



AIHEC Student Congress:
Report to the AIHEC Board of Directors
June 23, 2015

AIHEC Summer 2015 Meeting

The AIHEC Student Congress (ASC) has met twice a month since the officers were elected at the AIHEC Student Conference in March. Officers of the ASC have worked with SAIGE to organize and lead the 2015 SAIGE-AIHEC National Training Program in Minneapolis, MN, June 14-19th. The National Training Program is an enriching experience for the **30 TCU students and six TCU advisors and faculty** members who attend. The skills the students learn, the issues they identify, the strategies they share, and the bonds they develop will help each of them lead their nations for decades to come. Leadership, teamwork, professional development, and networking are some of the skills the students work on over the course of the training. The ASC is excited to play a lead role and thank the AIHEC, the American Indian College Fund and the Coca-Cola Foundation for contributing the funds that made the program possible.

The 2015-2016 AIHEC Student Congress officers:

President Christopher Sindone is a junior pursuing an education in Business at Haskell Indian Nations University. He is Pawnee, Otoe, Ioway, Kiowa, Cheyenne and Oglala Sioux from Perkins, Oklahoma. His parents are Lillie and Willie Nelson of Lawton, Oklahoma and Dennis Sindone from NYC, NY. He is the Student Senate President at Haskell Indian Nations University for the 2015-2016 school term. He is also Chair of the Empowerment Summit Committee and Chair of the Commencement Pow-Wow Committee at Haskell. He travels to Pow-Wows and raises cultural awareness at similar festivals and events by performing the traditional Prairie Chicken Dance. Christopher is a leader by example to encourage leadership in Native/Indigenous youth.

Vice President Falon Torrez is a student at Nebraska Indian Community College.

Secretary Adrianna Hoffman is a sophomore at the Nebraska Indian Community College (NICC) in South Sioux City, NE, and studies General Liberal Arts. Upon completion of her associate's degree in G.L.A., Adrianna plans to further her education in Criminal Justice and hopes to gain great experiences in the corporate world. She has spent her summers working an internship with Ho-Chunk Inc. located in Winnebago, NE. Adrianna strives to make healthy connections within college, work, and her community. Her main focus is to implement her learnings to help not only her home community but multiple communities. She enjoys healthy physical activities and social gatherings. Within the next year, Adrianna plans to complete her AA in GLA, and be a healthy role model to her community in Sioux City, IA.

Treasurer Aaron Longie is a student at Cankdeska Cikana Community College.

Historian Kimberlee Blevins is also representing AIHEC as Miss AIHEC 2015. Kimberlee is an enrolled member of the Mandan Hidatsa Arikara Nation of the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation. She is a member of the Prairie Chicken Clan as well as a descendant of the Hunkpapa Sioux. She was given the Hidatsa

name, Sunlight Woman. Kimberlee graduated with an Associate of Applied Science in Native American leadership in May 2015 at United Tribes Technical College. She will continue her education at UTTC graduating with a second Associate of Applied Science in Pre-Environmental Engineering in 2016. Following her time at UTTC, Kimberlee intends to pursue a four-year degree in Petroleum Engineering with a minor in Political Science. Her passion is the youth and the community as she fulfills her extracurricular activities with countless volunteer services to her community. Her most fulfilling work has been the volunteer work with the youth where she volunteered at the Tribal Head Start Program. Kimberlee enjoys preserving her culture through beadwork and Women's Traditional dance. She sees the need for more positive role models needed in her community and hopes to be a great example for many to follow.

Hau mitakuyapi mahto hehaka emakiyapi. Hello I am the 2015-2016 ASC **Sergeant at Arms Waycen Owens-Cyr**. Waycen is 19 years old and from Wolf Point, Montana on the Fort Peck Indian Reservation. He is Nakoda, Lakota, Dakota and Cree/Anishinabee. Waycen is currently attending Fort Peck Community College majoring in Computer Technology and Graphic Design. Waycen will obtain his AAS in 2016 and he hopes to obtain his bachelors at a four year tribal college. Waycen is the 2014-2015 Student Senate President at Fort Peck Community College, he is also the Bluestone Indian Club President, the FPCC Video Game Club President and a Montana Gear Up Alumni. Waycen is a Native American Grass Dancer and loves attending powwow's throughout North America and Canada, and spending time with his family. He is active with the youth and loves serving his community and was featured in an Indian Country Today article. Waycen is honored to serve his position and represent all 37 TCU's and their students and he looks forward to a great 2015-2016.

Great Lakes Representative Bethany Tarbell is a member of the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe. At 16 years of age she started attending classes at her local Tribal College. In Fall 2014 Bethany graduated from high school with 21 college credits and a Michigan Nursing Assistant Certification. She has been awarded two certificates of academic excellence from the Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Council and an Eagle Spirit Award from the Saginaw Chippewa Higher Education Department. Mount Pleasant Rotary Club also named her the October Citizen of the Month. Bethany is an active member of AISES and her school's stem club. With plans to graduate from Saginaw Chippewa Tribal College in May of 2016, Bethany would like to further her education and study Tribal Management at Haskell Indian Nations University.

Midwest Representative Moriah Thompson is a student at Cankdeska Cikana Community College.

Northwest Representative Robin Maxkii is a 2015 Native Scholar and a 2014 honored graduate of Dine' College with dual degrees in Dine' Studies and Social & Behavioral Science. She is currently exploring the intersection between technology and behavioral science at Salish Kootenai College. Her passion and work focuses on circumventing American Indian issues utilizing technology with a particular focus on issues related to the effects of blood quantum on tribal sovereignty. Among her honors and achievements, she is a 2015 National Science Foundation STEM Scholarship recipient and has completed research internships in Washington, D.C and North Palmerston, New Zealand. She successfully served as the 2014-2015 Vice-President for the AIHEC National Student Congress, the 2014-2015 Miss AIHEC, the 2013 Dine' College Student Body President, and the 2013-2014 Dine' College Board of Regents Executive Member representing student interests. She has participated as a speaker on the 2015 Young Native Women's Leadership Youth Panel and 2015 Achieve the Dream Student Panel and maintains active membership in American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES) and Society for the Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in Science (SACNAS). In her free time she enjoys jingle dancing, voiding warranties on various electronics, and writing short stories.

Southwest Representative Leslie Tsosie is Dine from the Navajo Nation. She was born in Seattle, Washington and moved to Upper Fruitland N.M and Phoenix, A.Z. before attending Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute to study Business. Leslie is a first generation college student with a chance to get a good education and pursue her passion and dream. From SIPI, Leslie will study law with a focus in Native American Studies. Leslie is very active volunteering in her community as peer support and she has successfully joined PTK Nationally, American Indian Business League, and she is the Student Senate President. Leslie is an Embrey Native American Woman Scholar. She enjoys events and activities for college community here at SIPI as well as the larger Albuquerque community. Leslie loves to go fishing and camping and especially sitting in the mountains or near a lake and hear Mother Earth. She believes education helps her become a better leader.

While at the SAIGE National Training Program the 2015-2016 ASC discuss their initiatives for the 2015-2016 college term which they will announce and begin working on prior to the AIHEC fall Board of Director's meeting in October in San Diego, CA.