UNEA has kicked off our new 2022-2023 Leadership Cohort. We are ushering in a new group of bright, motivated, and enthusiastic tribal scholars, with their official community introduction at our Sept. 29th ‘Community Gathering’. This year we expanded our internship membership to 9 Interns due to the tremendous interest with students eager to engage in service to our community. The previous cohort was formed during the intense quarantine period of covid-19 in 2020, so this new cohort formation has started Internship positions with a different readiness to engage. This cohort is prepared and focused on their purpose for their internship commitment. Our scholars span the region from West Seattle, South Seattle to Shoreline and Northgate area. Each student demonstrating interest in growing their public speaking, leadership skills and deepening their roots and connections with their culture, traditions and teachings. These scholars will be participating in weekly training, committees, and will be assisting UNEA with community building projects (video archiving), and organizing events throughout the school year. We want to welcome each and every new intern to our UNEA team.
LANE RYAN

“I am experienced enough to do this. I am knowledgeable enough to do this. I am prepared enough to do this. I am mature enough to do this. I am brave enough to do this.”

-Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez

This quote inspires me because I like how she said it with conviction, looking back now in my younger self I see that I was not a very confident kid. But now, this quote resonates with me because I have learned and grown into a stronger person.

I have been lucky enough to explore some of my interests, which include traveling, softball and hanging out with my dog. I’ve been to many places around the world that have shown me lots of different cultures which gives me a rounded perspective of how people live. I have lots of fun memories with my family when traveling such as, climbing the Eiffel tower, visiting an elephant orphanage in Sri Lanka, and eating a traditional meal in China, and holding a koala in Australia. But the highlight of all these places is exploring people’s diverse cultures and customs. I’ve been playing softball for 10 years starting in little league and now into a select team, as well as my high school team. From playing softball I’ve creating so many memories and lifelong friendships. I feel like I can work in a team and handle pressure from my time playing softball. I am so excited for my senior year season to start. For my 16th birthday I got my dream gift - my husky puppy Mika. As soon as she joined our family life has been chaos. She is so dramatic, funny and a whole lot of fun. She is a covid puppy meaning if we leave her alone for more than 1 hour she starts to howl. She has really impacted our lives in a positive way.

From all these experiences and more, I feel that my strengths are, an ability to work well in a team, sometimes in a pressure filled situation, and a rounded perspective of the world that I can use to help people. Since, getting Mika, she has taught me patience and I feel these strengths are important because one of my goals is to work in the medical field. A huge goal of mine that I have not yet figured out to a point, is when I grow up and get a job, I want it to be in a field where I can give back to my relatives. I want to make an impact no matter how big or small, I want to help my family in any sort of way. Therefore, getting into a good college and figuring out what job that is, are the next big goals for me that I’m focusing on.

Thank you for considering me for this internship. I know that it will help me in achieving a positive force in my native community.

LANDON BREWER

My name Landon Brewer, I am a student at Nathan Hale High School. I am from the Bitterroot Salish, Kootenai, Shawnee, Colville, And Spokane tribes.

Some of my interests include working on cars, and skateboarding. After high school, I would like to move to Pablo, MT, take 2 years of Salish at SKC and afterwards transfer to a bigger university. After college, I would like to start out as a mechanic working for someone else and eventually purchase my own shop where I can build custom vehicles for others as well as fabricate my own unique style of body kits to sell.

My Identity as a Native American is very important to me because my elders had their traditions and way of life stripped from them. I enjoy attending cultural gatherings, getting in touch with family, and learning about our people’s history. I would like to think that I am making my ancestors proud and continuing their legacy.

I would like to intern for UNEA to help others and make a difference in our community. I am hoping to gain more knowledge about other indigenous cultures as well as make connections to others in the Seattle Native American community.

JAY SHEKHAR

“Speak only if it improves upon the silence”
-Mahatma Gandhi

I am currently enrolled in Mountlake Terrace Highschool as a sophomore. My goal is to graduate High School and attend the University of Washington. I am interested in geology, physics, and chemistry. My strengths are in learning new things, and understanding the world around me.

EVITA FUENTES

“Never lie, steal, cheat or drink. but if you must lie, lie in the arms you love. If you must steal, steal away bad company and if you must cheat, cheat death and if you must drink, drink in the moments that take your breath away.”

Evita is Tlingit/Haida/ Tsimsian/Nez Perce and is currently Sophmore at Ingraham High School. Evita in band and is a successful Saxophone musician. Her future goals are to either own her own cafe or start a Native American jewelry line. Some of her interests are Band, Basketball, Dance and jewelry making. Her strengths are that I work well with others. Evita is creative, fast learning, focused and have a strong desire to be bilingual.
This month was the start of my junior year at Roosevelt High School. When my sister, Eilidh Haakanson was a junior, she saw a poster hanging up for a Native American Club. She was intrigued to go so she bought smoked salmon and went after school. However, when she arrived no one was there. She decided to laugh it off but really it was a bigger problem, the school trying to say they had a Native American club and they supported everyone and every culture in their school. When really, they just put up a poster and left it for the people who actually cared to step up and lead the club.

I would like to address this problem, so I decided to start a Native American club of my own. My first task was to find out what Roosevelt’s land acknowledgement was. I emailed my counselor, and he didn’t know. So, after school I went to the main office, and they didn’t even know what a land acknowledgement was. Then I finally talked to my principal, and she looked at some of her old emails, only to realize Roosevelt didn’t have an official land acknowledgement. These are important because they don’t just acknowledge the past but also the present cultures, along with broken treaties and promises. By starting a Native American Club, it can bring representation to Roosevelt. Roosevelt only has around five Natives, compared to around 2,000 other students. Knowing this, it is especially important to be a leader and teach the people in this community about the amazing culture that was oppressed by communism.

For the first official year of Native American club, I would like to talk about topics like education, homelessness, violence, and many more topics that are important to talk about. I realize that some people have a hard time talking about subjects like this so I would like to create a safe space where people want to share and have a conversation.

Indigenous representation means the way that we as Indigenous Americans portray ourselves to the rest of the world. It means that we make our presence known. Some well-known examples of Indigenous representation come from actors, musicians, politicians, political activists and authors. What many people don’t think about is that any role as a Native American person is indigenous representation. With such a small population, every one of us will affect non-Natives ideas of who we are as people.

Indigenous representation is important because we need to reshape the publics perspectives of who we are. Many non-indigenous people have preconceived notions of us. Some of the common stereotypes are that we are alcoholics, drug addicts, criminals, lazy and government dependent. It is important to show who we are at our core, our culture and creativity, instead of the ways the colonizers had forced upon us. More important than showing the outside world who we are, is showing our youth who they can become. If all that our youth see is the negative aspects of being Indigenous, then it will continue the cycle. That is why we need to be positive influences on our youth. It is important to show the best version of ourselves, show that we are still shown who we are at our core, our culture and creativity, instead of the ways the colonizers had forced upon us. More important than showing the outside world who we are, is showing our youth who they can become. If all that our youth see is the negative aspects of being Indigenous, then it will continue the cycle. That is why we need to be positive influences on our youth. It is important to show the best version of ourselves, show that we are still
I am the daughter of Chilean political refugees who have instilled in me the importance of community engagement and to fight for human rights. As a single mother of two beautiful smart young ladies I have instilled in them to be caring and supportive of others. That is why I am honored to be part of the UNEA board. I believe in the importance of our youth to be able to get an education without barriers. I am also a true believer in having a safe peaceful place to learn and to engage with each other. My beliefs and values align with that of UNEA. I look forward to helping this program grow and in supporting our Native American youth community and Elders.

Muchas Gracias,

Paula Matta-Marroquin (she/ella) (Mapuche Peoples)
UNEA held our annual Board of Directors retreat this past September 24th at the Tulalip Resort. Our annual retreat is generally a time of reflection, planning and strategizing for goals and aspirations. This year we took a step back to review our year accomplishments, and discuss our ‘Community Voice’ survey results, CSA evaluation, and engage with our Elders Advisory Council and Clear Sky Youth Leadership cohort. Our focus was to finalize our business requirements; bylaws, Elders resolution and yearly budget but most importantly we dedicated time to bond and connect with one another and with our Elders and youth. One of the most significant highlights was our special Elder and Youth leadership dinner. The dinner was an opportunity for youth and elders along with board members to introduce themselves to one another and get acquainted as team members to UNEA. We deliberately positioned youth with elders and board members for easy conversation. We all enjoyed the spirited positivity exchanged throughout the dinner. The event was capped off with laughter and good humor surrounding our shared love for crème brule dessert. I was most impressed with the level of openness, easy conversations and overall joy in sharing time with one another. I anticipate a year filled with organizational growth, expansion and deepening of our commitment to our youth and community.
About Us!
Seattle Clear Sky Native Youth Council (SCSNYC) provides:

• **Academic Support:** Instructional tutoring and mentoring.
• **Cultural Learning Activities:** Song and drum instruction, beading, talking circle, mural painting, storytelling, and art projects.
• **Individual Recognition:** Student of the month, monthly birthdays, and Native graduation acknowledgments.
• **Community Involvement:** Spirit Walk, social justice rallies, and field trips.
• **Leadership Opportunities:** Circle discussions, fund-raisers, community organizing, and leadership building projects.
• **Basketball Program.**
• **Student Service Learning.**

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NATIVE WARRIOR BASKETBALL

NWA is seeking additional coaching assistance for our weekly program. If you or anyone you know with coaching experience or high level of interest in developing coaching skills please let us know. This is a twice a week commitment and we will provide not only a negotiable hourly contract but also support professional training and certifications. UNEA values both our volunteers and our staff in strengthening professionalism while also building community. Basketball provides so many lessons and life skills for creating pathways for success in life. We know coaches are an integral part in all athlete’s lives. Coaching is a wonderful service to grow young people's character and ambitions. Every athlete remembers their coaches teachings, messages and instructions. Coaches are mentors, role models, and often serve as positive prominent figures in the eyes of their athletes.

Please let us know if you are interested in coaching for NWA. Markseattl3@aol.com or (206) 941-0338