

Dakota Indian Foundation
2022 Spring Scholarship Recipients

Jalynn



My name is Jalynn and I am currently attending Lower Brule Community College. I am majoring in Human Services and will be graduating with my Associates Degree. This is the furthest I have come with my secondary education. I tried four other times and each time fell short because in college you don't just go through tuition, books and other fees. You go through anything that life throws at you. When you don't have help it does get hard. Learning can bring so much into ones's life and with this scholarship I will have the stability and security to keep moving forward in my education.

McKenna



I'm a previous scholarship recipient and graduated with my Associate Degree in Criminal Justice from Western Dakota Tech in May, 2020. I am an enrolled member of the Lower Brule Sioux Tribe and I also did my internship at the Lower Brule Justice Center during the summer of 2020. I worked closely with the Probation Officer, the two judges and sat in on court cases. When I graduate with my degree, I would like to pursue employment as a Juvenile probation officer on my reservation or another one. I feel there is need for mor help in this area. I want to show them that someone cares.

Jonathan



My educational interest is to graduate with an accounting degree. By continuing my education I will use the knowledge to help businesses. Also, by helping the tribes in the local area I want to help with their development of growing the pueblos into better environments. I have interest in interning for various companies in Albuquerque. Certain businesses have taken interest in furthering my knowledge. After graduating with an Accounting Degree I will earn a CPA degree to further my future.

Nicole



I plan on working int the construction industry and I plan on building my own company one day. I got my certificate in Heavy Equipment and now I am working on a degree in Business Administration. I don't have a lot of money and neither does my family so anything for the scholarship would be appreciated!

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Vanessa

Hello my name is Vanessa. I am from the Fort Berthold Reservation in North Dakota. I am the 2nd oldest of eight. I am currently going to United Tribes Technical College for my Associate Degree in Human and Social Services. I am interested in the child and family track because I really would like to help others in need. After I get my Associate Degree I want to move back home and work with my community and continue my education as well.



Jared

I currently reside on the Lummi Reservation in Washington State attending Northwest Indian College and beginning my Junior Year with a 4.0 GPA. I am studying in the Native Studies Leadership Program and taking Dakota/Lakota language classes on the weekends. My dedication to my education comes from a passion in learning cultural knowledge, language and holding myself accountable to creating a foundation that benefits my family, my community and my people. I plan to graduate Northwest Indian College with my Bachelors in Native Studies Leadership in June 2023. I plan to complete my Masters in Business Administration with Evergreen State University. I want to become an instructor to teach youth, college students and others to reclaiming their identity.



Oakley

I am currently attending South Dakota State University working towards attaining a bachelor's degree in Arts with two majors: Public Relations and American Indian and Indigenous Studies. I have grown up in and around Native American Reservations and find a dedication within myself to better the communities I have been submerged in. These two majors applied together are synergistic for my personality and my set of goals. I plan to work with the reservations hand in hand with the government to promote the community lives. Not only will these majors help me in those ways but I plan to continue my education after SDSU by attending law school.



Dustin

My name is Dustin. I started classes at United Tribes Technical College in 2021. I hope to have my degree in Social Work at the end of May 2023. I would like to use my education to help kids stay away from drugs and to live better lives.

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Torrance

I plan to graduate in May Of 2023 from the College of Saint Mary with my Bachelor of Science in Nursing. After graduating with my BSN, I plan to work for two years as a registered nurse at one of the local hospitals in the Metro area either in pediatrics or as a labor and delivery/postpartum nurse. In 2025 I will return to school, obtain my master's degree and become a Nurse practitioner. I plan on using my degree to help Children.



Cassandra

As a single mother, 33 years old, and early in recovery for addictions it was not an easy choice to return to school full-time. As I realized it is mandatory in order to achieve my life and career goals, and with encouragement from Family and Friends I am back in school after taking an 8 year break. My short-term goal is to earn an Associate's Degree in Liberal Arts and possibly start a small business selling firewood to my community and local towns, as elders here prefer heating their homes with wood over modern furnaces. My ultimate career goal is to become a licensed addiction counselor.

Gertrude



I am currently enrolled at United Tribes Technical College pursuing a bachelor's degree in Psychology. My goal is to earn a Doctorate Degree in Clinical Psychology. I would like to return to New Town, North Dakota and help my fellow tribal members. Earning a doctorate is something I thought was not possible for someone like me. I have a lot of work ahead and having my foot in the door is an exciting beginning. I am a fulltime mother of three children, working fulltime and going to school fulltime. I am trying to set the best example I can for my children and show them the importance of education. Being Native American and helping in the mental health department is a place where I feel I can make a positive impact.

Maci



I am a student at the University of Sioux Falls pursuing a double major of Criminal Justice and Psychology with a focus on applied science. I also minor in Sociology. My plan is to hopefully one day become a criminal investigator or intelligence analyst. I believe I am very committed to accomplishing my aspirations. I have many goals but my main priority is getting my BA degree. I take my studies seriously.

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Elena

Growing up on a reservation, children are subject to many different forms of generational trauma. There is a continuous cycle of wanting to be better, but sometimes the fight is passed on to the next generation. I have come to use this as fuel to my education and cultural goals. I was intimidated by college, I had no one to guide me, or even show me how to apply. I found that Sitting Bull College has an amazing staff who go out of their way to assist students. As for my future, I am striving to continue my education until I receive my doctorate. I will complete my Bachelor's Degree in Environmental Science at Sitting Bull and then I will apply to the University of North Dakota for environmental engineering and go back to Fort Berthold Reservation to help my people. My tribe has been experiencing growth in oil development since 2011 and I want to help alleviate the pollution caused by the oil boom. I'm aiming to show my tribe that renewable energy is just as important. I want to influence them to start investing in other energy sources.



Lawrence

I am a student attending Sitting Bull College on the Standing Rock Reservation pursuing a Bachelor's in General Studies. I am part of a wellness club here at SBC. I believe that wellness is a full integration of physical, mental, and spiritual well being which is very important to me. I do my best in my classes because I have a passion for learning. I try to help where its needed. I believe this scholarship would help in all aspects of my life and would create better opportunities.



Christopher

I am currently enrolled at Sinte Gleska University for the 2021-2022 school year as a senior in the Business Administration Bachelor of Science Program with an emphasis in Accounting. Although I am in a Business Accounting Program I find legal studies in Native American Communities very interesting. Some day I would like to apply all these classes and learning experiences into some sort of career in a Native Community where I can help the people and apply what I have learned.



Lonnie

I am a senior in the Criminal Justice Bachelor's Program at United Tribes Technical College. During my associate level education my wife and I decided to start a family and had two beautiful babies. After graduating with my Associates degree, we bought our very first home. I took a break from my education and have been working for the Standing Rock Tribal Court for the past four years. Over the summer, I made a decision to finish my Bachelor's level education remotely while remaining employed with Standing Rock Tribal Court. Alas, I will be graduating this May, 2022.