

Dakota Indian Foundation
2023 Spring Scholarship Recipients



Candace

Hello, My name is Candace. I would like to thank you for helping me get through college. I have two kids and am a single parent. But it is never too late to go back to school to better myself for my kids and me! I am working to get my associate degree and thinking of getting my Bachelors Degree from United Tribes Technical College in Business Administration. Going to school and not giving up helps my kids see that no matter what, if Mom can do it, they can do it as well. My future is to get a job so I can take care of my kids better without struggling and live a better life.



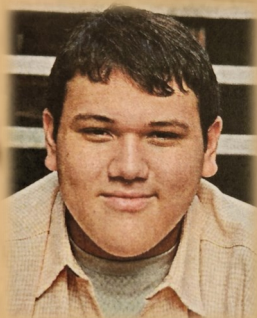
Tyleigh

My name is Tyleigh and I am a member of the MHA Nation. I am a hard worker and a student athlete. I am a 4.0 student and I work hard for my grades. I currently have an associates degree in Elementary Education and I also have a substitution license. My future plan is to further my education with the Graphic Design program at the United Tribes Technical College. When I have my degree I want to develop and produce designs for certain programs, advertisement, brochures and reports. When going to college, money is a common struggle and the financial assistance from Dakota Indian Foundation is greatly appreciated. Thank you!



Kaeleigh

My name is Kaeleigh. I am an enrolled member of Three Affiliated Tribes. My current field of study is Medical Laboratory Sciences. My ultimate career goal is to be able to come back to my reservation and work with the Indian Health Services. I want to be able to give back to my community and give support like they did to me. There are not many Indigenous people in the medical field. I want to also inspire youth around me to go to college for whatever they desire.



Alexander

Hello all my relations, good day! My name is Alexander and I am an enrolled member of the Cheyenne River Nation. I am currently enrolled in the Bachelor of Science Business Management program at Florida Gulf Coast University. Growing up back home, a big problem we all face is housing. When I get my degree I am going to move home to Cheyenne River (Eagle Butte, SD) and establish and economic development corporation. Utilizing newly-gained business development and a sustainable skill set I will be able to help my people implement sustainable housing development.

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Staci

I am an enrolled member of the Lower Brule Tribe. I decided to go back to school to fulfill my lifelong dream to become a provider for the Native American people by getting my Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing. I am taking a semester of prerequisites with the hope of applying to the SDSU Nursing program in the Fall. I have my eyes set on a graduate program out of Nashville, Tennessee to practice as a Family Nurse Midwife which would provide me with the training to practice as a Family Nurse Practitioner and as a Nurse Midwife. Our need for Native American providers is crucial. I want to provide compassion and care within our Native facilities. I want to be able to provide the care I know we deserve!



Dean

I am an enrolled member of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe from Eagle Butte, South Dakota. I attend college at Oglala Lakota College, majoring in Lakota Studies. I knew it was my responsibility to show my children to set goals, work hard and believe in yourself. I am Miniconjou Lakota Sioux and grew up in a household that spoke Lakota Language but never learned to speak it fluently. I enrolled in the Lakota Studies Degree program to help me speak it fluently so I can share the culture with the younger generation. My ultimate goal is to pursue a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Lakota Studies emphasis in Tribal Law, to give back to the younger generation and my community!



Addy

My name is Addy and I am currently a senior at the University of South Dakota. I am pursuing a degree in Communication Sciences & Disorders with a minor in Child and Adolescence Development. I would consider myself very academically driven and focused on my studies. After graduating this spring, I plan on furthering my education and have applied for the Speech Language Pathology Master's program at the University of South Dakota. I believe there is a lot one can learn from working closely with others and I look forward to bringing my skill set to the table to help others.



Danielle

I have been a life-long resident of Highmore, SD and moved back after finishing my RN Degree at Lake Area Tech. I have been working as a floor nurse at a hospital in Faulkton. I have been accepted into the RN to BSN program at South Dakota State University. This is a 10-month course with vigorous, fast paced 7 Week Courses. I will be taking two courses at a time, or 4 courses a semester so I will finish in the Spring. My long-term goal is obtaining a career at the IHS Clinic in Lower Brule as a Nurse Practitioner. I would love to be able to continue to provide services at Lower Brule.

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Donette

I am an enrolled member of the Crow Nation. I grew up in a Crow/Lakota/Dakota traditional family and both my parents worked hard to provide for my family. I grew up around Sundance and the traditional way of life, respectively. This is where I learned a strong hard work ethic and my traditional cultural life. I was a single parent raising my daughter and guardian to my grandson and now that my daughter is grown I can further my education at Sitting Bull College as a full-time student in the Master of Education Cohort. I completed my BA in General Studies in 2021. I will graduate with my Masters in Education in May, 2023. I plan to either teach at Solen/Cannonball or in administration depending on the availability of employment at the schools, becoming a role-model for the students and community.



Dori

Hello, my name is Dori. I am enrolled at United Tribes Technical College and my field of study is Human and Social Services. I am writing to voice my educational interest, which is to help encourage, hope and love, compassion, to be a light in the darkness. I was once lost and now I am found. I want to help those lost to drugs and alcohol. My future career plans consist of educating other on self-awareness. I would like to encourage those who had little or no encouragement from loved ones.



Dani Jo

I have been attending college at United Tribes Technical College since Fall, 2021. I have been doing well in my classes and this summer I will receive my Associates Degree. My plan is to continue to get my Bachelors starting in the Fall, 2023 in Business Administration. When I finish school, I hope to start a business either in the food industry or child care which is in need here where I live. What drives me to finish school is my two kids. I want to build a good life for them with a business I start and can give it to them one day.



Tara

I am a student at Montana State University having completed a Bachelor of Science Degree in Psychology, and am currently working on my Masters in Mental Health and Addiction Counseling. I believe Native American Women are a greatly under-served demographic and I plan to continue serving this population throughout my career. In order to accomplish this I will be completing my licensure in Addictions Counseling as well in Clinical Professional Counseling (LAC, LCPC). I believe the preservation of Indigenous culture will be accomplished by empowering the mothers and future matriarchs of our tribes.

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Connor

I started my higher education journey during Spring semester of 2022. I will be graduating with my Associates degree in Lakota Studies this May. My education goal is to continue my higher education and gain knowledge to help preserve my culture. I will be doing this by pursuing a bachelor degree in Lakota Studies, with the emphasis on traditional arts and culture interpretation. I believe in teaching everyone no matter the age. Everyone should be given a chance to learn their history and culture.



Alison

My name is Alison and I am a Junior at United Tribes Technical College. I am in the Business Administration program and gearing toward Accounting and Human Services. I am planning on interning in the Finance Department in the spring of my graduation year. I plan to work at the college for a year after graduating.

My extra curricular activities are spending a lot of time with my children exploring Bismarck. We attend PowWows when there is one because my children dance. Keeping my little ones busy is my main job right now and focusing on my school work.



Heather

My name is Heather. I am in my Senior Year in the Bachelor of Business Administration program at United Tribes Technical College. I am from the Lakota Nations of the Oglala and Sicangu and enrolled in the Rosebud Sioux Tribe. My career plans are to start my own business on my reservation and use the revenue to help build a recreation facility for youth and to create job opportunities and experiences for when they move off the reservation.



Asad

My name is Asad. I am a full-time student with a part-time job so I am hard working and motivated. I plan on pursuing my Bachelors Degree in Criminal Justice. . After College I aspire to be a cop, then a homicide detective or an FBI Agent. When I accomplish my plans I plan on educating the youth and letting them know that anything is possible if you have the right mindset and work hard.