

Dakota Indian Foundation
2023 Fall Scholarship Recipients



Kiki

I am currently attending Sitting Bull College in Fort Yates, ND. I am seeking to obtain my associate in Business Administration with a focus in the Electrical Program as well. As a child I grew up in an alcoholic family and environment and in reflection I knew I had to make changes from my past negative behaviors. I was imprisoned in the state penitentiary, it was there that I learned respect, patience and humility. I have been working on becoming the person I have always wanted to be. In the future I would like to operate my own business that my children can inherit/oversee when I retire or am gone. I would eventually like to get my Masters in Business Administration and achieve my goal of some day becoming the chairman of my hometown and help my family and friends.

Laurue

Over the years I overcame many obstacles including relocating my family to South Dakota from Texas. This was the hardest situation I ever encountered. Today, struggle stays in my past tense. I am beginning to pursue my dreams and want to show my children that they can achieve anything that they want. I have been a Pharmacy Technician on and off for 14 years, I have now decided to focus solely on my educational goals. I have chosen to start with Nursing as there are many career opportunities within this field. I look forward to helping my elders and giving back to my community!



Agnes

I have started back at the Sinte Gleska University College/Ihanktonwan Community College to obtain my B.A. in Business Management. As I have been working toward my B.A. I have been through a lot of challenges to reach my goal to graduate. I am the mother of 3 beautiful daughters with another on the way. I am the first in my family to attend and graduate with a A.A. from college. I can say that getting my A.A. was quite challenging while working full-time, school full-time and being a mother. I can also say if I put my mind to it, I know I am able to do anything.



Audrey

As a member of the next generation on our reservation, I feel it is my duty to use my talents and education to give back to our elders and people within my tribe. I am currently enrolled at Minnesota West Community and Technical College and am majoring in Liberal Arts with the dream of continuing my education and becoming a Physical Therapist. I feel by becoming a Physical Therapist, I would be able to help our elders who are struggling to be able to move and allow them to feel young again. I feel the creator has given me many gifts and I want to share those with my people!



Jaylee

I am an enrolled member of the Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate and have lived in Sisseton my whole life. I have been raised into my traditional practices and speaking my Dakota Language. Being taught in this manner has guided me to balance the differences between living within my community and in the dominant society. I am a certified Dakota Language teacher. I want to pursue a degree in Early Childhood Education, to teach young people and become a positive support system for them. I want to then further my education with a Masters degree and help create a stronger foundation for young people.



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Kenyan

When I first started college, I enrolled for General Studies. Halfway through the semester I realized this type of education would only help me with the bare minimum. I made a decision to major in business administration at that point. Initially I felt that I could not understand the subjects that were being taught because of being so perplexing. I now understand business and how it operates. Knowing that anyone can learn business if they have the drive to do so, I can understand why individuals enjoy working in business!



Willanette

Currently I am taking classes to finish my AA degree in Business Administration. In the fall, I will be majoring in Social Work at the University of North Dakota. As a girl, I always loved helping others and was drawn to Social Work. When I was younger I always wanted to help make lives better for the children and their parents. Currently I am working with the Spirit Lake ICWA Program as an In-Home Family Service Specialist and Foster Care Recruiter. One day I hope to move over to work at Social Services once I get my bachelors degree as a case manager. I want to help kids stay safe.



Justin

Hello my relatives! I have worked harder than I ever imagined I could. Only now I am using my brain rather than muscle. I will be graduating with my degree in Business Administration. At the age of 50 my career plans are to begin working in an office setting working for the Government with the Bureau of Indian Affairs as a Realty Specialist. In 2022, I was part of the American Indian Business leadership club, I consider myself productive, proficient and a leader willing to learn and share my experiences to help myself and community. I have taught traditional dance classes for the community to help preserve a cultural way of life. I have taught beading classes and have been commissioned to teach high schoolers how to bead their graduation caps.



Jerrica

I am a student at United Tribes Technical College working toward a B.A. degree in Criminal Justice. I am driven, hard-working and the first in my family to attend college. I am a single mom of two, one seven months old and one thirteen years old. I also work so it does get hard. I do it all for them and to be a positive influence for my family. I want to be able to make my community safer!



Calvin

I have qualifications for this scholarship... Dedication, Commitment, Ambition and Belief in myself. My educational interest is in Business Administration with an emphasis on Accounting. My career plan is to be the Budget Analyst for the Yankton Sioux Tribe. I believe I will successfully graduate with honors. I believe receiving a degree will broaden my job opportunities! I also believe that receiving my degree will add positive, healthy knowledge to help me become successful!

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Dontae

My career aspirations revolve around immersing myself in my Indigenous background, history and culture. I aim to acquire profound knowledge in these areas and utilize it to educate younger generations about their heritage. With my education, my aim is to become an advocate and educator for my community. I am determined to ensure the preservation and prosperity of the Lakota Identity. It is my aspiration to embark on a journey across various reservations, sharing stories and imparting knowledge about my Native Nation to others.



Amia

I grew up on the Rosebud Reservation and am enrolled in the Rosebud Sioux Tribe. I am attending the University of Southern California in Los Angeles for my Human Health in Sciences Bachelors degree. I've always wanted to come back to the reservation after I got my degree. I intend to come back to work at the IHS in Rosebud, preferably as part of the administration because Rosebud doesn't have good healthcare so I want to come back and help improve it!



Andrea

I will graduate from United Tribes Technical College with a BAS in Criminal Justice. I plan on seeking a job with the ICWA Department because I believe that Native American families need to stay together. The ICWA law is important for Native American families because it is a safeguard to protect the families. I realize that there isn't any easy fix to today's issues and the problems families face but I believe there is hope for them. In hopes that all the states work more with the ICWA offices in helping form and build the future of Native American children can open more doors to those who deserve it most, Our Children!



Tia

I am a leader to my own future and for that, only I can decide what's best for my life. I am very blessed to have these types of opportunities and services to help reach your goals. I am very grateful to have a chance to apply for the scholarship in hopes to helping myself reach the desired degree I want to accomplish and further my education. I plan on going for my business degree sooner than later, because my community struggles with homelessness, drugs and alcohol. My plan is to get my own business to help build homes for my community members. They just need someone to believe in them.



Keighansa

When pursuing my degree, I plan to major in Business. I will be able to impact the Native American community in a positive way by offering goods and services where they are needed. It will be better for everyone overall because I would bring jobs back to my people, providing employment. It would also set the stage for the younger generation where they can gain work experience, job skills and leadership skills.