

Chris W. Ollie

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Chris Ollie is a member of the MHA Nation from the Ft. Berthold Reservation, New Town, North Dakota. He is an Arikara (A-rik-ah-Rah) tribal member from the White Shield Segment of his nation. Chris is not a traditional college student; his dreams are like many others. He currently attends Midland University in Fremont, Nebraska. He holds an AA degree in Studio Art, he is graduating this May with a BA in Art Management. He is an artist, he draws and paints, but his passion is in photography and the love of his tribe. He has had to overcome adversity within his family.

Chris has had a deep seeded passion for education for the last seven years. At a very young age, he was —adopted and then kept from knowing anyone from his tribe and this left him feeling empty, though he didn't know why. While getting his Associates degree he became enamored with history and the history of Indigenous cultures feeding from his hunger for knowing more about where he came from. Through research and determination, he found his way back to his tribe, culture, and the part that had been missing all his life, his family.

This newly found part of his history made sense and is helping him drive harder for his education goals. Upon graduating from Midland University this May, he is starting another journey in helping his tribe and others through the power of education and even more learning. He is returning to his tribe to learn more about himself and his tribal nation.

From Chris,

“I am deeply honored and thankful to the Dakota Indian Foundation and all their supporters for the faith they put in me and my journey to becoming a better human being. Their support and faith in my abilities helped drive me to succeed in my chosen field. I honor them in my grades and in my ways to give back to our community. I am proud to further honor Dakota Indian Foundation in helping others that have a similar life story to mine and I want to empower them not to give up. I plan to do portraits for graduating high school seniors for college applications for higher learning as much as I can, and I hope to mentor those who do not think a college education is possible for people in our culture, no matter their age. I am proud to be Indigenous and I am proud to be a Dakota Indian Foundation Scholarship recipient. “

Education

Associate of Art – Studio Focus, Iowa Western Community College 2017 - 2021

Bachelor of Art – Art Management, Midland University 2021 - 2023

Achievements

Phi Theta Kappa – Honor Society Scholastic GPA 3.5+

Blue Key Honor Society – Honor Society Scholastic GPA 4.0

Presidents List x 2 – Midland University GPA 4.0

Dean's List x 1 – Midland University GPA 3.94+