



CENTER FOR NATIVE AMERICAN YOUTH CHAMPIONS FOR CHANGE

Recognizing and Encouraging Native American Youth Creating Positive Change

The Center for Native American Youth (CNAY) at the Aspen Institute, created by former US Senator Byron Dorgan with \$1 million from his excess campaign funds, is dedicated to improving the lives of Native American youth. CNAY is aimed at bringing greater national attention to the issues facing Native youth through communication, policy development and advocacy. To help shine a spotlight on inspirational stories and promote hope in Indian Country, CNAY launched **Champions for Change** in 2012.

CHAMPIONS FOR CHANGE PROGRAM

The Champions for Change (CFC) program recognizes and encourages inspirational Native American youth (ages 14 to 24) working in their tribal or urban Indian communities to promote hope and make a positive impact. Champions include individuals who initiate programs, hold events, or engage in other efforts to improve the lives of their peers, communities, and Indian Country as a whole.

CNAY announced the CFC program in November 2012 and selected its inaugural class of five Champions. Each year, CNAY will select and recognize five Champions through a series of events and media attention in Washington, DC. The CFC program is an annual invitation for Native American youth to submit a story in written or video form about how they are making a positive impact. *CFC program submission categories include:*

- Health (including youth suicide prevention; bereavement, grief, and healing practices/promotion; and substance and alcohol abuse prevention)
- Sports, Nutrition or Wellness
- Education, Mentorship or Afterschool Programs;
- Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention
- Building Healthy Relationships (teen dating, elders and family)
- Cultural Preservation and Native Languages;
- Anti-Bullying and Personal Empowerment
- Self-Expression through Arts and Crafts
- Emerging Leadership in Government Service
- Economic and Community Development



CHAMPIONS FOR CHANGE RECOGNITION

Champions for Change finalists are recognized by the Center for Native American Youth in the following ways:

- Certificate of recognition and medal;
- Travel with a chaperone to Washington, DC for a series of national celebratory recognition events;
- Leadership development opportunities and trainings;
- Serve a two-year term on **CNAY's Youth Advisory Board**; and
- Participate in CNAY outreach trips in Indian Country and potentially host a **visit from a member of CNAY's board of advisors** to their home community to share more about their leadership initiative for change.

Visit the CNAY's website at www.cnay.org or contact us at cnayinfo@aspeninstitute.org or (202) 736-2905 to learn more about the CFC program.



The Center for Native American Youth's Champions for Change program, inspired by a 2011 White House initiative, recognizes and encourages inspirational Native youth working in their tribal or urban Indian communities to promote hope and make a positive impact. Visit www.cnay.org to learn more about the Champions for Change program.

CHAMPIONS FOR CHANGE: 2015 CLASS



Jazmyn Espinoza, Stockbridge Munsee Band of Mohican
Age: 18; Hometown: Bowler, Wisconsin

Jazmyn is a high school senior empowering her peers through creation of a mentoring initiative called, "The Warrior Circle Project." She creates a safe space at the community center for other youth to discuss challenges, suicide prevention, bullying, health and wellness, and to work together to offer advice and guidance to foster hope.



Hamilton Seymour, Nooksack Indian Tribe
Age: 15; Hometown: Bellingham, Washington

Hamilton is a high school sophomore advancing culture and promoting a healthy lifestyle through traditional sports. After losing his father to suicide, he became an avid Native War Canoe racer and has created a youth canoe racing team. Hamilton believes canoe racing has the power to promote healthy lifestyles, prevent suicide, healing, and prevent substance abuse.



Rory Taylor, Pawnee Nation of Oklahoma
Age: 18; Hometown: Minneapolis, Minnesota

Rory is a college freshman and the executive director of the Claremont College IndigeNATION Scholars program through Pomona College. He coordinates and works with his college peers to facilitate teaching sessions at local high schools that focus on college readiness, cultural education, and helping Native students connect with their tribal nation and family. who want to stop smoking.



Tatiana Ticknor, Yup'ik, Tlingit, Dena'ina
Age: 16; Hometown: Anchorage, Alaska

Tatiana Ticknor is a high school sophomore and serves as a "Community Doer" for First Alaskans Institute. In this position, Tatiana engages and motivates her peers to get involved in community action, promotes culture and language preservation, and identifies opportunities to incorporate elder participation in community activities.



Carin Young, Native Hawaiian
Age: 22; Hometown: Ewa Beach, Hawaii

Carin Young is a college senior and is dedicated to raising awareness of and providing support for survivors of sexual abuse. She created an annual event called, "Breaking The Silence" to promote healing, exchange resources and build support networks among Native Hawaiian families and communities.

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