

**2023 - 2024
Academic
Scholarship
Winners**

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**Aaniih
Nakoda
Community
Foundation**



Student Majors and Fields of Study

For the 2023 and 2024 academic years, the Aaniiih Nakoda Community Foundation awarded \$188,000 to 94 students.

They attended 37 different trade schools, colleges, and universities nationwide.

Certifications and Degree Programs

At these schools, the students are working on trade school certifications; Associate's, Bachelor's, Master's degrees; and PhD programs.

Certificate programs include industrial trades, esthetician, medical billing and coding, welding, and massage therapy.

Associate degree studies include Aaniiih and Nakoda languages, American Indian Studies, allied health, computer science, business administration, and counseling,

Bachelor's degree majors include education, business, electrical engineering, computer science, pre-medicine and pharmacy, nursing, ecology, and tribal governance.

Master's degree fields include public administration, public health, social work, agricultural science, psychology, and marriage and family counseling.

PhD programs include business administration, education, and physical therapy.

Students are also studying in medical school, dentistry, and law school to earn their degrees.





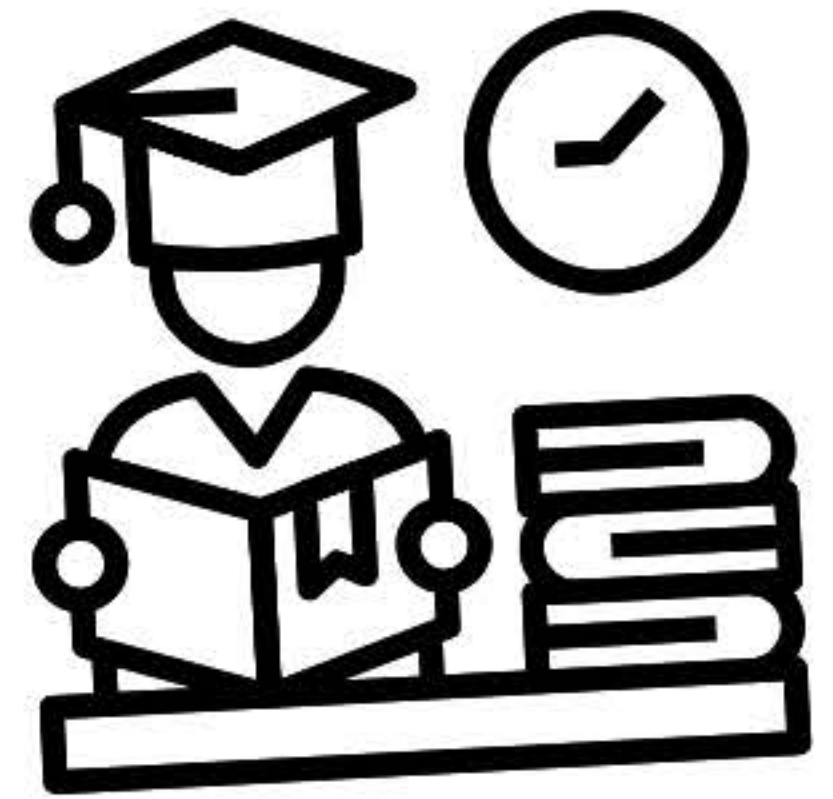
2023 - 2024 Scholars



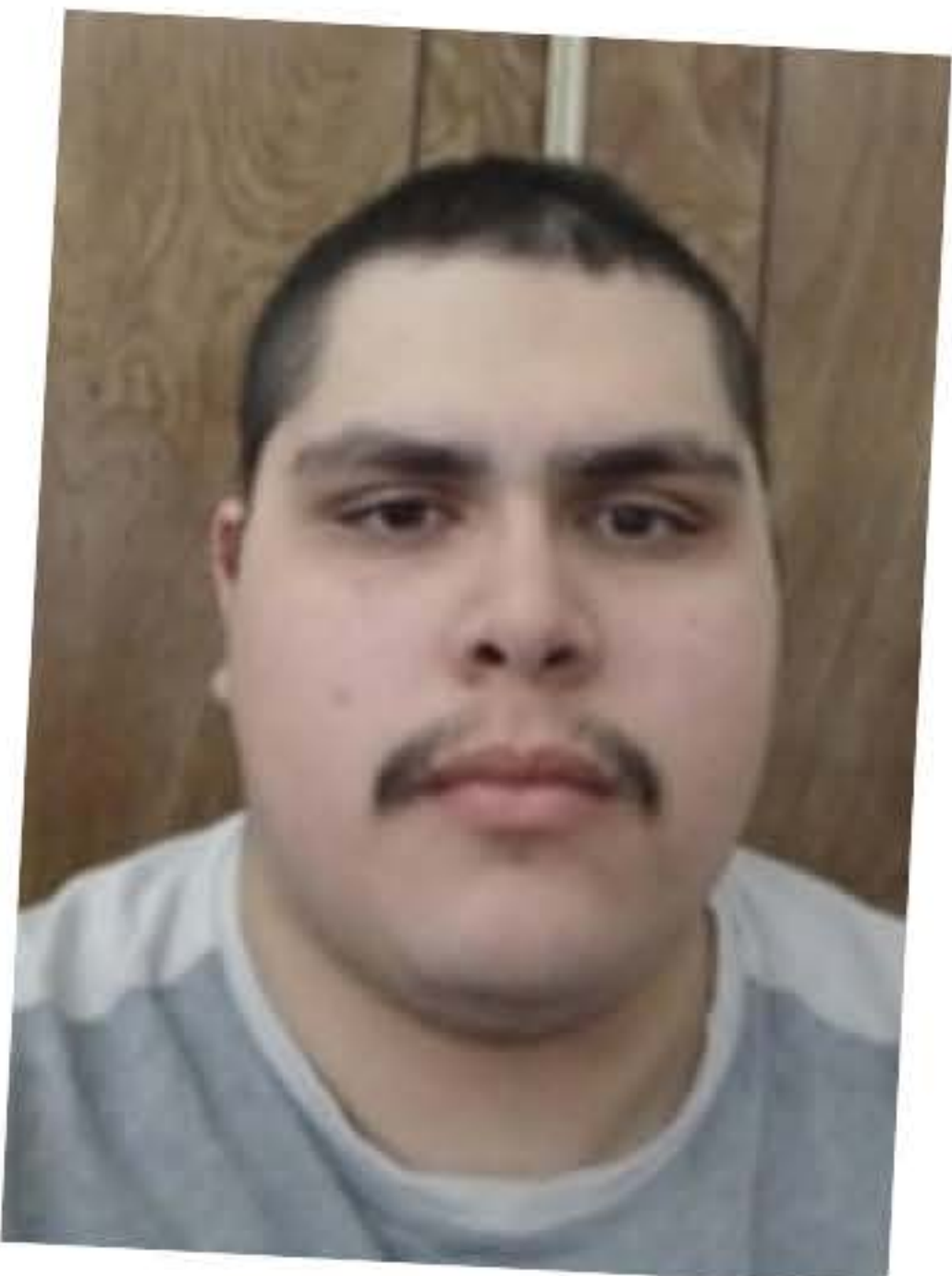
Tylanna Adams
Aaniiih Nakoda College
American Indian Studies

One ahaah nanils?Ht?;, Niitoouhuute0aa n:,:;,taanliih, Ninaan:,:;? 7J?,:;:,nlilnen?i nah n:,:;,kineih. Hello, my name is Loud Whistle Woman or Tylanna Adams. I am White Clay and Nakoda. I live in Havre, Montana, with my two children. Our family is from the Aaniiih Nakoda tribe from the Fort Belknap Indian Reservation. I lived in Fort Belknap and graduated from Harlem Jr/Sr High School in 2015. I am a first-generation college student. I am pursuing my associate degree in American Indian Studies. I love the huge support from the Aaniiih Nakoda College community and the opportunities available to students. I am grateful to have come home and learned the language and lifeways of my people. Most of all, I am grateful that my culture is still alive

Hello, my name is Darcy J. Azure. I am an enrolled member of the Assiniboine Tribe of Fort Belknap. This would make me a part of the Generous Ones or the Nakoda Tribe. I am the son of two enrolled members, Monica Joy Azure and Benjamin George Johnson, Sr. I am the husband of Carolyn Comes At Night (enrolled "White Clay People" Aaniiih) and the father 7, the stepfather of 3, and the grandfather of 4 so far.



Darcy Azure
Flathead Valley Community College;
Substance Abuse Counseling



Dayvin Azure
Aaniiih Nakoda College;
Computer Information Systems

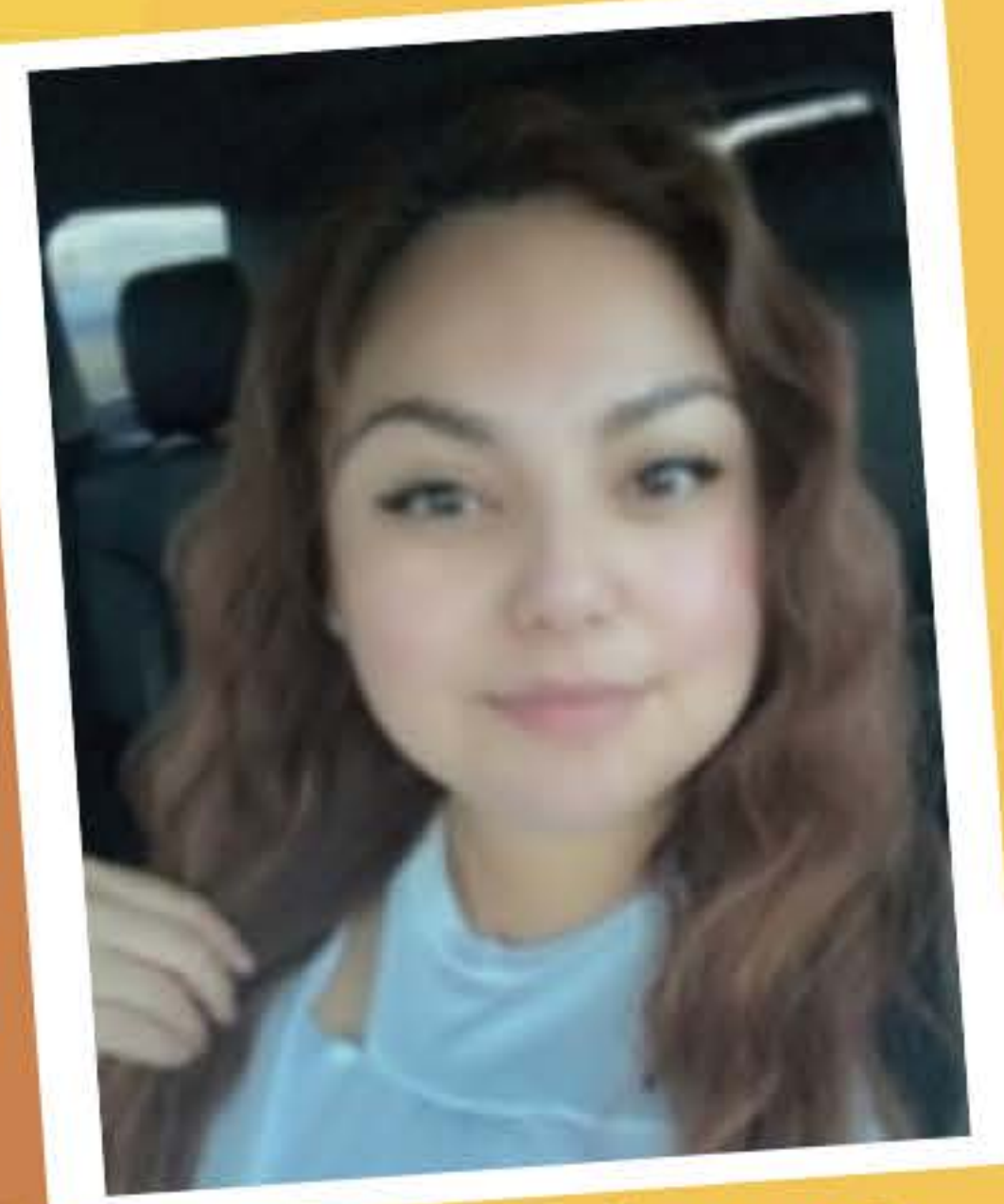
Hello, my name is Dayvin Azure. My Indian name is Little Buffalo. I lived in Harlem for about 15 years, half of that time with my mother. She is a Nakoda. She doesn't talk about her family as much. She came from Wolf Point and moved to Ft. Belknap with her dad when she was young. My dad met her in a high school near the end of his senior year and had me sometime later. My dad came from the Azure family. His mother came from the Gone family. The Azures always loved me, even though I didn't see them much when I was still with my mom.



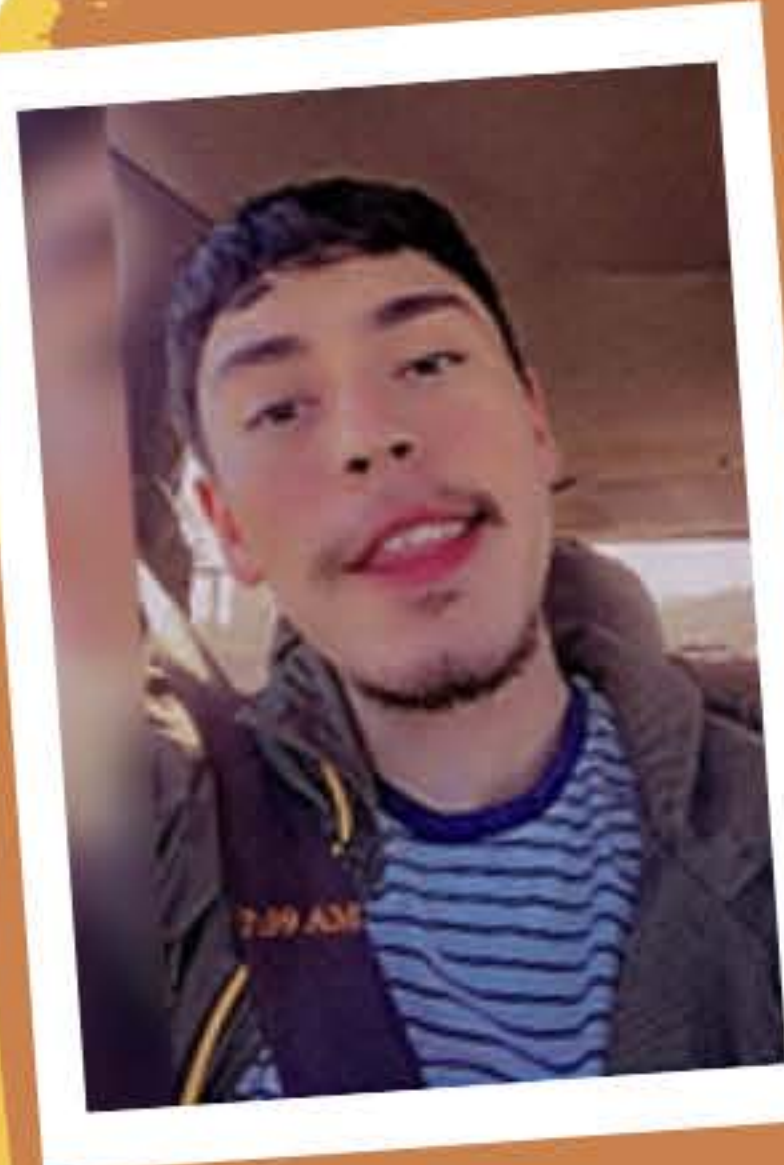
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Hello, my name is LaTasha Azure. I am an enrolled Gros Ventre tribal member of the Fort Belknap Indian Community. My Indian name is Eagle Child Nogateeahee Ithay or Kihew Awasis in Cree. I was raised in Fort Belknap until I moved to Billings, MT, in 2012. My mother, Lee, is an enrolled Gros Ventre from Fort Belknap. My father, Marvin, is an enrolled Assiniboine who grew up in Rocky Boy. I am the oldest of 5. I have three younger brothers and one younger sister. I attended elementary and high school in Harlem, graduating in 2008. My family are the Stiffarms and the Grayboys.



LaTasha Azure
Montana State University
Billings; B.S. Biology



Walt Bad Road
Aaniiih Nakoda College
BS Ecology

Woheih, nan-ee-sihit Bathots. Walt, nah-hasi-hin-aw. Hello, my name is Big Eyes. Walt, that is what they call me. I am Aaniiih from the Fort Belknap Indian Community. My great-grandmother's brother, Merle Skinner, named me. My mother is the late Dawnita "Scamp" Mount, whose mother is Annie K. Mount. Annie's parents are Hazel Skinner and Thomas Mount Sr. Hazel's mother's maiden name is Clara BadRoad, who later married Arthur Skinner. Thomas Mount's parents are Bob Mount and Annie Walker. Nobody used the BadRoad name from the time of Clara's death until my birth on July 2, 1999, when my mother named me. My family roots originate in Hays, Montana, at the foothills of the Little Rocky Mountains. I am the first in my immediate family to pursue post-secondary education. My grandma Annie said she graduated with an associate's degree in childhood education. I obtained an associate's degree in American Indian Studies in 2019. I am enrolled in Aaniiih Nakoda College's Ecology program, which will provide me with a Bachelor's Degree upon completion. I also work at Fort Belknap Environmental Protection, where my interest in Environmental Studies was sparked.



Hello! My name is Red Willow;. My English name is Alexis Bigby. My grandfather Roddy Sunchild, a late respected elder on the Rocky Boy reservation, named me. My grandmother told me my name had a special meaning. My name is derived from powerful medicine that was meant to help people. I have always personally strived to live up to my name. I am the daughter of Alan and Amber Bigby, an enrolled member of the Gros Ventre Tribe. Both reside on the Fort Belknap reservation. I take pride in all of my tribal affiliations.



Alexis Bigby
Aaniiih Nakoda College;
AA Business Administration



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Ha Midaguyebi, Wiyakpa Mabpiya Wi emajiyabi. Ina, Maggie Werk. Habtuwon oyade enwati. Wikjemna numba sam yamni. Hello, my name is Elayne Bigby. In Nakon, I am called Bright Sky Woman. My mother is Maggie Werk. I reside in Hays, Montana. I am 23 years old. I am the fifth of six siblings and the second to attend Aaniiih Nalcoda College. My family has pushed and supported me to attend ANC to complete general education requirements before attending university. My community has also helped me continue my education to better myself and prepare for the future

Elayne Bigby
Aaniiih Nakoda College;
AAS Allied Health

Hi, my name is Jace Bigby. I am 22 years old. I currently attend Aaniiih Nakoda College in Fort Belknap. I am majoring in Computer Information Systems. I am in my final year. I have been going to school since 2021. I graduated from Harlem High School in 2019. My family are the Bigbys. My grandparents are Cal and Marilyn Bigby. My parents are David and Kelli. My only sibling is my sister is Kaylee Bigby. We all live in Fort Belknap. I was born in Billings on December 10, 2000. I had three dogs named Princess, Marley, and my beagle Hazelnut. I have lived here in Fort Belknap all my life and went to school in Harlem, MT.



Jace Bigby
Aaniiih Nakoda College;
Computer Information Systems



Hello! My name is Nicole Big Leggins, (Aa-baa-too-si) Big Guarder in Gros Ventre. My grandmother, Mary Fox Big Leggins, gave me her name when I was young. She explained that they did that practice long ago before people began having a veteran do the name ceremonies. She said her grandmother used to give names. My grandparents, Mary and Sherwin Big Leggins, raised me in Hays, MT. My mother's name is George Big Leggins C'Hair. I recently found out who my biological father is. I grew up in Hays, MT, and attended Mission Grade School until I reached junior high. I attended Hays Lodgepole Sr./Jr. high school for one year. My grandmother enrolled me in Harlem High School for the 8th grade. I graduated in 2002. I had to leave everything I knew and begin a whole new way of life. After high school, I enrolled in Fort Belknap Community College and graduated in May 2008. I applied to Montana State University-Northern and graduated in May of 2008.

Nicole Bigleggins
Liberty University Online; Master's
in Administrative Law & Policy



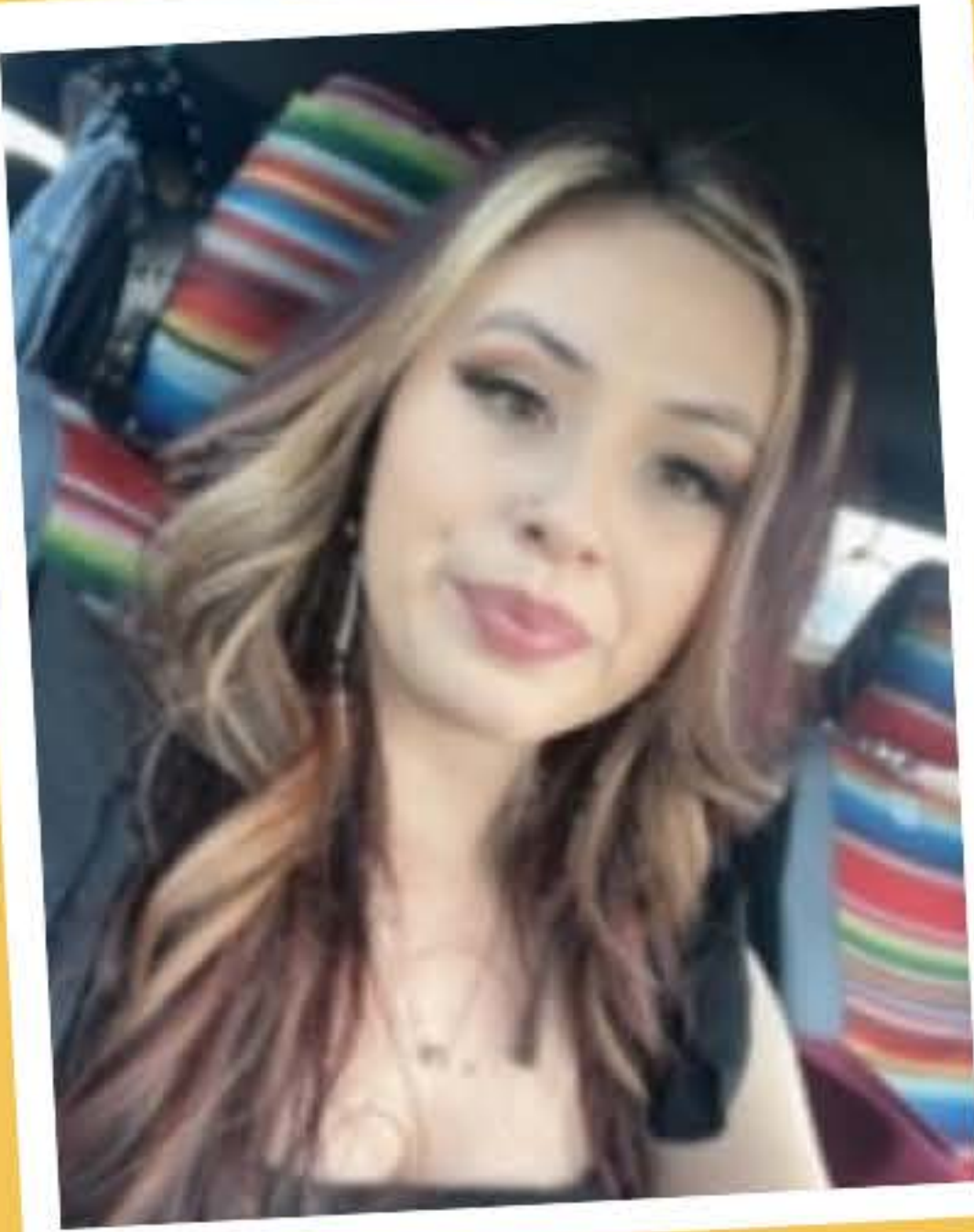
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My name is Sheena Birdtail. I am the oldest daughter of April Birdtail and granddaughter of Gordon Birdtail Sr. I live in Spokane, Washington. I am completing my bachelor of science in human services, youth/family services, and administration at Purdue University Global. I am a mother of four. I work full-time while attending my last year of undergraduate school. Once I finish my degree at Purdue, my goal is to enroll in a master's program at Gonzaga University in the fall of 2024, where I can continue to further my education, which will allow me to continue to work and advocate for the betterment of our Native community within Spokane, Washington.



Sheena Birdtail
Purdue Global;
BS Human Services

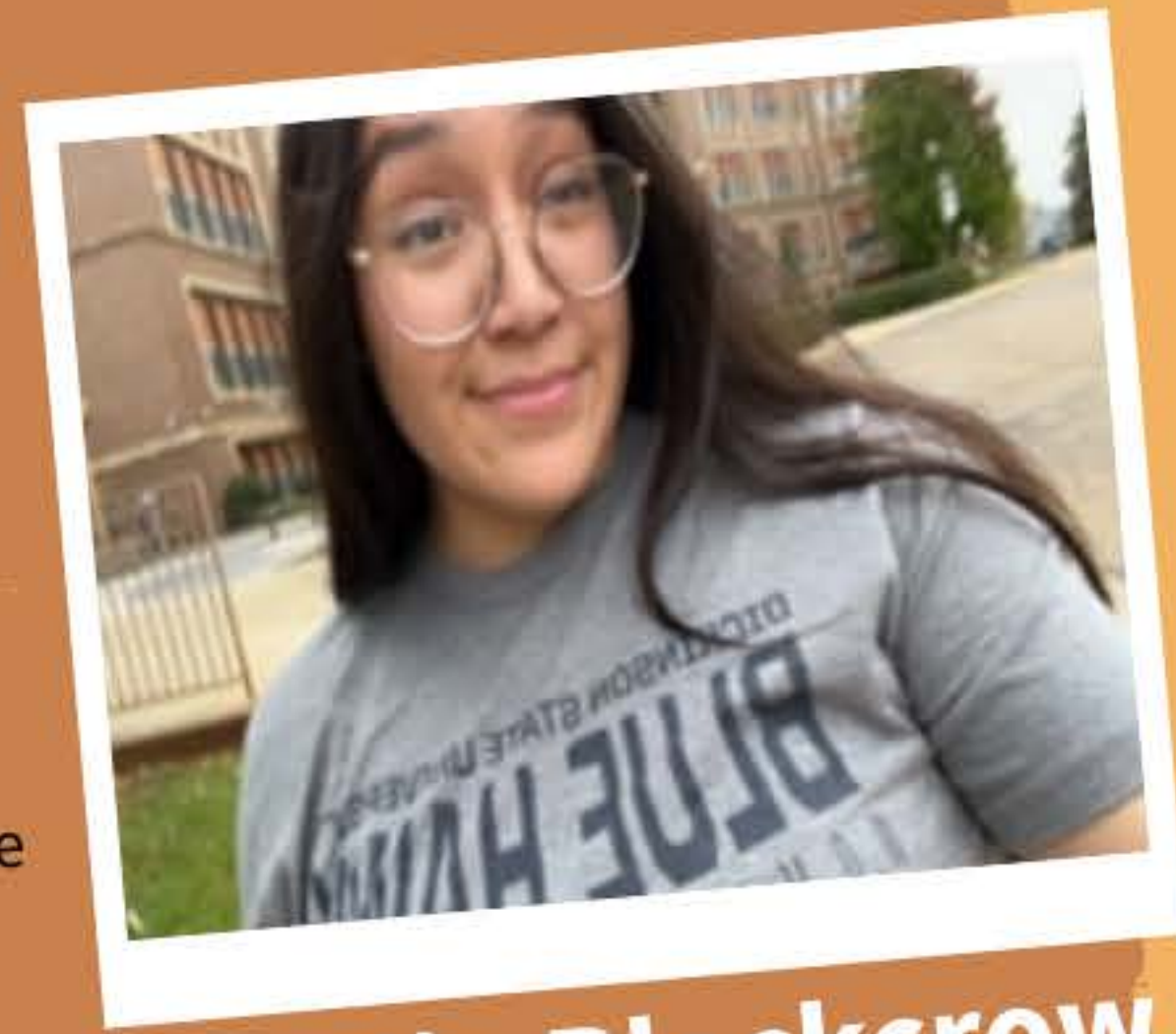


Jaidyn Bishop
Western Governor's University;
Bachelor of Business
Administration

Naahaah, my name is Agiswusithaa (Little Bear Woman). My English name is Jaidyn Bishop. I am twenty-five years old and am married to my husband, Marcus, with two daughters, Hayden and Cora. I grew up on the Fort Belknap Indian Reservation, attended White Clay Immersion School in elementary and junior high, and graduated from Harlem High School. I obtained my associate's degree from Aaniiih Nakoda College and attended Northern Montana University and Western Governor's University. I've worked for Island Mountain Development Group as a Tribal Lending Entity Accountant for over five years.



My name is Amilia Blackcrow. I wrestle for the first women's wrestling team at Dickinson State University in North Dakota. My grandpa Mike Talksdifferent taught me how to introduce myself in Nakoda. I do not know how to write it out. The translation is "Hello, my friends and relatives, it is good to see you. My name is Little Cloud Woman. I am a member of the Gros Ventre tribe." I am a family-oriented person. I would not be the person I am today and would not have achieved the things I have without my parents. That is why I am wrestling. My dad is my wrestling coach. I have been wrestling since I was in the fourth grade. When Dickinson reached out, my dad was happy I chose to accept for the year and compete and complete my general education requirements. I have three amazing siblings aged twenty-one, twelve, and five: two brothers and one little sister. My family is my rock.



Amelia Blackcrow
Dickenson State; Business



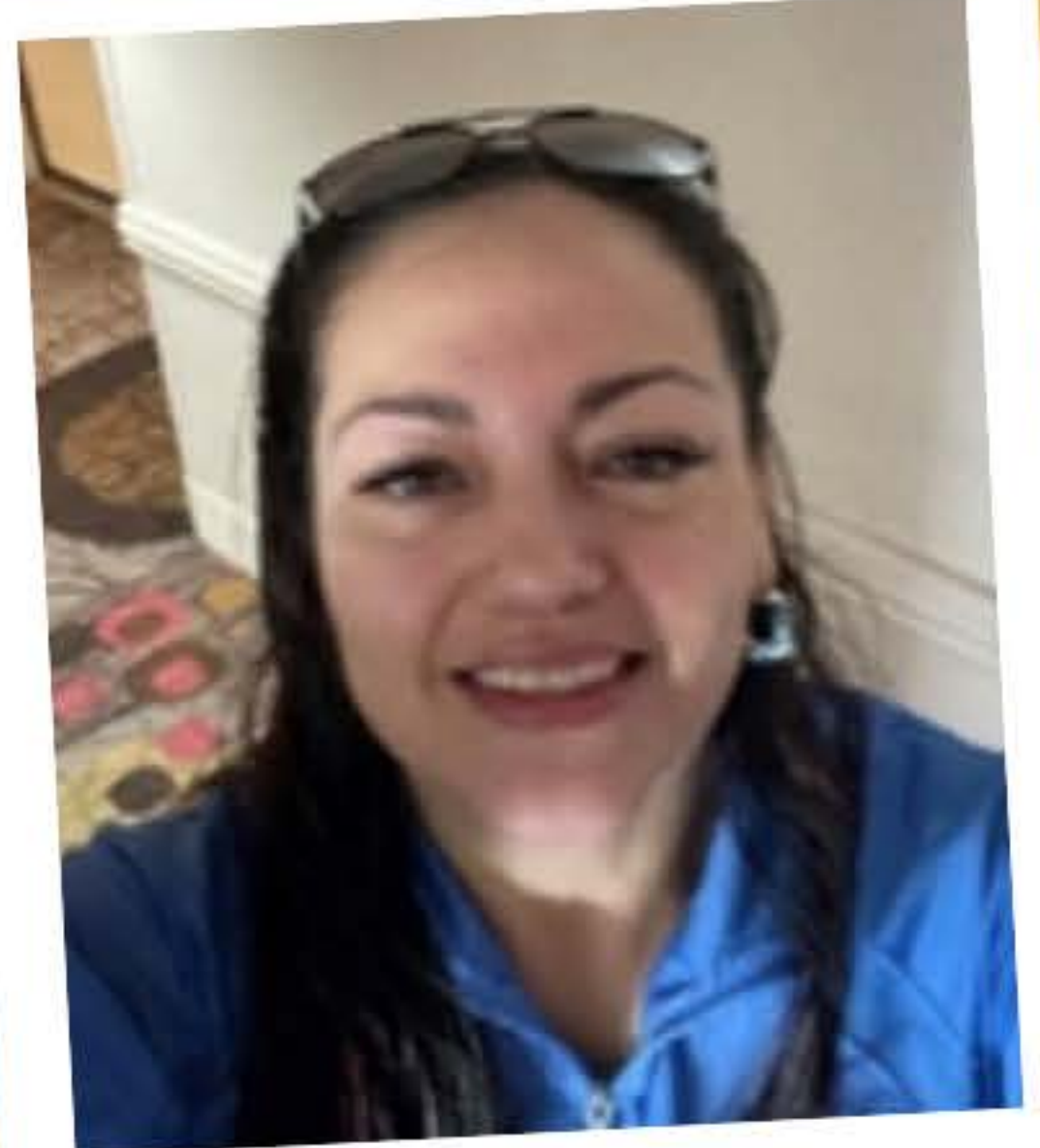
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Grace Brockie
Aaniiih Nakoda College;
Computer Information Systems

Hau, amagiyabi Gracie Brockie. My name is Gracie Brockie. My father is Henry "Hank" Brockie. My mother is Jessica Cochran. My paternal grandparents are Henry "Mick" Brockie and Dixie Brockie. My maternal grandmother is Tanya Cochran. I am an enrolled member of the Gros Ventre tribe. I graduated from Harlem High School in May of 2023, all while working at Albertsons and enrolled part-time at Aaniiih Nakoda College. I was not too interested in sports in high school, but I maintained a 3.0 or higher for the whole four years of high school.

Na Haa! Naaniisihit Nockinayithaa! Hello, my name is Assiniboine Woman. I come from the Whiteclay (Aaniiih/Gros Ventre) people. I am of the Frozen clan on my maternal side and the Fast Travelers clan on my paternal side. I was born to Susan Brockie and Orville "Jake" Crasco. My maternal grandparents, Henry and Ruby Brockie, raised and adopted me. I am the youngest of their ten children, the oldest of my biological mother's six children, and the oldest of my biological father's four children. I was raised to follow our traditional and ceremonial ways of life and have always been very grateful. I have lived in Hays, Montana, my whole life. I live in the home I grew up in, as my parents left it to me when they both passed on in 2019.



Kimberly Brockie
Aaniiih Nakoda College;
Business



Lawrence Brockie
Aaniiih Nakoda College;
Business

Hi, I am Lawrence Brockie. I will attend ANC for the 2023-2024 semesters. I will obtain my Associate's Degree in Computer Information Systems after Fall 2024. I grew up in Great Falls, MT, and attended most of my schooling there until I received my GED in 2008. I am the second youngest of 6 boys. I enjoy basketball, football, baseball, hunting, and traveling. I did have a few years of moving around with my family, mainly around the Northwestern areas like Oregon, Washington, Wyoming, and Montana. I always call Great Falls my hometown. I mainly grew up around my mom's side of the family, where the Native language spoken was Cree. Chippewa and Ojibwe were spoken also. My mom mainly spoke Cree and English. My dad tried to teach us a little Aaniiih but never much. In my childhood, I would travel with my parents and grandma to powwows or sun dances as my dad had done 13 years of sun dancing altogether. My mom said she had done her four years and had enough. I did my first sun dance back in June of 2020. Learning traditional ways has always been part of my life. I will continue to follow them.



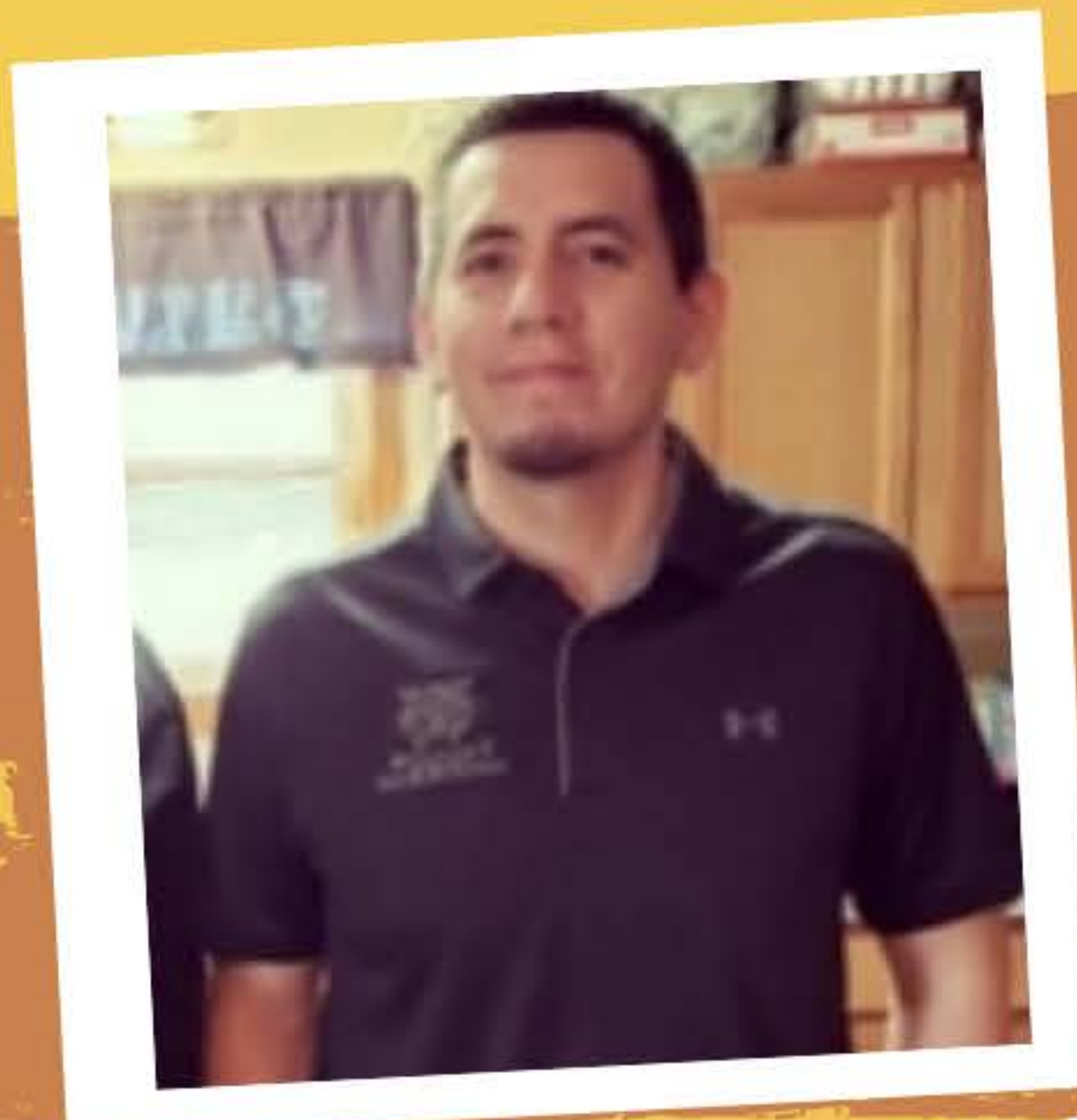
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Naa'haa', I am Eagle Rock Woman. I am from the Frozen Clan of the Aaniiih and for the Tachiini of the Dine'. My English name is Michele Lewis Brockie. I was born in San Jose, California, on September 19, 1960. I moved to Hays, Montana, with my maternal grandparents when I was seven. Hays is my home and community. I am a mother of three children and stepmother to three. In my blended family, we have fifteen grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. I have many siblings and relatives throughout the Western United States. My husband and I raised six grandchildren and cared for foster children



Michelle Brockie
University of Montana;
Master of Social Work



My name is Benjamin Carrywater. I am an enrolled member of the Aaniiih tribe on the Fort Belknap Indian reservation. I am 37 years old and married. I am the father of two daughters, ages 18 and 9, and two sons, ages 12 and 2, who are all enrolled tribal members on the Fort Belknap. I enjoy being part of the Fort Belknap community. I work for the Fort Belknap Indian Community in the CDC department as a youth prevention coordinator. I am also the head boy's basketball coach in my second year. I enjoy spending time with my family, playing basketball, and hunting

Benjamin Carrywater
Aaniiih Nakoda College; American
Indian Studies



Nähäh nii'ii'naah'naah naniish'it'oo baa eein'byeifaa Jaedyn Chandler
nahaasihinoo
Hello, it is good to see you all. My name is Pink Shell Women. Jaedyn is what they call me. My parents are George Chandler and Amanda Chandler. I have two siblings, Aubrey and Sierra Chandler. I grew up in Old Hays, MT. I am an enrolled member of the Fort Belknap Indian Reservation. I am currently a sophomore at Aaniiih Nakoda College. Growing up in a small town like Hays, Montana, I've always dreamed of pursuing higher education and making a difference in my community. This scholarship opportunity is not just a chance for me to achieve my goals but also a way to inspire others to reach for their dreams. Reflecting on my journey, I am reminded of the countless obstacles I've overcome and the unwavering support I've received. With this scholarship, I hope to continue my academic journey and positively impact my community.



Jaedyn Chandler
Aaniiih Nakoda College;
Allied Health



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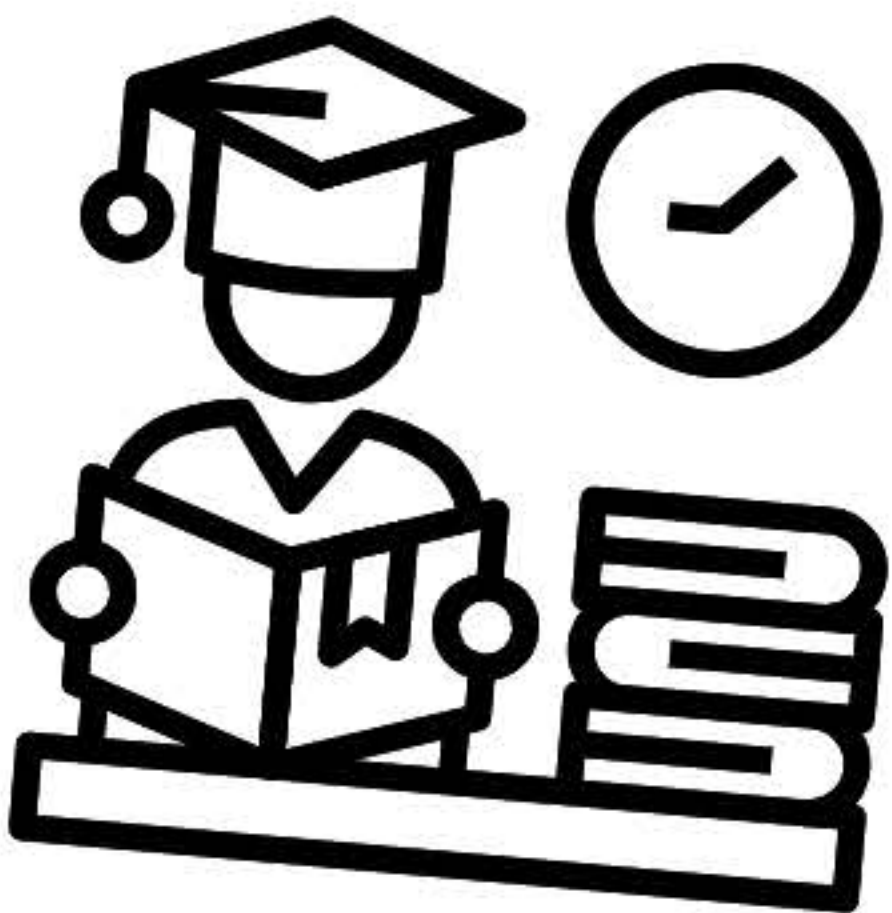
Sara Cochran
Salish Kootenai College;
Bachelor of Tribal
Governance & Administration

Nehéh, naneesihit Bathots. They call me Big Eyes. My English name is Sarah. My dream is to become a lawyer for indigenous women and children who experience domestic abuse or hardship. I come from a family with ten children but now nine from my grandma. My mom passed away when I was nine years old. My grandma raised me. She passed away a few years later. My aunt raised me for six years in Billings, Montana. Although I had more family where I was and an exceptional education, I felt I needed a change to benefit my goal-seeking journey further. My family taught me how to embrace myself and grow from mistakes, not only the ones I have made but to grow and learn from my family's mistakes. I grew up faster than I should've because of certain family situations, but we have a mutual love for each other no matter how big my family grows.



Clintanna Colliflower
University of Washington Tacoma;
PhD Education Leadership

Ha, my name is Sukiyopsiksija Wiya, Crow Hopping Horse Woman; my English name is Clintanna (Bell) Colliflower. I am an enrolled member of the Fort Belknap Indian Community, Nakoda tribe. My parents are Warren Bell of Lodgepole. My mom is Bonnie Mount of Hays. I reside on Rocky Boy's Indian Reservation with my husband, Wade, and our children.



Enyis Colliflower
Stone Child College; Business

Hello, my name is Enyis Colliflower. I am the daughter of Clintanna Bell-Colliflower and Wade Colliflower. I am an enrolled member of the Gros Ventre Tribe of the Fort Belknap Indian Community. My paternal and maternal families, the Skinner, Bell, and Mount, come from the Gros Ventre and Assiniboine people. I reside within the Rocky Boy community with my parents and siblings. My paternal grandmother, Sybil Sangrey-Colliflower, was an enrolled member of the Chippewa Cree Tribe and had established her family and home within the Bear Paw Mountains. We often make the quick and easy trip to Fort Belknap to spend time with relatives and family.



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Náhááh naníish?íit? Flies with the Eagle nch nináánin?w? ?w?wóóniinén?ch nch ?itíyóów?ó?n?ch bín?a. Hello. My name is Flies with the Eagles. I am from the Whiteclay People and the Upper Quarters Clan. My government name is Grace L. Crantz. My family is from the Fort Belknap Indian Reservation. I grew up in Havre, Montana, and attended Havre Public Schools.



Grace Crantz
Gonzaga University;
Human Physiology

My parents attended Harlem High School and grew up in Harlem, Hays, and Fort Belknap Agency. As someone who grew up off the reservation yet close enough to participate in the ceremony, I walk in two worlds: navigating the "white man's world" and working hard to feel accepted by my people. I have learned to navigate this as a young person, which is hard sometimes. My family is my connection to my culture and my roots as an indigenous person. They are my support system. When I am at school and far from my homelands or struggling and need someone to talk to, I call someone from back home. I am honored and privileged to have been born Indigenous, Aaniiih, and Nakoda. I stand on the shoulders of strong people. I wouldn't be here if it weren't for them.

My name is "A ma ge yea be Juisina Mani Mato" in the Nakoda language, or Little Walking Bear. My English name is Tyriek K. Crazy. My mother is Annalee Wing. My father is Tyrone Crazy. My mom passed away when I was eight. My dad would travel for work to help my grandparents with raising me and my siblings. I have lived on the Fort Belknap Reservation since I was ten years old. My grandmother Ramona Crazy raised my younger siblings and me. My grandparents, Brian and Eva Wing, also raised us in Lodgepole.



Tyriek Crazy
Montana Technological University;
Bachelor's Electrical Engineering

Hello, my name is Cordell Denny. I am a freshman in my second semester at Aaniiih Nakada College. I enjoy my time there. I started my higher education journey to help my family out of the poverty situation we have been in for years. I am tired of seeing nobody trying to do anything about our situation. I am a strong person mentally. I have witnessed many things and had terrible experiences in life. I fight through such hardships as I must keep going for my loved ones.

My family does not have an excellent educational background. Most graduated from high school or dropped out to pursue their GED. Most of my family are not good influences on me as they have problems, but so do most people. I am all right with that. I keep going and never give up to show my family that we can do amazing things. My community has issues like some, but the community is not so bad. Thanks to the community, we have the college, which I am forever thankful for. Still, I would like to see more effort in our community as sometimes it does not feel like we are working together to help make our community a better place for future generations. I believe our community can do better. I hope they consider the benefits of helping our community and its people.



Cordell Denny
Aaniiih Nakoda
College;
Business
Administration



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Devin Doney
Aaniiih Nakoda
College; Liberal Arts

Devin D. emigyabi numakoda

They call me Devin D. I'm Nakoda. I'm learning my language, so that's all I have. I grew up in Fort Belknap, Montana, and went to school in Harlem for most of my childhood but ended up finishing off my senior year at Havre High School, graduating there while only having to take one credit since I was all caught up in Harlem. My grandparents, Julia and Ed Doney, raised me and four siblings. They have done a lot for me and taught me so much. I could write an essay alone on how much I appreciate them.



My name is LaKayla Doney, I am a student at Aaniiih Nakoda College. I have a newborn baby who loves to cook and tries to lift his head. He also loves to scream at everyone. The most important thing is that I have a very supportive family that helps me with my baby while I'm a young mom trying to attend school to get my degree. They help me get motivated to keep up with my schoolwork and ensure that my baby and I have everything. Soon, my baby Zaiyden will start Early Head Start while I attend my college class daily. I love to help my community as much as possible, especially when the college puts on little events; with my degree, I would like to return to help after all my schooling. I would like to be a part of the change in our community and ensure we have good opportunities for the youth to want to do fun activities and love the community.



Makayla Doney
Aaniiih Nakoda College;
Allied Health



Mari Ereaux

Western Governor's
University; Master of
Business Administration

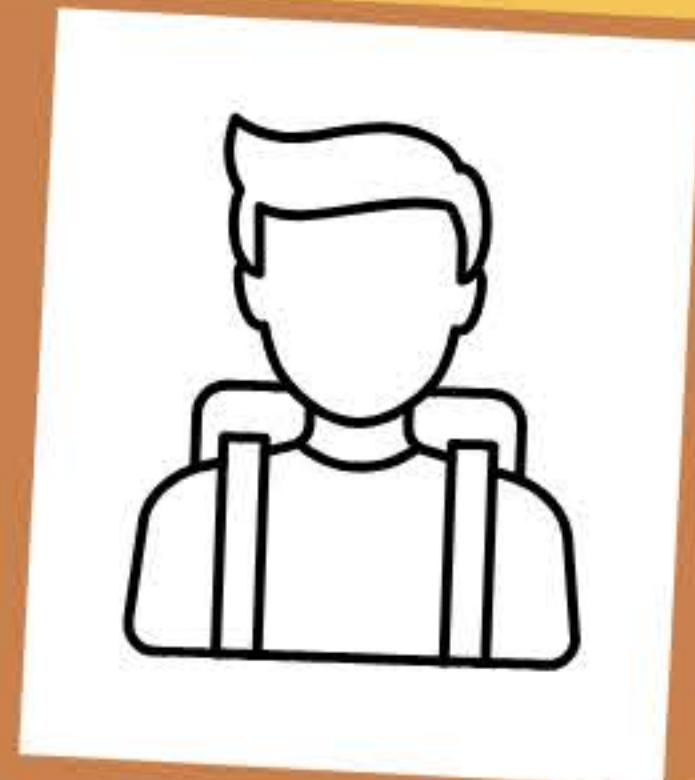
Nahaaah naaniisii'it Ithaa Iteh. My name is Mari Ereaux. I am 25 years old. I am an enrolled Gros Ventre living on the Fort Belknap reservation. I work at Island Mountain Development Group as a Project Manager. I am pursuing my Master's degree in business administration. I started in August a year ago and am in my third term. I graduated from MSU-Northern with a bachelor's in business administration. I have a two-year-old son named Kactus Butterfly. My spouse is Michael Butterfly. We are a small family of three.





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My name is D'lonte Farrar. I am learning Nakoda this year. Soon, I'll be able to introduce myself in Nakoda. I am Assiniboine. I'm from Harlem, MT. I live with my grandparents and my siblings. I am the oldest of my siblings. I have two brothers and two sisters. Their names are Darius, Niche'la, Natalie, and Jericho. Jericho is my half-brother, not full-blood, but he's still my brother. I've been working at Ez mart for over a year. I make 14 an hour, and it's not bad, but I want a raise.



D'Lonte Farrar

Aaniih Nakoda College;
Liberal Arts



Lindsay Fetter

Aaniih Nakoda
College; Liberal Arts

Naha Nannitsit Luta Win, Hello, my name is Red Woman. My English name is Lindsey Fetter. My parents are Jessica & Jeffrey Stiffarm. I have three siblings: Melony, Emily, and KJ Fetter. I live in Zortman, an hour away from Fort Belknap. We have neighbors a mile away with whom we are good friends. I started sewing, thanks to my neighbor. I just began painting parfleche bracelets, earrings, and belts. Painting and sewing relaxes my mind. I travel Monday through Friday to get to work and class. I recently started my job as a CHR Generalist in Fort Belknap. I drive or walk from work to my classes as it's only a few minutes from the college. I started taking college classes when I was a high school senior. I felt I was no longer excelling, so I decided to further my education. I decided to go to college at ANC as it's close to home. After ANC, I plan on furthering my education at a bigger school. College is helping increase my knowledge, which is also helping me study what I love.



Ha Kona dokenya oo hay ee magyah Chiiwakaalachiish amba ne nina washtay. Hello, my friends, how are you today? My name is One Who Always Prays. Today is a good day. I am an enrolled member of the Aaniih people, belonging to the Nakoda people and Apsaalooke people of the Crow Nation. I am from the Fort Belknap Indian Reservation. My mother is Connie Filesteel. My father is Gordon Real Bird Jr., from the Crow Nation. My maternal grandparents are Faye and Edward Filesteel Sr. My paternal grandparents are Bernadine and Gordon Real Bird. I belong to the Bad Moccasin Clan in my Nakoda way and the Greasy Mouth Clan in my Apsaalooke way. My son, iinóóónoh'nóókéhki' 'ónóh'ihiih (White Cloud Boy), was born this year and has been the greatest blessing of all. I am proud to be the daughter of a strong and beautiful lineage and to pass our teaching to my son and future children. Pinamaya.



Taneel Filesteel

The University of Montana
ABII Law School;
Juris Doctorate



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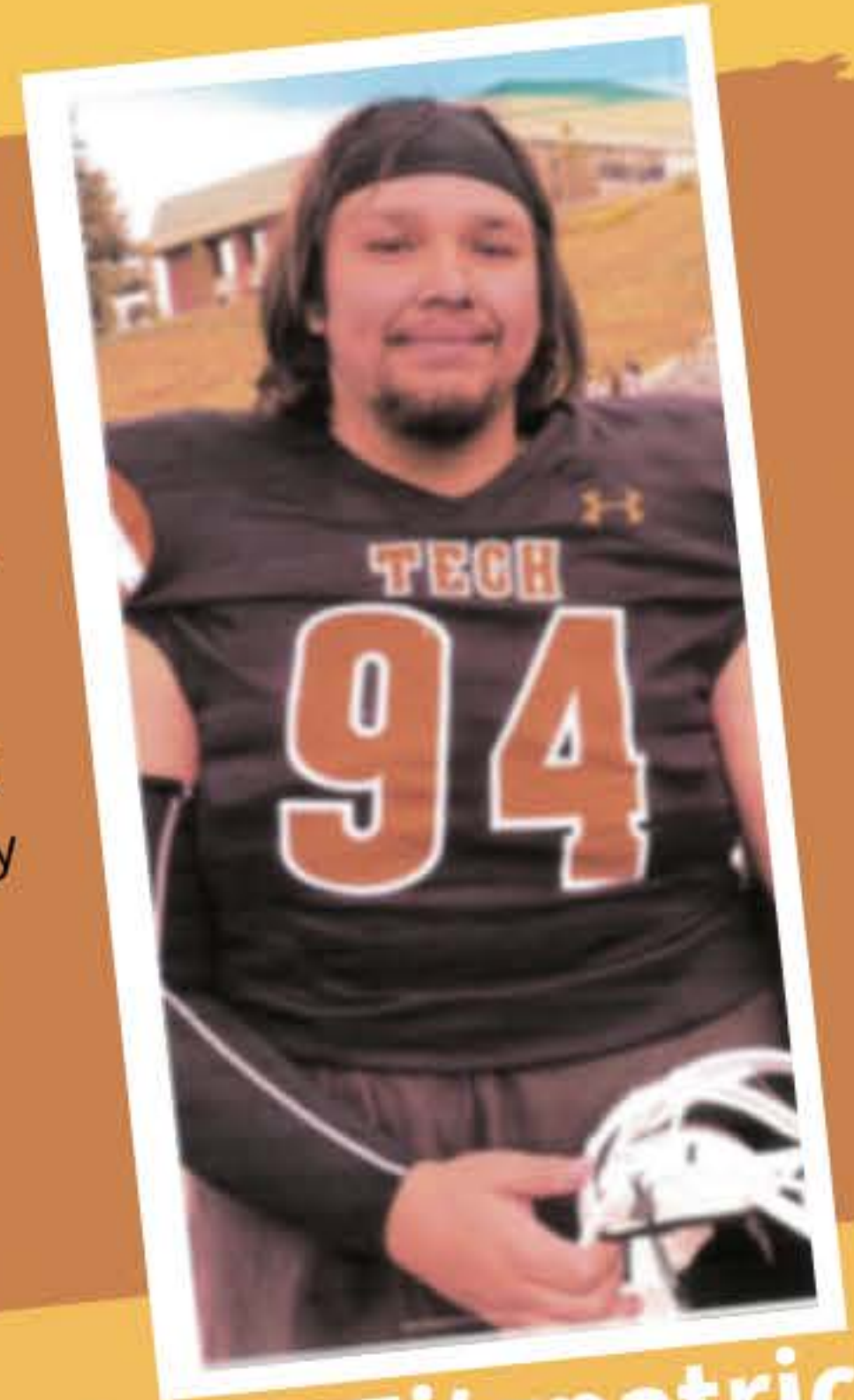


Camaron Filesteel
Martinsburg College;
Medical Billing &
Coding Certification

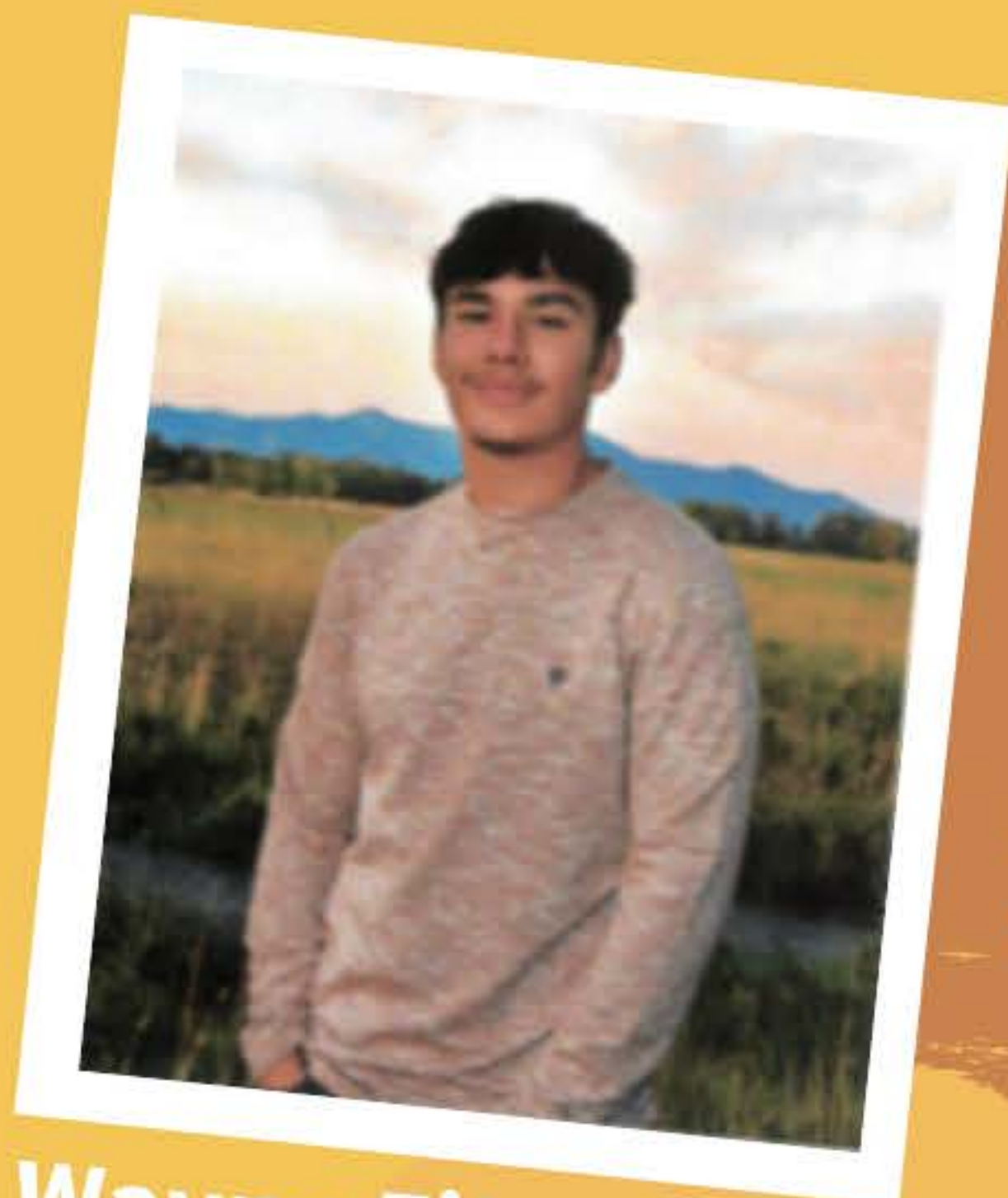
Hello. My name is Camaron Thomas Filesteel. My folks are Mitcheleen Filesteel and the late Edward Thomas Filesteel, Jr. I have two siblings: my older sister, Emma Filesteel, and younger sister, Sandy Filesteel. I am an enrolled member of the Gros Ventre Nation and grew up on the Fort Belknap Indian Reservation. I spent my entire life there. When I was younger, I mainly stayed with my grandfather on his ranch in Three Buttes, MT.



Hello, my Aaniiih name is Little Man. My English name is John Fitzpatrick. I am an enrolled member of the Aaniiih tribe of Fort Belknap, Montana. I am from the Nakoda tribe of Fort Belknap. My mother is Danelle Stein, also enrolled in the Aaniiih tribe. Her mother comes from the Skinner, Stiffarm, and Long Fox families of Fort Belknap. Danelle's father is enrolled in the Turtle Mountain tribe of Belcourt, North Dakota. My father is Blackfeet and is enrolled on the Blackfeet Reservation in Browning, Montana. My father's mother is Blackfeet and belongs to Browning, Montana's Rutherford and White Bird families. My whole life, I have spent lots of time on the Fort Belknap and Browning Reservations, going to powwows and spending time with family. We have a large extended family in Fort Belknap and Browning and continue to participate in many family events and gatherings.



John Fitzpatrick
Montana Technological
University; Business
Administration



Wayne Fitzpatrick
Montana State
University; BS Nursing

My name is Wayne Fitzpatrick. I am enrolled in the Aaniiih Tribe. I am also a member of the Nakoda tribe on my mother's side. I am the great-grandson of Charles Longfox II and Naomi Stiffarm Long Fox. On my father's side, I am a descendant of the Blackfeet tribe. My family consists of the Rutherfords and Wipperts. I have lived on and off reservations throughout my life. I have stayed connected to my family and community no matter where I am. I have spent most of my summers growing up in Ft. Belknap, participating in rodeos, sports camps, powwows, and spending time with my family.





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Hello, my name is Christina Flansburg. I am enrolled in Aaniiih of the Fort Belknap Indian Community in Montana. I am a lifelong learner, which is a continuous, voluntary, and self-motivated interest in gaining knowledge. I demonstrate this with my educational background of an associate in allied health, a bachelor's in biology, and a master's in health informatics. I am now pursuing a doctorate in Business Administration. My maternal family are the Brisbos and Healys. My paternal family are the Gardipees, Doneys, and Flansburgs. Both sides have contributed to the community by being teachers or nurses. My community is small but solid and close. There is an opportunity to create economic development and bring back some of our people who have moved away.



Christina Flansburg

Capella University; Doctor of Business Administration

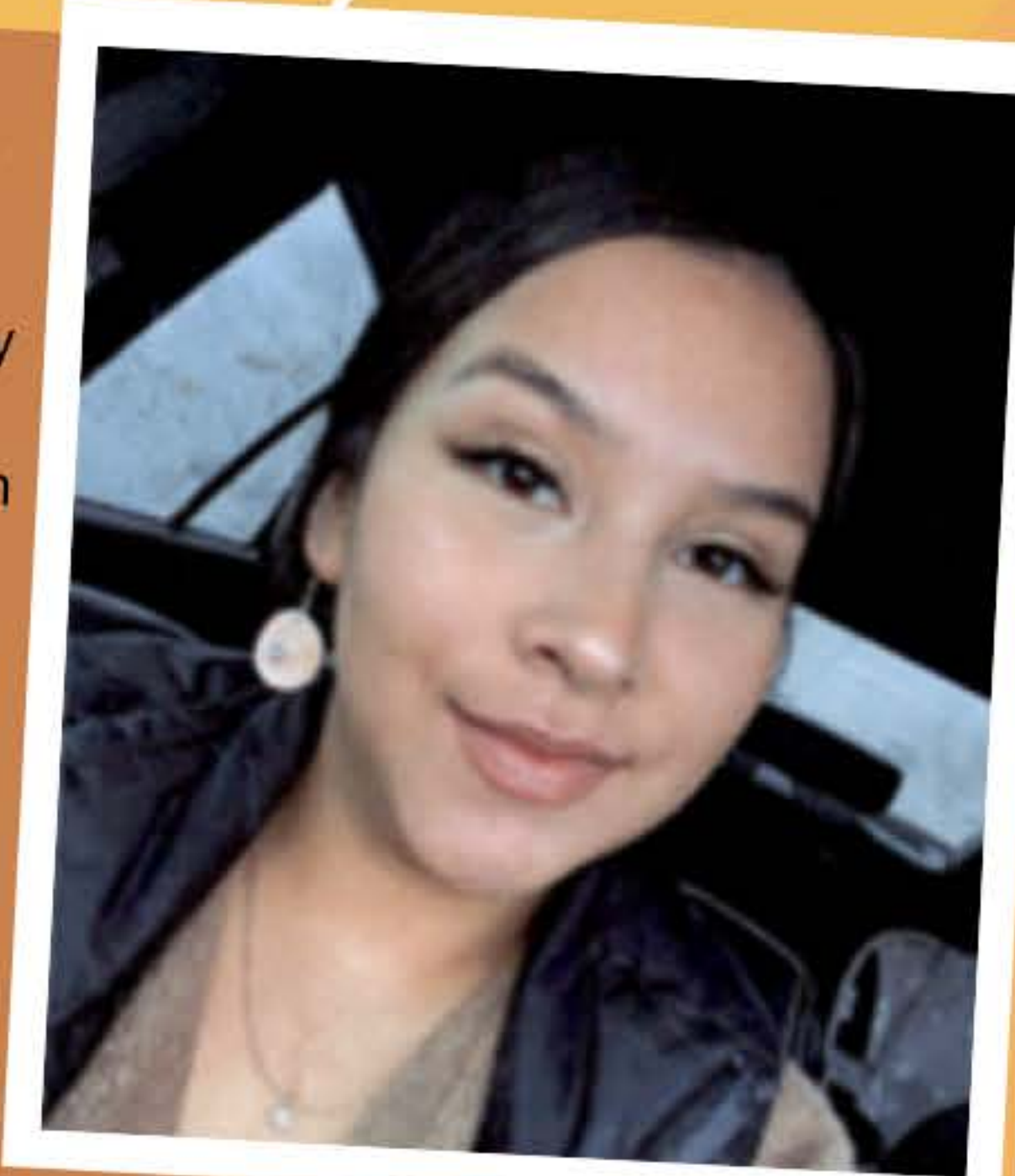


Cierra Fuzesy
University of Montana;
Art Major

Hello, my name is Cierra Fuzesy. I am an enrolled member of the Aaniiih/Nakoda Tribe. I am the daughter of Terra Fuzesy and Sly Blackbird. I am the oldest in my family. I have two younger sisters who look up to me. I live with my two sisters, mother, stepfather, three dogs, and cat. I reside in the beautiful and welcoming community of Colstrip, Montana. Here, I can be seen running around town, working at the pool or the golf course, and helping with events around town.



Nahaah Naaniisihit Aanithey. Hello, my name is White Clay Woman. My English name is Chanda Garcia. I am an enrolled tribal member of the Aaniiih and Nakoda nations of the Fort Belknap Indian Community. My parents are Lamont Garcia and Cheryl Sears. My late grandparents on my paternal side are Carmen Falcon and Higinio Garcia. My maternal grandparents are Veronica Jolene Sears and Billie Joe Sears. I grew up on the Fort Belknap Reservation where I raise my children. I work in healthcare and value helping my community with their healthcare needs. Our community is in desperate need of help, as many of our community members suffer from addiction and alcoholism. Although this is unfortunate, I believe it is essential for my children to know where they come from and to teach them the native culture and lifeways, including but not limited to ceremonies, powwows, sweats, and languages. I attended the White Clay Immersion School, where I learned my Aaniiih lifestyle and language. I am very fortunate to have learned my language, which I plan to teach my children as they grow. As we know, the Aaniiih language is a dying language. It is vital to teach the younger generations the Aaniiih language to keep the language alive.

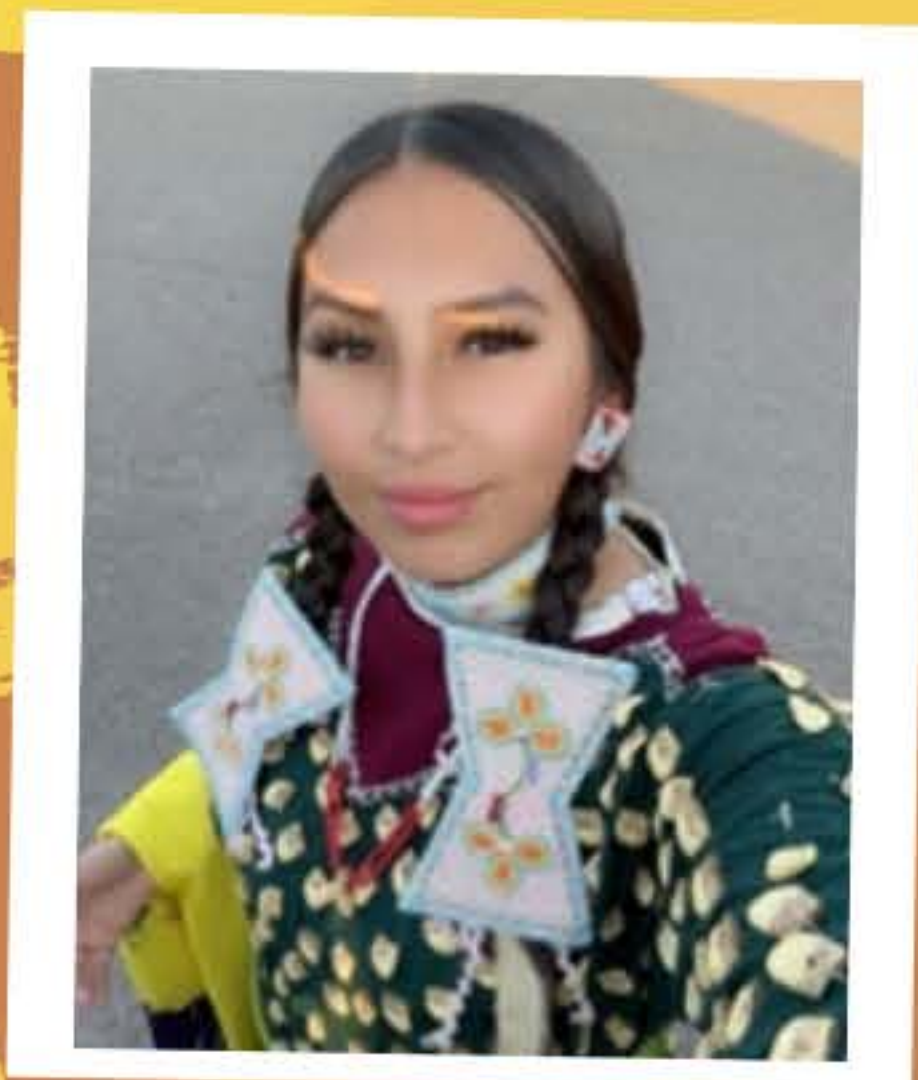


Chanda Garcia

Montana State University-Billings;
BS, Health Administration



2023 - 2024 Scholars



**Katelyn
Goes Ahead**

**Aaniih Nakoda
College; B.S. Ecology**

Haú midáguyabi! Iyá Anáži Wíya emágiyabi hįkná wašįn micáže, KateLyne Goes Ahead. Waníyedu wikjémna nůba sam šakpé ehąwakį. Wadópańna tųwą žé máca. Wakpá Juk'ána en wáti. Micįkšibi yamní mnúha. Khleo, Kínažį, Susméja ejiyabi. Namákoda hįkná Kađi. Tođá žé máca.

Hello, my relatives. My Nakoda name is Stands on Stone Woman. My English name is KateLyne Goes Ahead. I am twenty-six years old. I come from the Prairie Canoe Paddlers band and live in Fort Belknap Agency along the Milk River. I have three sons, Khleo, Kínažį, and Susméja. My oldest son is seven. My middle son is four. My baby is a year old. They are my reason for everything I do in this life. I come from the Nakoda and Apsáálooke (Crow) tribes.

My late father was from Pryor, Montana. I grew up here in Fort Belknap. My grandfather and aunts raised my mother. I taught the Nakoda language at the immersion daycare center, Life's Language Lodge. I taught our language to children ages 0-5 but primarily worked with 3-5 year old students. I speak the language in my home, and everywhere I step foot. I take pride in our language and teaching my sons. I recently took a break from teaching to pursue my higher education. It was one of the most challenging things I've done, but I am determined to finish my education. My sons are the reason I work hard in everything. I hope I inspire them as much as they inspire me.

Hello to whomever it may concern or whoever is reading this, my name is Nicholas Haakanson. I am an Environmental Science major at Aaniih Nakoda College. I'm from Hays originally but currently live in the agency with my young family of four. My oldest boy, Liam, is nine years old and we have a baby named, Atreus who is currently 7 months old, both of which my spouse and I are very proud of. The life we will be providing them through our education that we are currently partaking in has been my driving force since I decided to resume this education journey. My family is truly why I do everything that I do.



Nicholas Haakanson
Aaniih Nakoda College;
Environmental Science



Deion Hammett

Aaniih Nakoda College;
Business

Hello, my relatives my name is Magpie. That is what they call me. You know me as "Deion Hammett". I am a community member here on Ft. Belknap and am enrolled Aaniih. I come from a long line of proud Aaniih people. My family is the Stiffarms and Adams families. My Parents are Sits in the Middle (Brian Hammett) and White Plume Woman (Melinda Hammett). My grandparents are Marcia and Diego Hammett from my dad. From my mom, my grandparents are Maurice Adams and the late Roberta Adams. I have grown up in the agency most of my life and have volunteered for my community on numerous occasions. It is my goal to give back to the place that means a lot to me.



2023 - 2024 Scholars



Amba Washtay, Woos Bee Wea. Hi my name is Berry Picking Woman. My mom knows Assiniboine fluently. Her grandfather who raised her didn't want her to speak it because our people were jailed back in the day for speaking our language. I don't know my language. I sure wished I did. My name is Iris Has The Eagle. My parents are Douglas "Tiny" Main, Sr. and Glenda "Bea" Has The Eagle. My grandparents, James Main, Sr. and Vernie Brisbo Main raised me since I was 7 years old out in the mountains by Lodge Pole called Bigwarm. I attended Lodge Pole Elementary School until 6th grade then I went onto 8th to 12th grade at Harlem Jr/Sr High School. I attended Fort Belknap College for 2 years but didn't graduate. I finished my Liberty University Online Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration. I started last spring at Liberty University Online to obtain a LUO Graduate Master of Arts Degree in Marriage and Family Counselors Program. I have three children, Cody Plainfeather, Desmond laForge, and Chynna la Forge. I have 8 grandchildren in which I am raising the oldest three.

Iris Has The Eagle

Liberty University Online; M.A.
Marriage & Family Counseling



Hello! My name is Kenneth Hawley, Jr. I am pursuing a degree in welding. I have two sons. Their ages are 1 and 2 years old. I have worked in different jobs here in Fort Belknap. I decided to further my education as this degree will help financially to provide for my family. I feel with this welding degree the knowledge and experience I gain I would have to opportunity to help the community with any welding issues they may have. This degree will also help me to gain a job here in Fort Belknap or within the surrounding areas.

Kenneth Hawley

Aaniiih Nakoda College;
Welding Certificate

My name is Shaunte Hawley. My parents are Jenelle Messerly and Jon Hawley. I only lived with them until I was 2. Then I lived with just my mom until I was 5. Then I moved in with my grandma, Louwanna. I lived with her until I was about 8. Since then, I have been living with my grandma Deb and grandpa John. Living with my grandma Deb and grandpa John has taught me the true meaning of family. Their unconditional love has given me the courage to pursue my education and strive for success. They have shown me what it means to be resilient in the face of adversity and have inspired me to never give up.



Shaunte Hawley

Aaniiih Nakoda College;
Business Administration





2023 - 2024 Scholars



Charmayne Healy
Opal Beauty Academy;
Esthetician

Mida Guyabe, Wohish'te Was'te Wiya Imagiyab. Hello, my name is Charmayne Healy. My Nakoda name is Good Plume Woman. I am a proud enrolled Nakoda member of the Fort Belknap Indian Community. My parents are Marsha and Percy Healy, both enrolled tribal members residing on the southern end of the reservation in Lodge Pole. I grew up in Big Warm and then moved to Lodge Pole as a young teenager. I graduated from Hays Lodge Pole High School in 2009. I am a mother of two sons, LJ and Shotawn ages eleven and eight. I graduated from Aaniiih Nakoda College in 2012 and Montana State University Billings in 2021. I have experience working in public service, clinical settings, and administrative fields. I am currently enrolled at the Opal Beauty Academy in Billings, MT, pursuing to obtain my Esthetician License.



Hello, my name is Daniel Henry. My mother is Jennifer Doney. My father is Greg Henry. I was mainly raised by my mother and grandmother. My family was always so supportive throughout my high school years. Most of them also encouraged me to further my education into college, which then I chose Aaniiih Nakoda College to get my generals done first. I was born in Great Falls and grew up in Hays all my life. I really like it here. It's peaceful here and the community is very helpful and when they need something done, they get right on the task. In this small town of Hays, you grow up to know everyone in the community and you also get the chance to get closer with some of them so that you can rely on them to always be there for you.



Daniel Henry
Aaniiih Nakoda
College; Computer
Information Systems



**Mirabellah
Hernandez**

Indiana University; Kelley
School of Business Information
Systems & Analytics

My name is Mirabellah Hernandez, but most people just call me Mira. I am the youngest of three children, and up until my recent college move, I lived at home with my dad, mom and dog Poncho in Laporte County, Indiana. I'm minutes from the tip of Lake Michigan, and enjoy spending my summers on the beach. I feel lucky, because my family and community are pretty diverse. Coming from a multicultural background has created an adaptability and open mindedness within me, and has made it easy to interact with many types of people in a genuine way. It has also created a curiosity to better understand the parts of me that I have yet to fully explore and understand. The way I was raised, and the different types of people and places I was raised around, helped to instill a belief system with empathy, compassion and civic-mindedness on the forefront. Because of this, I am open to understanding other people's feelings and point of view





2023 - 2024 Scholars



Elijah Hopkins

Oglala Lakota
College; B.A.
Business
Administration

My name is Elijah Hopkins. My mother is Laurie Wood. My father is William Hopkins. I am an enrolled member of the Fort Belknap Indian Community. My great grandparents adopted me. I lived in Guam most of my childhood years. When I was 16, I moved to Rapid City, SD, in 2017. I attended catholic school until my freshman year in high school. My great grandmother was from Fort Belknap but enrolled in Carry the Kettle First Nation, Saskatchewan, Canada. She was a victim of the boarding school back in the 1940s. She was known as Mary Margaret Pernice until she left Canada. She married my great grandfather and was known as Shirley Pernice Bautista. She taught me a lot about my culture through stories and kept telling me these stories until her passing on June 15, 2018. After we buried her at Pony Hill in Fort Belknap, I began to reach out and find my relatives in Fort Belknap, Havre, and Great Falls. Since then I've met more family throughout the years in person or online.



Alyssa Horn
University of North
Dakota; B.S. Nursing

My name is Wahomini Wiya (Twirling Woman). I am an enrolled member of the Nakota tribe but I am also Aaniiih. My name was passed down to me from my grandma Elizabeth (Jackson) Horn. My parents are Walter and Lisa Horn. My maternal grandparents are Faye and Ed Filesteel Sr. from Three Buttes. My paternal grandparents are Elizabeth and Gilbert Horn from the valley. I have a daughter Red Bottom Girl. She is 8 years old. I have three sisters and plenty of nieces and nephews who I love like my own. I grew up on the northern end of the reservation at the agency. I attended Harlem High and Aaniiih Nakoda College where I earned my associates of nursing degree in 2019.



Hello, my name is Madisen Grace Jackson. I am an enrolled member of the Aaniiih and Nakota tribes located on the Fort Belknap Indian Reservation. I am an 18 year old freshman college student attending Montana State University in Bozeman, Montana. I am taking my prerequisite courses to get admitted into the nursing program. I will earn a Bachelor of Science degree in the spring of 2027. I'm the granddaughter of my Nakota/Lakota grandmother, Lyolene Dillon. She raised me from the age of 6. Before coming to MSU, I lived with her and my 4 siblings who she is currently raising. My grandma has raised us since we were each under the age of 6. My baby brother being the youngest at 2 years old. My mother was unfit with an absent father. My grandma dedicated the rest of her life to raising us, supporting us, and loving us.



Maddison Jackson

Montana State
University;
Pre-Nursing



2023 - 2024 Scholars



Morgan Johnson
Aaniiih Nakoda College
Degree not listed

Nahááh Nííth'ííh Naniísh'íít'ó Morgan Johnson. Hello, my friends my name is Morgan Johnson, and I am a proud Aaniiih. I live on the Fort Belknap Indian Reservation. My grandmother is Kathryn Johnson. My grandfather was the late Douglas Johnson. My mother is Iris Johnson. I grew up on the Fort Belknap reservation my whole life. I am proud to say that because I was taught the importance of family and community. I hold my community close to my heart because it is my homeland and I want nothing but the best for everyone here to me my community is my family.



Deserae Kill Eagle
John's Hopkins
University Bloomberg
School of Public Health;
Indian Public Health

My name is Deserae Kill Eagle. I am an enrolled member of the Aaniiih tribe of Fort Belknap, MT. I am a mother to four beautiful children, three girls and one boy. Their ages are 17, 16, 3, and 11 months. My babies are my world and everything. I am able to accomplish is done with the motivation of wanting better for my children. I grew up on the Northeast Corner of the reservation and attended school in Dodson for all of my K-12 school years, where I now teach and have taught for thirteen years. I received my Bachelor's at Montana State University-Northern and my Master's in Public Administration at the University of Montana. Education is my passion, especially presenting to schools and administration, on the importance of teaching Indian Education for All.



Jessica King
Haskell Indian University;
Bachelor degree

Hello ANCF Scholarship Committee. My name is Jessica Nihampi King. I was born and raised on the Fort Belknap reservation. My mother is Savana Doney who is the daughter of Patti Carrywater and Henry Hank Doney. My father is Kirby King who is the son of Norma Jean King/Guardipee and Duke King. They were both born and raised in Hays. I was raised in Hays all my childhood and moved to Billings for only two years before moving back to the reservation and attending Harlem Jr/Sr High School. I love my community and now that I'm in college, it means so much more to me to come back whenever I can to see my family. Fort Belknap is and always will be my home.



2023 - 2024 Scholars

My name is Michael King III, born to parents Michael King II and Winona Runsabove, and their parents Michael King I and Tracy King, and Bill and Danna Runsabove. I grew up on the Ft. Belknap reservation and spent most of my time helping my dad raise cattle and attending school. As for the community on Belknap it has its ups and downs much like everything else in the world.



Michael King
University of Montana;
Pre-Pharmacy

Naha Niitine (Hello my friends and relatives), Aydasiniki (How are you doing). Naniisahidit (My name is) Nohkenahiina (Assiniboine girl). My Great Grandmother named me. My English name is Dana Bigby Kingfisher. I am an enrolled member of the Aaniih/Gros Ventre Tribe and a descendant of the Amskapii Pikanii/Blackfeet Tribe.

My mother is Melanie Croff (Blackfeet). My father is Donald Alan Bigby (Assiniboine/Aaniih/Nakoda). My paternal grandparents are Delores Durand Snow (Ft. Peck Lakota/Nakoda) and the late Wilbur "Skee" Bigby (Nakoda/Aaniih). My paternal great grandparents were George Blackbird (Aaniih full blood) and Dorothy Bigby (Nakoda/Lakota full blood).

I did not meet my father until I was in high school (1991). My maternal grandmother raised me and would take me every summer to the Milk River Indian Days and Hays powwow to meet my paternal grandparents, Gramma Dee and Grampa Snowman. Delores remarried Jim Snow (Aaniih) in her 50's and was married until his passing. My maternal grandparents are Marie Romsa Croff (Blackfeet) and the late James "Tinyman" Croff (Amskapii Pikanii/Aaniih). My maternal great grandparents were Jesse & Katie Matte Croff (Aaniih). My great grandmother was born and raised in Ft. Belknap/Hays area and had 8 brothers and 1 sister, who includes the late Rosie Cochran. I am in my mid-40's now. I married my high school sweetheart, Raymond Kingfisher. We have one adult daughter. We have been living in the Missoula urban community for the past 23 years working, raising a family, and pursuing our higher education.



Dana Kingfisher
Univeristy of Montana;
Master of Public Health



2023 - 2024 Scholars



Suzi Kirkaldie
Montana State
University - Northern;
Business Administration

Hello! My name is Suzi Kirkaldie. I'm from Hays, which is located on the Fort Belknap Indian Reservation. I have three beautiful children, ages 14, 11, and 5. I am a senior at Montana State University - Northern. I work full-time at Island Mountain. In July I celebrated ten years. I started at Island Mountain as a call representative. I was promoted to a team leader shortly afterwards. I joined the Finance Department as an accountant and internal auditor and held this position for four years.

Over a year ago I accepted the Consumer Lending Business Unit Controller. I enjoy it and still have lots to learn. I have always had a passion for math but originally thought I had a calling in the health field, which I spent most of my time in my first few years of college. I did complete my allied health associate degree but decided that my passion for numbers led me to business.

While working for Island Mountain I was encouraged to further my education and was also given paid educational leave to pursue this. The process was slow. In May of 2019, I got my associate in business administration. In December 2023, I will earn my bachelor's in business administration with a minor in accounting.

Outside of work and homework, I enjoy spending time with my children, participating in school activities and sports. I also try to spend time with family as frequently as possible and enjoy lending a hand in anything they need or that I think they need. If anyone knows me, they know I try like crazy to stay busy no matter what I do I have to be doing something. My hobbies are to run, play basketball and to binge watch Netflix. My children are my purpose and I want nothing more than to show them that anything is possible.

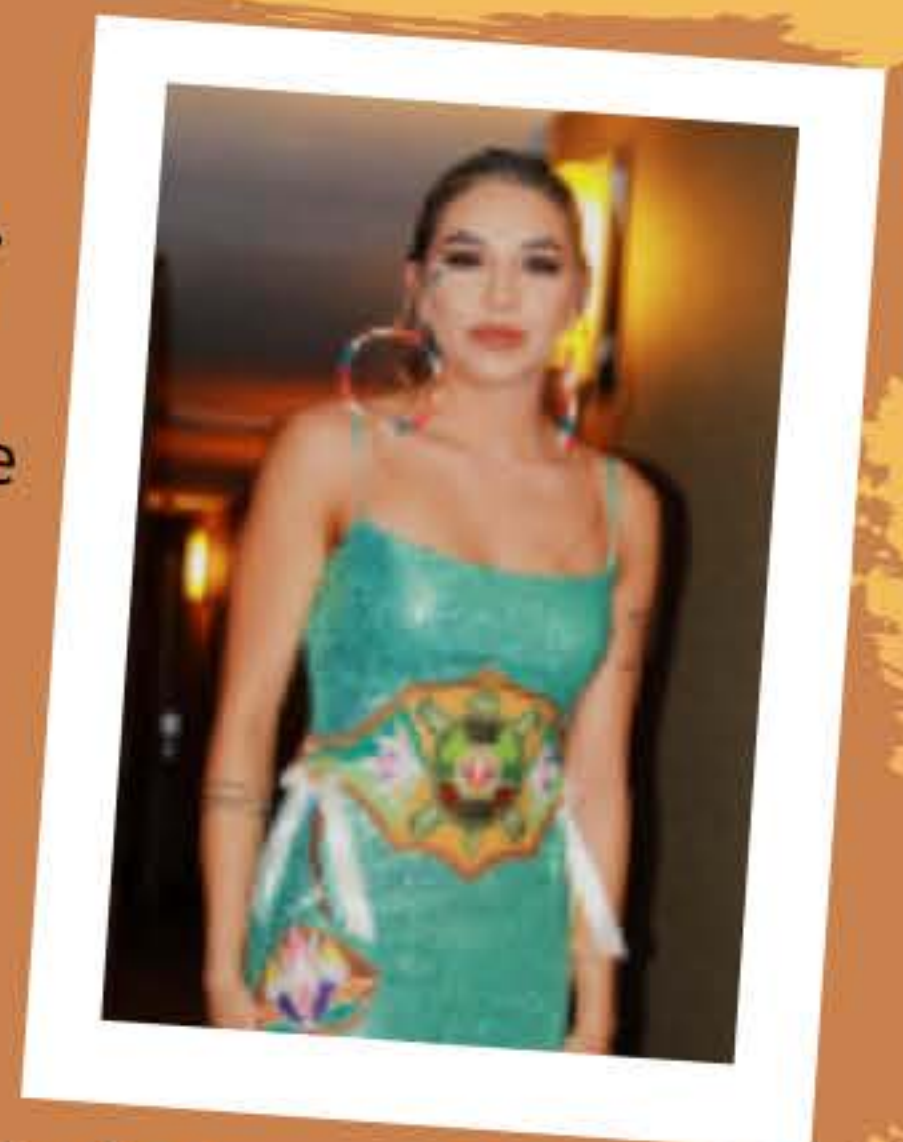


My name is Kristyn Ann-Marie Kittson. I am from Harlem Montana. My family and I call the Fort Belknap Indian reservation home and have lived there for decades. I come from a big ranching and rodeoing family that loves animals and spending time together. We are a family of educators and college goers.

I moved to Havre to continue my education. I found that moving home for the summer has been the highlight of my years in higher education. I graduated high school from Harlem High three years ago. It feels a lot longer than three years due to COVID and other unforeseen circumstances.

This being my senior year of higher education I have had a lot of reflection on why I wanted to go to college in the first place. At first, I thought it was just what you do and what is expected of an individual, you graduate high school, then you go to college.

About halfway I realized it is not just what you do but it is what you can do. It's a possibility provided to me that I should always be taking advantage of. Not all students can pursue a higher education. Any kind of higher education or higher opportunities are advantages and opportunities for me to grow as an individual. Not only as an individual but as a member in my community.



Kristyn Kittson
Stone Child College;
Degree not listed





2023 - 2024 Scholars



My name is Teagan LeValdo. I live on the Fort Belknap Reservation that is located three miles south of Harlem, MT. Growing up on Fort Belknap reservation can be difficult at times with little opportunities such as jobs, housing, and money wise. My family and I live in Hays, MT located thirty miles south up near Pine Grove called Whitecow Road. My parents and sister all pursued college after high school striving to get a degree more than four years of college. I am pursuing my Masters in Business Administration here from the Aaniiih Nakoda College (ANC). I finish my first two years at ANC and plan to transfer to a higher education facility for my next four years.



Teagan Levaldo
Aaniiih Nakoda College;
Business Administration

I was born in Hudson, New York, and moved to, and grew up in Belmont, New Hampshire. My mom was born and raised on the Fort Belknap Indian Reservation in Montana and met my dad in Great Falls, MT while he was serving in the military. While growing up we made many trips back to Montana to keep in touch with my family and heritage.

I always had an interest in technology and computers, I concentrated most of my focus on STEM classes. While going through school I played baseball, basketball, and soccer. While in high school, I joined the astronomy club where I was the treasurer. I was the co-captain of the rock climbing team.



Adam Link
Lakes Region Community
College; Computer Science



Hello, My name is Kristie Little. I'm an enrolled member of the Gros Ventre tribe. I am also Nakota. I was born and raised as a Nakota my entire life. My Nakota name is Maka Inde' Wiya, Clay Face Woman. My late great grandmother Emma WindChief LameBull named me.

I have 5 children who attend Harlem Public Schools. In our free time, we like to spend time together and go to movies and do fun activities or trips together. My main goal in life is supporting my children. I am currently attending college online through the Cankdeska Cikana Community College in Fort Totten, North Dakota.



Kristie Little
Candeska Cikana
Community College;
Business Administration



2023 - 2024 Scholars



Na-ha, niitine! Na-niis-ii-hit Heday. Nona Main na-ha-si-hi-na. Ni-ni-ta-na Si-nun-na-wuu. Niitine Mains, Snows, Bradleys, Cliffs, and Horns. Hello, my relatives. My name is Pretty. Nona Main is what they call me. My relatives are the Mains, Snows, Bradleys, Cliffs and Horns, and many extended relatives. I am a proud member of the Aaniiih and Nakoda nations. My parents are the late John "Wowzer" Main from Lodge Pole and Joey Snow from Hays, MT. My maternal grandparents are the late Rita Bradley and James "Snowman" Snow of Hays, MT. My paternal grandparents are the late Christine Cliff Main and Gerald Main of Lodge Pole, MT. I grew up at the agency but spent much time in the summers and weekends in Hays and Lodge Pole, where my family is from. Due to my spending time in other communities growing up, I'm connected to every part of our home community and have relatives in each. It helps me to stay connected to home and each community. I also am the mother of one son, Trenton Main, who is in his third year of college. It has been a fun experience being in school while my son is also in school.



Nona Main
University of Montana;
Master of Social Work



Trenton Main
Rocky Mountain College;
Bachelor of Health Science

Wahey 'niiteihii, nahaa'si'hinaw nakatei'eihii'thaw, Tj Main or Trenton Mainnanisihit. Inan'aw Aaniih'nen, Tawatsinitaa, nawkenei'nen, nots'nen. Niniitawnaaw 'in 'ohuutebithanaawn.

Hello, my friend. My name is Eagle Child. They also call me TJ Main or Trenton Main. I am a whiteclay and a nakoda person. I come from the Main family. My mother is Nona Main. My grandfathers were John Main and Gerald Main. I live in Billings, Montana, and go to school at Rocky Mountain College. I am studying and obtaining a bachelor's in health science and will get my Master's in occupational therapy. I am in the basketball program at Rocky Mountain College.



Ha midaguyebi, Nowa wiya emagiyabi, wacaze Trista Main. Mato waka zemaca ookpamni enwati. Wikcemna yamni som saknoga. Hello, my relatives. My name is signing woman. My nonnative name is Trista Main. I am from the Medicine Bear clan. My Mother is Margerett Crasco Doney of the Beaver Creek area. My father is the late Alvin Doney from the Zortman area. I am 38 years old, an enrolled member of the Nakoda Tribe at Fort Belknap. I am studying in my second year of the nursing program at Aaniiih Nakoda College in Fort Belknap. I live with my husband, Bill Main, and son, William Main III, in the subdivision of Rodeo Drive on the northern end of the reservation. I will graduate in the Spring of 2024 with my associate degree in nursing. After I graduate, I plan to pass the NCLEX test to become a registered nurse (RN).



Trista Main
Aaniiih Nakoda
College; Nursing



2023 - 2024 Scholars

My name is Felecia Michelle Messerly. I am a 41-year-old Native American enrolled Assiniboine. I am very proud of my heritage, customs, and traditions.

I was born and raised on a small Indian reservation in North Central Montana, just thirty miles south of the Canadian border.

I have three amazing children: Brad, Ty, and Timber. I am blessed to be able to raise my one-year-old grandson, Valentine.

I joined the U.S Army in 2009 and served eight years. In 2004, I earned an associate degree in allied health and another in health information technology.

After obtaining the Health Information degree, I took the Registered Health Information Technology (RHIT) exam and became licensed. I was also a Certified Professional Medical Coder through the American Academy of Professional Coders (AAPC). In 2010, I received a bachelor's degree in health administration. In 2013, I obtained my Master's degree in Health Administration. I worked for the Department of Health and Human Services as a Health Systems Specialist for fourteen years, carrying various health-related duties. I am the financial manager for the 3rd party billing program for the Fort Belknap Tribe and a small business owner.



Felicia Messerly
University of Arizona
Online; PhD Development &
Leadership



Amy Murdock
Massage Training
Institute; Massage
Therapy

Amba washte! My name is Ishta ToTo, which translates to Blue Blue Eyes. My English name is Amy Stewart (Murdock). My parents are Sis Horn and Rollie Murdock. My maternal grandparents, the late Liz and Gilbert Horn Sr., gave me my Indian name. My paternal grandparents are Amy and Paul Murdock.

I was born and raised on the Fort Belknap Indian Reservation, where my grandfather instilled a sense of family into me and my extended family. I am proud to be a Horn from Fort Belknap and take great pride in our community.

I graduated from Riverside Indian School in May 2009. After coming home, I took a break for a few years and graduated with my bachelor's degree in business administration in May 2018.

I was recently married on October 7 of this year to Winston Stewart. I have a blended family of 6 children, each of whom I love dearly. I appreciate ANCF for assisting me in any way possible to achieve my goals. I travel to Kalispell, MT, every other weekend to ensure I reach my dream of becoming a massage therapist.



2023 - 2024 Scholars



Nahaah, My name is Good Road Woman. I am affiliated with the Aaniiih, Apsaalooke, Northern Cheyenne, Nakoda, Peigan, Salish, Cree, Pend'Oreille, and Arikara people. I am enrolled Nakoda from and live at the Fort Belknap reservation. Two of my grandfathers from my maternal and paternal sides have been chairmen of the Fort Belknap and Crow reservations. My grandma is Blaine County's first woman and native county commissioner. My grandfather has a doctoral degree. My mother graduated from law school. I was raised with traditional ceremonial beliefs. My family and communities molded me and taught me a lot. I value community, compassion, trust, accountability, and education.

Danielle Plumage
Aaniiih Nakoda College;
Aaniiih Nakoda Language



My name is Youeah Howwi, which means rising sun. I am an enrolled member of the Nakoda tribe in Ft. Belknap, Montana. I grew up in a small, rural town in South Dakota. I am the youngest of four siblings. My mom is the director for South Dakota Drug Courts. My dad is an Internal Medicine Physician. I did not grow up on my tribe's reservation in Montana. I have only visited Fort Belknap one time when I was growing up. I haven't had the opportunity to go back. Because of these circumstances, there is a lot I do not know a lot about my tribe's traditions, customs, language, and history. What I do know about my tribe I have learned from my dad and my grandpa.



Emily Plumage
The Ohio State University
College of Medicine; M.D.



My name is Sage Plumage I am an enrolled member of the Gros Ventre and Assiniboine tribe at Fort Belknap. My parents are Mary Fran Plumage and Raymond O'claray. My grandparents are "Charles" Jack and Dolores Plumage. I have two younger brothers, their names are Max and Landen. I grew up in Missoula and Fort Belknap and have made homes out of both of them. These will both be home to me because these places are where all of my family is. Currently, I am living in Great Falls and attending grad school online. A big reason I moved to Great Falls was to be closer to my family in Fort Belknap.

Sage Plumage
Univeristy of Kentucky;
Master of Social Work





2023 - 2024 Scholars



Michael Redbear
University of
Kansas; Psychology

I am Michael Todd Redbear Jr. or Turns Around (Nanaanaach). I come from Old Lady Warrior, Angela Deefy, Edna Warrior (Ball), and Ruby Brockie, Turns Around "Old Man" Brockie, "Fatback" Brockie, and "Weasel horse" Prince Brockie. My mother came from Prince and Ruby Brockie. My aunts and uncles are Kimberly Brockie, Teresa Brockie, Leslie Racine, Helena Brockie, Lorraine Brockie, Susie Brockie, George Brockie, Clarena Brockie, and Micky Brockie. My grandpa Prince and his fathers all served on the council. "Old Man" Brockie is one of the longest-serving council members at Fort Belknap. This is but a sliver of my family on the Fort Belknap Reservation.



My name is Shyanne RedBear. I am the daughter of Marcie Brockie and Todd RedBear. I was born and raised on the Fort Belknap Indian Reservation. At 7, I moved with my mother to northern Arizona near the Navajo reservation, where I completed my remaining elementary, middle, and high school years. Growing up, I actively participated in year-round sports and academic endeavors. Despite spending much of my life in Arizona, I returned to Fort Belknap every summer until I was about 16 years old and lived with my grandparents, Henry and Ruby Brockie. Each summer, I danced in powwows as a Southern cloth dancer. I built my foundational cultural beliefs and values when I lived with my grandparents. My grandmother created a safe space for me to learn about my cultural and tribal history through storytelling, attending sweats, and attending sun dance ceremonies. My grandfather influenced my work ethic, stressing the importance of pursuing higher education, hard work, and independence.



Shyann Redbear
Marymount University;
Doctor of Physical Therapy



**Kristin Cliff
Rodriguez**
Pikes Peak State
College; Nursing

Hello HA, My name Me Chaz is Kristin Cliff, AKA White Cloud Woman, White Ska Na Cloud Am Mock (x) Be Ya Woman Wee Yah, I was given my Nakoda name by my Great Grandmother Me Kooshie Victoria Bull Cap, Has the Eagle. My extended family is from Lodge Pole Wa Say Walk, Ba, Montana. My grandparents are all deceased. Of my father's Ade Ricky Cliff family lineage of the Assiniboine, AKA Nakoda Nation, we are of the Prairie Canoe and Medicine Bear Clan from Lodge Pole of the little girl band of the Assiniboine Nation. My mother Sue Cliff "Licht" Lineage of the Turtle Mountain Chippewas. They are currently assembling a family tree of my grandmother, Elizabeth Trottier. My dad, Ricky Cliff, is retired from the military. We've never lived on the reservation. My parents and siblings reside in Lawrence, Kansas. I reside in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

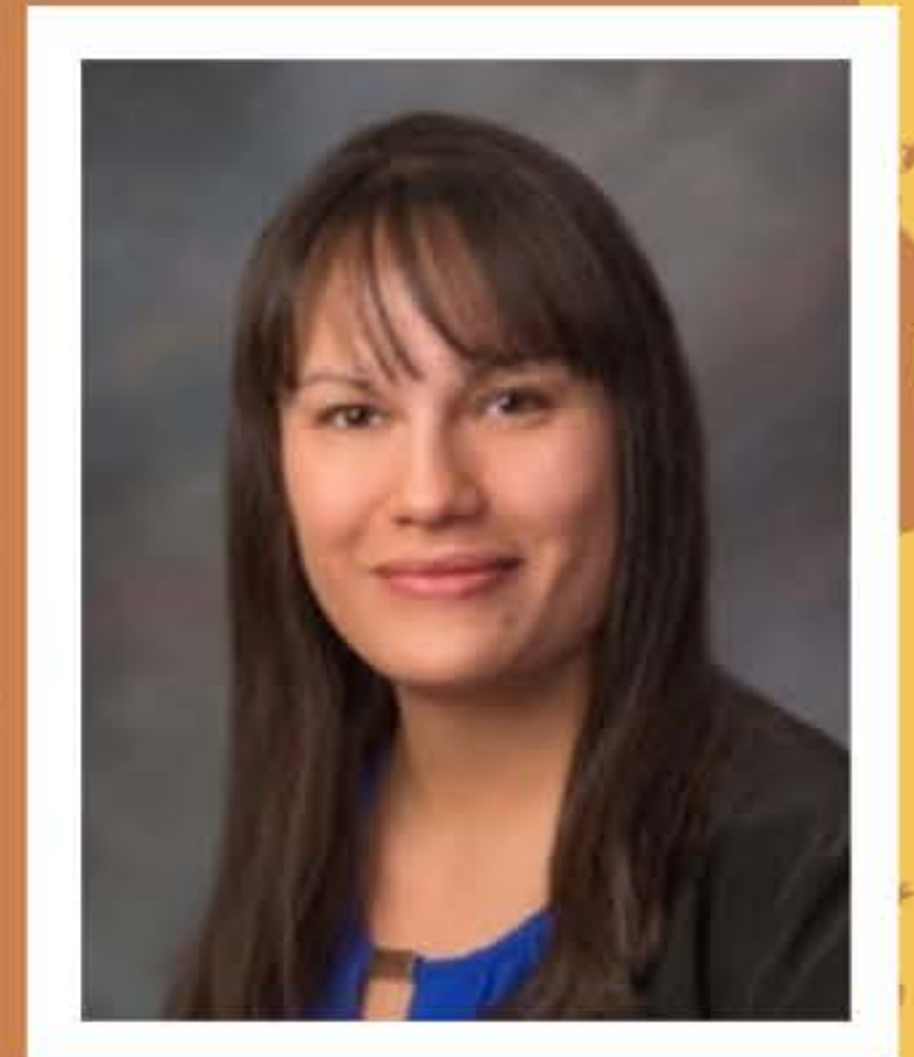




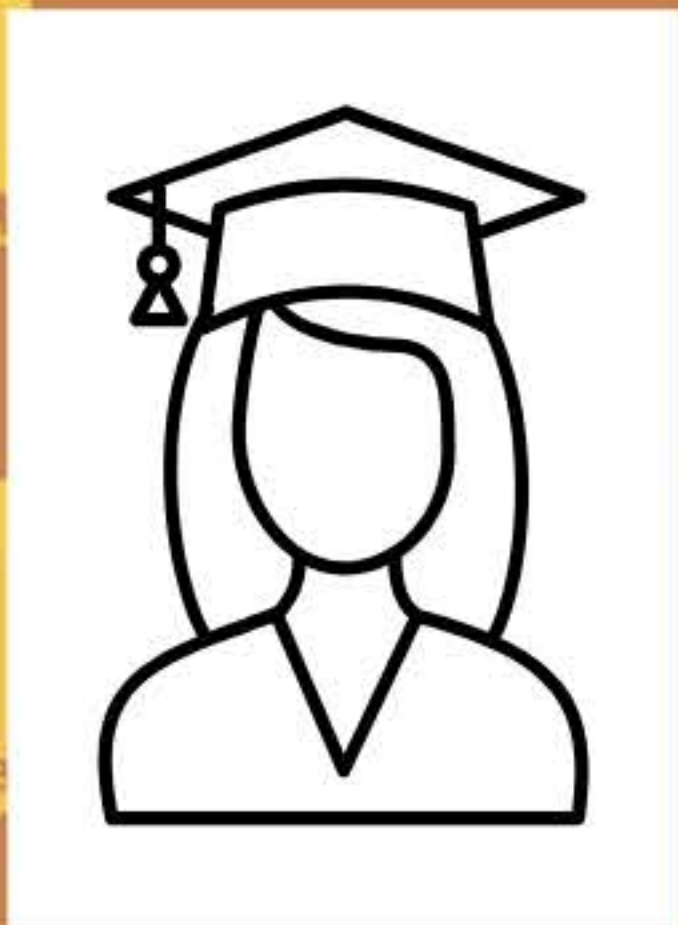
2023 - 2024 Scholars



My name is Kassie Marie Nicholson-Runsabove (First Kill). I am an enrolled member of the Aaniiih people. I am also Cree on my mother's side. My parents are Kim and Kenny Nicholson. I live and work with my husband and three children in Billings, MT. I received my bachelor's degree in Health Promotion from Montana State University Billings in 2008. Since then, I have worked in public health, serving on many boards and programs across the state. In my work, I see the need for more research and understanding of how our Indigenous population lives and works. This understanding of us can lower health disparities and increase quality of life overall. From my spiritual teachings, values, and education, I found a program that fits my goals. I attend Johns Hopkins University. I am starting my MPH program with the Indigenous Public Health Certificate. This is an excellent program for working individuals. We are all Master's in public health students. The program allows us to work and learn simultaneously. Once the certification is complete, six more classes will be an additional year to graduate with an MPH.



Kassie Runs Above
Johns Hopkins University
Bloomberg School of
Public Health



Náa'hááh, phííh níitcin/níith'íihó', Nii'íinikiinin'I noh wóokníih Ké'ííh nii'inóhóokbaan'aan. Nóó'íwósihóó'í'ítháá Nááhaasi'ihnóó'. Niinaaninóó itíyóó'ókóh bin'i niinaaninóó 'óó'óó'niinén'i nóh Nóókinéih nóh 'ítisii' nóh Nóówunóókinééih nááneí'íwóó'ókócinanitaa'. Nii'íisíi'ókóó in'Nóókinéihíitáan'a, akis bííthóó'ókó'án'i 'íyééih'íit'óó. Nóó'néinóóóó Akis bíí'tóówuh 'ítháá Nííthenóóh No-uh-nuhhht Nííp' akicita wiya Nii'bisíp' Bíin'óó'ókóó.

Hello, all my friends and relatives, we are living well today. It is good to see you all again. White Horse Woman is what they call me. I am part of the upper quarter clan. I am White Clay. I am also Nakoda/Cheyenne/Lakota. I am proud to be an Indian. I grew up in Lodge Pole, MT. The Little Fur Caps are my home. My mother's name is Small Earthwoman Gail Main. My father's name is War Hoop Floyd Runsabove, Sr. My grandma's name was Warrior Woman, Christine Cliff Main. My grandfather's name was Big Body Gerald Main, Sr.

Kristie Runs Above
Aaniiih Nakoda
College; American
Indian Studies



Ha midaguyabi micaze Hoksina Wakan. Hello, my relatives. My Nakoda name is Hoskina Wakan. My English name is Joshua "Teague" Rutherford. I am from the northeast corner of the Fort Belknap Indian Reservation. My maternal great-grandparents are Sarah KillEagle and Leslie "Killer" KillEagle. My maternal grandparents are Rebecca "Bea" KillEagle and Kim King. My paternal grandparents are Maxine Clifford and Mike Matthews of Fort Peck. My mother is Roberta King Bettelyoun. My father is the late Joshua Thomas Rutherford. My KillEagle and maternal family raised me in Dodson, Montana. I moved to Billings in my later teenage years as my mom earned a master's in social work (M.S.W.) degree. Most of my relatives are from the northeast corner near Dodson. I spend as much time here as possible while not studying dentistry in Mesa, Arizona.



Teague Rutherford
A.T. Still University;
Dental Doctorate
Degree





2023 - 2024 Scholars



Bridgette Shields
Aaniiih Nakoda
College; Chemical
Dependency &
Human Services

WA NAPI SHA WIYA IMAGIYABI OWOKBAMNI EN WATI Fort Belknap. Hello, I am a Red Necklace Woman and reside on the Fort Belknap Reservation. My English name is Bridgette Shields. I have lived on the Fort Belknap reservation all my life. I take immense pride in where I come from. I have two beautiful Nakoda sons, ages 9 and 8 months. Through pursuing my higher education goals, I aspire to teach my children how education can positively impact our quality of life. My husband is also pursuing a second degree so we can better support our family with higher-level jobs. It is my goal to become a resource and asset in my community. After graduating, I plan to become a Licensed Addiction Counselor and work on the Fort Belknap reservation. It is my dream to help adults suffering from substance abuse become healthy adults so they can raise healthy children. I hope to run group counseling meetings and become an esteemed counselor shortly.



Hello, I am Ayden Smith, a senior at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. I am the oldest of three siblings and belong to the Gros Ventre Tribe. I grew up in a single-parent household, where my mother cared for four children while maintaining a full-time job. This resulted in us having much less than other families around us. However, I was able to appreciate the little things in life, such as time with friends, family, and community. They're counting on me to accomplish my dreams of finishing school and finding a fulfilling career, and I won't let them down.



Ayden Smith
University of Nebraska
at Omaha; BS Business
Administration



Jacqueline Smith
Gonzaga University;
Master of Business
Administration

Hello, my name is Jacqueline Smith. I was born to Susan Belgarde (Nakada) in Great Falls, Montana. I am a second-year graduate student at Gonzaga University. My mother is the daughter of Mary Francis Solider Belgarde. My great-grandparents are Virginia and Herbert Solider. My great uncle David Solider was killed in World War II. Although I have never lived on the reservation, my mother is very traditional, remains connected, and is deeply rooted in traditional values and practices. I have lived in Spokane, Washington since I was a young child. I enjoy spending time with my family and taking our yearly trip back to Fort Belknap to connect with family and pay respect to our family resting there.





2023 - 2024 Scholars



Hello. My name is Francine KillEagle-Stiffarm. I am an enrolled member of the Aaniiih tribe of the Fort Belknap Indian Community. I live in Dodson with my husband and our three sons. I have taught business education at the Dodson School for the last ten years. I am also an acting school, college, and career readiness counselor. This summer, I worked with the Young Medicine Movement at the Aaniiih Nakoda College through Johns Hopkins University. I have also worked with the Upward Bound college preparation program. I serve as the Advisor for Jobs for Montana Graduates and the Advisor of the National Honor Society. I have a bachelor of arts degree in business education and am pursuing a master of science degree in public administration.



Francine Stiffarm
Colorado Technical University; MS Public Administration

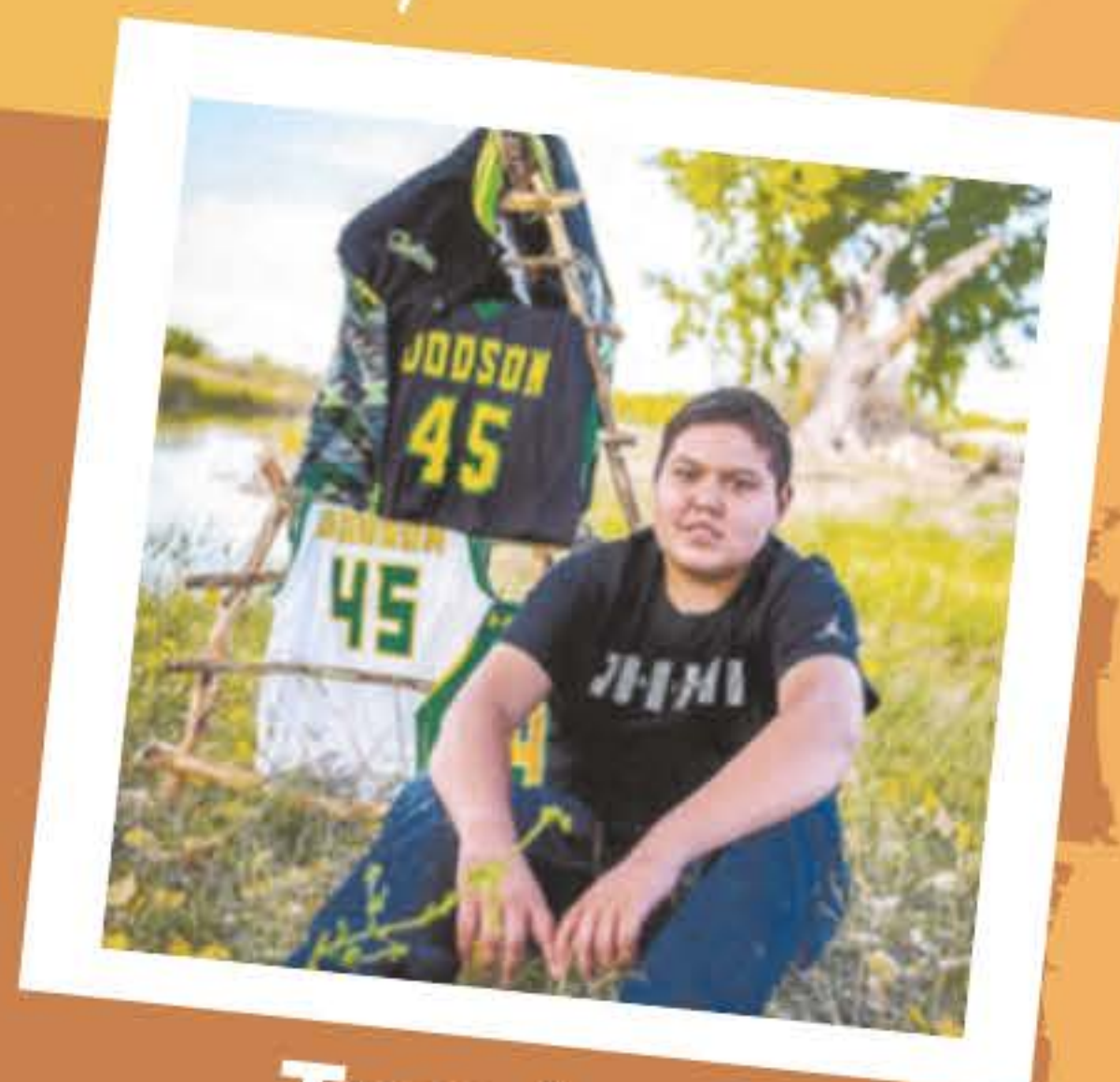


Lyle Stiffarm
Aaniiih Nakoda College; Industrial Trades

Hello, my name is Lyle Stiffarm. My parents are the late Florine Frankien Johnson and Emerson Stiffarm. My maternal grandparents are Josephine (First Raised) Johnson and Clifford Johnson. My paternal grandparents are Mae and Paul Stiffarm. I was born and raised in Fort Belknap and graduated from Harlem High School in 1997. I joined the Marine Corps and served for 13 years. I completed two combat tours to Iraq for Operation Iraqi Freedom and one tour to Afghanistan for Operation Enduring Freedom. I was medically discharged from the Marine Corps in 2012. I live with my wife, Francine, and our three sons in Dodson.



Hello, my name is Treyten Stiffarm. I am a sophomore majoring in Industrial Arts at the Aaniiih Nakoda College in Fort Belknap, MT. I am from Dodson, MT. I am an enrolled Aaniiih member of the Fort Belknap Indian Community. My parents are Francine (KillEagle) and Lyle Stiffarm. My grandparents are Wes and Iris KillEagle, Florine Johnson, and Emerson Stiffarm. I live with my parents and two little brothers at our family home in Dodson, where I graduated high school as the salutatorian of my class in May of 2022.



Treyton Stiffarm
Aaniiih Nakoda College; Industrial Trades



2023 - 2024 Scholars



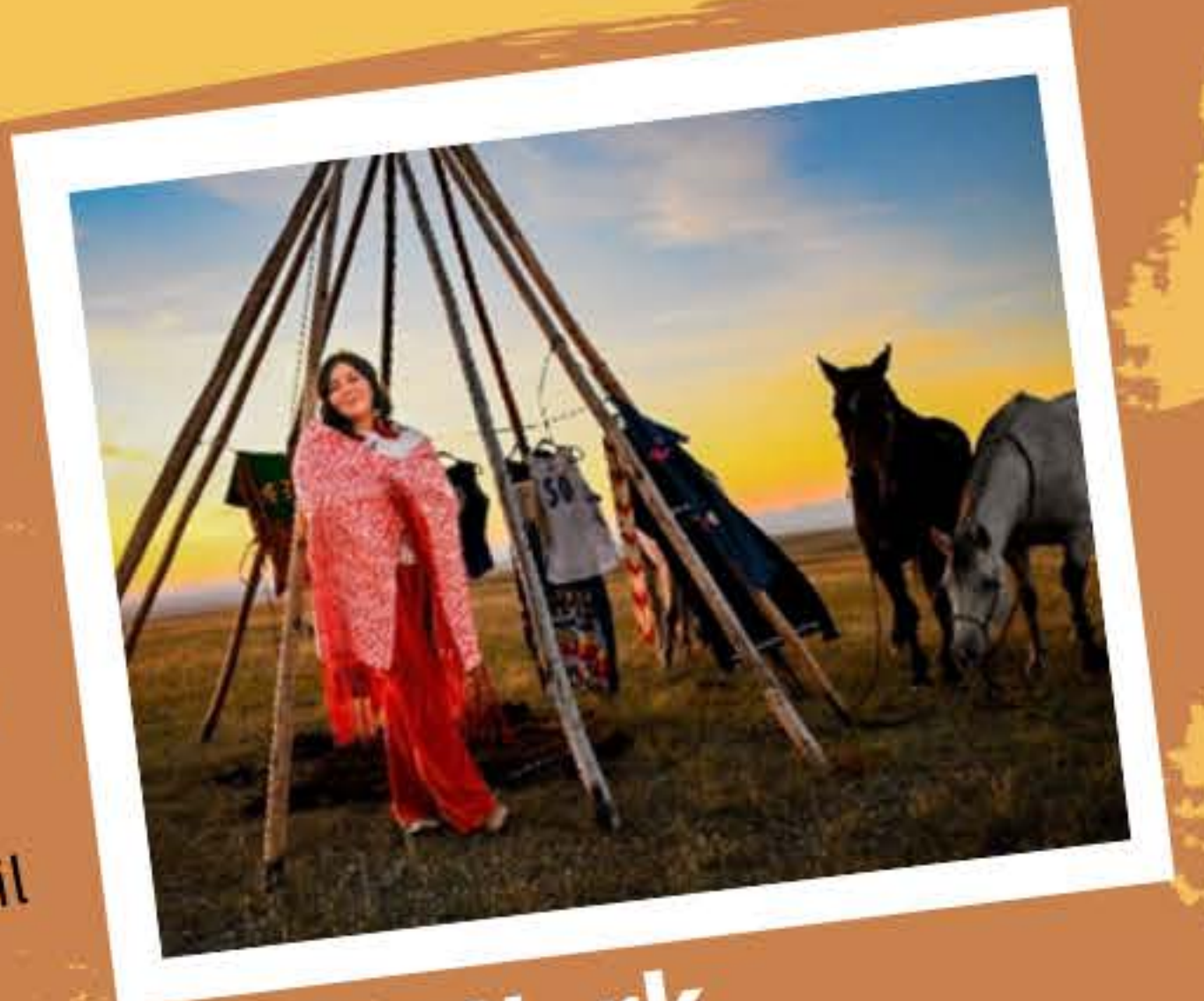
**Cheyne Talks
Different**

Aaniiih Nakoda
College; Computer
Information Systems

Hello, my name is Cheyne TalksDifferent. I am from the Fort Belknap Agency, Montana. I attend Aaniiih Nakoda College as a sophomore for the fall semester. I completed my first year last spring semester. My family consists of my mom, dad, and four other sisters. I am second in line toward getting a degree. One of my sisters right now has her bachelor's degree. That is what I am working toward while going to college. I have been in this community for most of my life. It is a small but friendly community, and many like to work together.



Hello, my name is Aubri Werk, Blue Sage Woman. I am the daughter of Toby and Liz Werk from the Fort Belknap Indian Reservation. I am enrolled as Aaniiih and Nakoda. I was raised on a small ranch outside of Hays, MT. When growing up, I went to school at Mission Grade School until 2nd grade then attended school at Malta Public Schools. I was involved in many different sports and extracurricular activities in high school. I am the American Indian Council First Year Representative at Montana State University. I am a well-rounded individual who is always ready to learn and try new things.



Aubri Werk
Montana State University;
Health and Nutrition- Dietetics



Cameron Werk
Aaniiih Nakoda College;
AAS Allied Health

Hello, my name is Gregory Cameron Werk. My Gros Ventre name is White Horse. I grew up in Hays, Montana, which holds a special place in my heart. My family has deep roots in this community. I am proud to be a part of it. My parents, the late Gregory Werk and Shannon Fox, instilled in me the values of respect, unity, and perseverance. They taught me the importance of staying connected to our heritage while embracing the opportunities of the modern world. On my maternal side, my grandparents, Leona Fox and Stephen "Six" Fox, have been influential figures in my life, passing down traditions and wisdom that have shaped who I am today. On my paternal side, I hold dear the memories of my late grandparents, Monica Lamebull-Werk and Robert Sonny Werk, who left a legacy of strength and resilience.





2023 - 2024 Scholars



Wahe', naaniisihi Charles Werk. My parents are Elwood "Mike" Werk and Kari LaMere. My father's parents are Lou Werk (Nez Perce) and Woody Werk. My mother's parents are Alma Young and Gary Lamere Sr. Alma's late husband, Lyman Young, raised her. I was born in Havre, MT, and raised mostly on the Ft. Belknap reservation. I say this mostly because I moved from school to school several times throughout my life. For the most part, I lived on the reservation. I graduated from Harlem High School in 2017. I earned my AS degree in 2019 from Aaniiih Nakoda College. I took a year off to work and decided to pursue higher education at the University of Montana in the fall of 2020.



Charles Werk
University of Montana;
Bachelor of Computer Science

Naha Niiiti, Naniisahit An-a, Hello, my friends. My name is An-a (Long hair). My grandpa and grandma, the late Willy and Barbra Bradley, named me. I am from and still reside in Old Hays, Montana. I am the oldest daughter of Andy Werk, Jr. and Leann (Bradley) Werk and an enrolled member of the Aaniihnen or White Clay (Gros Ventre) Tribe. I have lived all my life on the reservation, except for the time I spent away when I obtained my first bachelor's degree in Washington State. I believe in my community and want to raise a family on the reservation like I grew up hunting, fishing, and gathering all over the reservation.



Collette Werk
Montana State University- Northern;
Education/Industrial Trades



Wohéih náánííísíh? Bei'bcw'wó iinein?. Hello, my name is Red Thunderbird Man. My name on paper is Colton Werk. I am an enrolled member of the Aaniiih tribe on the Fort Belknap Indian Reservation. I have lived on the reservation with my family all my life. My parents are Andrew Werk, Jr. and Leann Bradley. I have three siblings. I am the only boy in my family. I grew up around Hays, went to school, and graduated from Hays Lodgepole High School. I am enrolled at Aaniiih Nakoda College and in the 4-year degree program. I am currently in my 3rd year of college and near to graduating.



Colton Werk
Aaniiih Nakoda
College; B.S. Ecology



2023 - 2024 Scholars



Francis Werk
University of
Montana Western;
Business
Administration

My name is Francis Werk. I mainly go by Franky. I am from Hays, Montana. My parents are Toby and Liz Werk. I grew up in Hays for most of my childhood, until I moved to Malta in the sixth grade to go to school and play sports. I have two sisters. My sister Tilli is a freshman at Malta High School. My sister is a freshman at Montana State University. I am attending my second college. I am a Junior at the University of Montana - Western, studying Business Administration with a minor in Farm and Ranch Operations and Guide and Outfitting. I want to come back to Hays and build upon the business that my parents built for themselves.



Miles Werk
University of Montana;
Master Business
Administration

Wahei naniiciitoh wosi' woosi. Hello, my name is Bear Cat. They call me Miles Werk. Niinaaniinoo o'ooniih noh nookinei (I am White Clay and Nakoda.) Niinaaniinoo ociineii3aa waheit itoob' anaajya. My family are Lamebull and Werk on my paternal side. I come from the Leo and Durand/Iron Star families on my maternal side. My father is the late Terrance Werk. My mother is Monty Werk. I have a son named Easton with my beautiful partner, Ticia Cliff. My siblings include two sisters, Sunni Plumage and Stella Messerly, and one brother, Mike Durand.



Riley Werk
Montana State University;
B.A. English-Teaching

Naahaah ph'i'ih niit'oin noh niit'iiihohoh. Tei'itaahaa I3aa naahaasihinoo. Naaniisihit Riley Werk. Niinaanoo oo'ooniihnen noh nookiineih. Niinihtoonooh in oo'ooniiitaan. Nii3enoo Josh Werk aasihik. Nii3enoo oo'ooniinen. Neinoo Darla Snell aasihik. Neinoo nookiineih. Niiwootonoohaanoo at Montana State University in Bozeman.

Hello, my name is Braveheart Woman. My English name is Riley Werk. I am an enrolled member of the A'aniih and Nakoda nations of the Fort Belknap reservation. My parents are Josh Werk, who is A'aniih. My mother is Darla Snell, who is a Nakoda. I now reside and attend college at Montana State University in Bozeman.



2023 - 2024 Scholars



Nahaa naniisiit Nuuskoke Itay, ninanaa Aani naw Niitaan a'anhaitaan. This translates to, hello, my name is Pretty Wink, an enrolled member of the White Clay tribe. I am from Hays, Montana. I grew up on the Fort Belknap Reservation on my family's cattle ranch. I participated in FFA in high school, which sparked my interest in agriculture and my family's background. I attended Montana State University in Bozeman, Montana, where I received my undergraduate degree in agriculture business with a concentration in agribusiness management. I worked for the Gallatin County Farm Service Agency, where I decided I wanted to continue to help people in the agriculture industry. I applied to the Integrated Resource Management program at Colorado State University.



Samantha Werk
Colorado State University;
Masters of Agricultural
Science

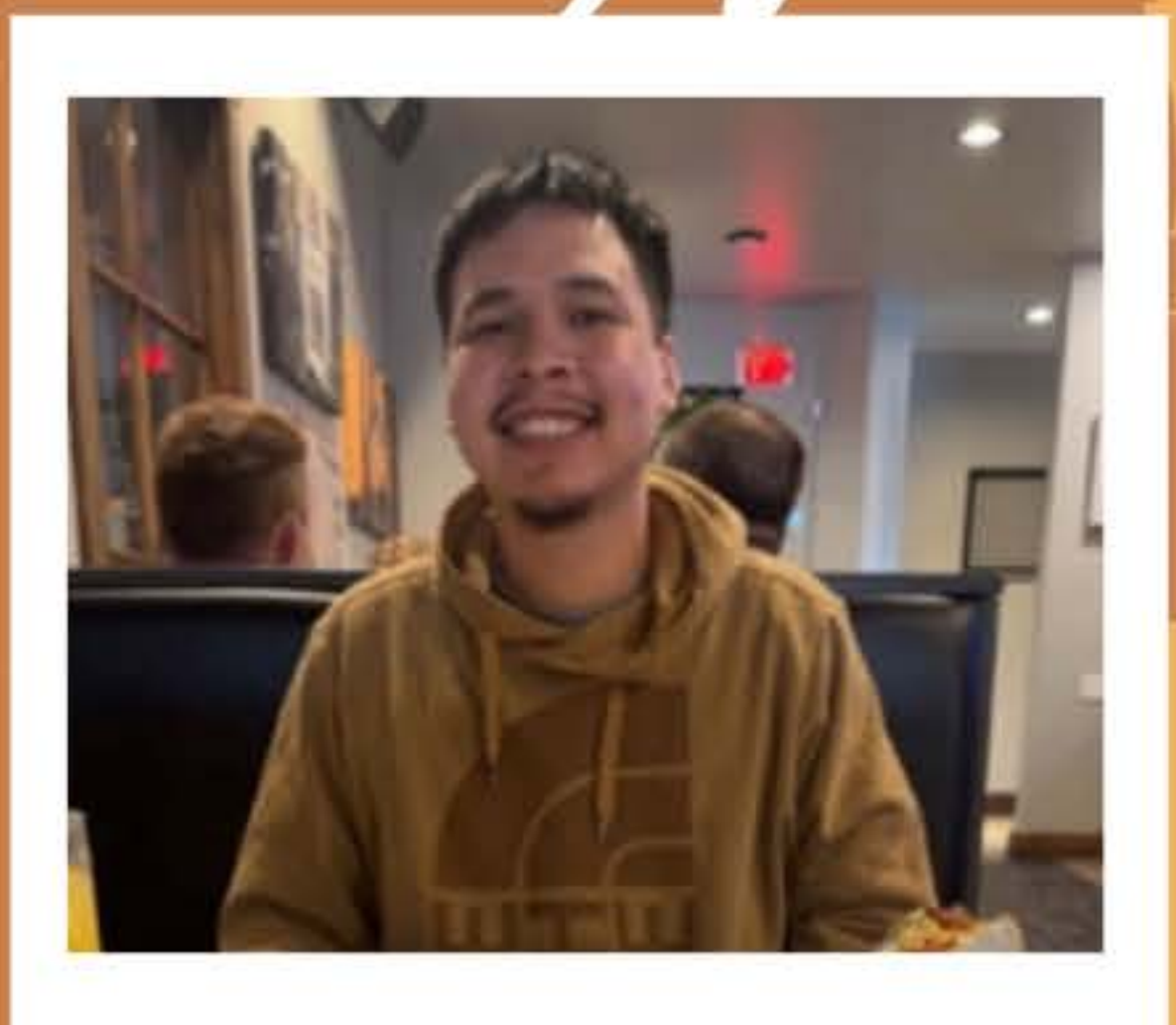


Morgan Wheeler
North Idaho
College; Pre-Med
Pharmacy

My name is Morgan Wheeler. I'm a student attending North Idaho College, pursuing a degree in pre-medicine. A family friend told me about the ANCF Scholarship. I thought I would take the opportunity to apply for this generous opportunity. My Father, Cory, is an enrolled member who has been married to my mother, Nancy, for 32 years. Billings, MT., has been my home for the past 20 years before moving to Coeur D'Alene, Idaho, to attend college in 2022. My brother, Ty, is a Senior at Billings Skyview High School. My family's history can be traced back to Genevieve E. Healy Adams. My dad's family name is Adams. In 2019, my family member Genevieve Healy was celebrated as part of the 1904 World Champion Fort Shaw Indian Girls Basketball Team. My father relocated from Harlem soon after my grandmother divorced. Experiencing the struggles of a single-parent household, my father has always stressed education and self-reliance. I have experienced a dedicated and loving immediate and extended family. I have unfortunately not experienced my native Indian family because my father's dad was never part of his life. This is why my father always ensured I understood his desire to be there for me. As a young woman, I appreciate the support of my parents and siblings.



Hello, my name is Terrell Young. My Aaniiih name is Wus Nakoo or Sleeping Bear. I come from Hays, MT, on the Fort Belknap Reservation. Now, I live in Bozeman with my wife, Hailee Young. I graduated in high school at Hays Lodgepole High School in 2016. I previously earned my associate degree in computer information systems at ANC in Fort Belknap. I am going to Montana State to study computer science. My family are the Morin and Shambo clans. I grew up in Hays with many family and friends and want to help and give back to the community I love.



Terrell Young
Montana State University;
Bachelor of Computer
Science



2023 - 2024 Scholars



Ha midaguyebi, Kylee Zander emagiyabi wasey wakpa enwati, waniyed aye saknoga ehawa'i. Hello, my relatives, my name is Kylee Zander. I live in Lodgepole. I am 18 years old. I am a first-year college student majoring in an associate in business technology. I grew up with both my parents Stan Zander and Valerie Chopwood, and my two siblings, my older sister Tia, and my twin brother Tyus, along with my grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins. My community, the Fort Belknap Reservation, small yet "tight-knit," is where everyone knows everyone. It's where our cultural traditions bind us and a place that many want to leave, including myself, but, in the end, it's a place we all call home.



Kylee Zander
Aaniih Nakoda College;
Business Technology

Schools scholarship winners attended the following schools in 2023 - 2024.

A.T. Still University
Aaniih Nakoda College
Cankdeska Cikana Community College
Capella University
Colorado State University
Colorado Technical University
Dickenson State
Flathead Valley Community College
Gonzaga University
Haskell Indian Nations University
John Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health
Lake Region Community College
Liberty University
Liberty University Online
Martinsburg College
MaryMount College
Massage Training Institute
Montana State University
Montana Technical University

North Idaho College
Opal Beauty Academy
Pikes Peak State College
Purdue University Global
Rocky Mountain College
Salish Kootenai College
Stone Child College
The Kelly School of Business
The Ohio State University
The University of Kansas
University of Arizona Online
University of Kentucky
University of Montana
University of Montana - Western
University of Nebraska at Omaha
University of North Dakota
University of Washington
Western Governor's University



ANCF

AANIHH NAKODA
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION