and is a registered member of Santa Clara Pueblo. Growing up in Eagle River, Alaska, she received her high school diploma from Steller Secondary School in 2009. Currently attending the Institute of American Indian Arts, she will receive her BFA in New Media Arts in May 2014. Ebelacker has exhibited her artwork at the Heard Museum Guild Indian Fair & Market in Phoenix, Arizona, and the SWAIA Indian Market in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Jamelyn Ebelacker lives and works in Santa Fe, New Mexico.



SECRETARY

Ya'ateeh (Greetings) my name is Charnelle V. Yazzie. I'm from the Water's Edge Clan (Tabaahi) born for the Towering House Clan (Kiyaa'aanii), my maternal clan is the Mexican Clan (Naakaii Dine'e), and my paternal clan is the Bitter Water Clan (Todich'ii'nii). This is how I represent myself as a Dine' woman. I originally come from the northeast part of Arizona on the Navajo reservation called Tse'e'ahii (Standing Rock). I currently reside on the Turtle Mt. reservation in Belcourt, ND where I earned an AA degree in Criminal J. at Turtle Mt. Comm. College and continue my education earning a BA in Criminal J. Throughout life's journey; this is one of Creator's blessings he bestowed upon me and I am honored to be this year's Secretary on AIHEC Student Congress. This is just the beginning for a bright future...



TREASURER

"Hizakisana, hinikaragiwina. Masja Mani ga hingairena. Greetings friends and relatives. My name is William "Willy" Bass. My ceremonial name is Masja Mani, which in English means "walks hard". I am 25 years old and represent the Bear Clan of the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska. I am currently in my third year in the Elementary Education program at Salish Kootenai College in Pablo, Montana. My career plans include teaching children in Indian communities the mainstream, public education curriculum in ways that emphasize meaningful connections to the culture, traditions and languages of that tribal community. I enjoy playing volleyball, coaching, and spending time with family and friends. I am also the current 2013-2014 AIHEC Student Congress Treasurer. The reason I ran for Student Congress is to develop myself as a leader, a citizen, an educator, and a stronger advocate for tribal colleges and universities (TCUs). I believe it is important to foster the longevity of TCUs and its missions because they allow us to gain and develop the skills necessary in today's society to better serve ourselves, our children, our families, our communities, and Indian country."



HISTORIAN

Myron Wanna Jr is an enrolled member of the Spirit Lake Dakota Nation in Fort Totten, North Dakota. He attends his local college Cankdeska Cikana (Little Hoop) Community College, where he is earning his AA in Business Administration. He is an active member for the student government on campus, while also being involved with DECA, AISES, and Indian Club. He is also one of the two tutors on campus. After he graduates this May, he plans to transfer to North Dakota State University (NDSU) and major in Marketing or Management. Later on he hopes to obtain his Masters of Business Administration (MBA), and go back to his reservation to help his community by starting businesses to create more job opportunities while adding wealth to the reservation. Myron is honored to be a part of the 40th year for the American Indian Higher Education Consortium (AIHEC) and hopes for another 40 years of success. He is also very excited and thankful for being selected as the 2013-2014 AIHEC Student Congress Historian, and hopes everyone will smile when he is taking their picture.



SERGEANT AT ARMS

Leslie is a member of the Waterspirit Clan enrolled with the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska. She has three boys and one girl in the care of their grandparents in Nebraska while she attends Salish Kootenai College in Western Montana. Leslie is studying for her bachelor's degree in Environmental Science, and intends on earning her Ph.D. in the future. Her ultimate dream is to help Tribes to become ecologically self-sustaining for future generations. Since she first started classes at SKC in the fall of 2012, she had served as secretary on Student Senate and Treasurer of the Forestry club, and has participated in two NASA internships over the past two summers. She looks forward to another successful year serving the student body and is honored to have been given the opportunity to serve as your Sergeant-at-Arms in AIHEC Student Congress.



MIDWEST REPRESENTATIVE

Boozhoo (Hi) Dizinkaaz (My name is) Robert LeDoux. My Indian Name is Migwun Ininii (feather Man). My clan is Ma'kwaa (Bear). I come from Belcourt (Siipiising Doonge) I am from Turtle Mountain Chippewa Reservation (Omaa Mikinock Wajiw Anishinabe Ishkonion) I attend school at Turtle Mountain Community College (Mikinock Wajiw Mamaawii Gabe Gikendasso Wigamig dishaa). I earned an AAS degree in Building Construction Tech. Now, I am going for another AAS degree in Residential Electrical Tech. I am 32 years old and have three Beautiful children, two girls named Mindy and Nizhoni, and a son Robert Jr. I am honored to be part of AIHEC's student congress as 2013-2014 Mid-West Regional Rep.