

45TH NINAETC AWARD RECIPIENTS



Kierra F. Yager
ONANDAGA



OUTSTANDING PARTICIPANT

Nominated by Native American Community Services of Erie & Niagara Counties

Second year honors student with a 3.8 GPA on an education plan to earn a doctorate degree to become a pediatric clinical psychologist.



Zack Dixon
CHICKASAW



OUTSTANDING PARTICIPANT

Nominated by the Chickasaw Nation

A 9th grade student with ADHD thankful for a life changing moment for his entire outlook on life and the future he wants after a summer work experience with the Chickasaw Nation Hotels with the housekeeping department.



Tasha Remmers
ROSEBUD SIOUX



OUTSTANDING PARTICIPANT

Nominated by the Rosebud Sioux Tribe

A whole world thrown upside down after a recent passing of her husband of 21 years, Tasha is adjusting to raising a 9-year old autistic son while continuing a four year degree program in Human Services and working with the Sicangu Nation Employment and Training Program.

45TH NINAETC AWARD RECIPIENTS



Kayleen Gorden

HAIDA



HOWARD YACKUS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Nominated by the Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Tribes of Alaska

A 2nd nursing student to pursue a degree to be a registered nurse to work as a hospice nurse. Kayla has a profound respect for all human life and a strong sense of duty to give back to the elders during their end-of-life transition.



Alexis White Hat

ROSEBUD SIOUX



ALICE BIGPOND ROACH MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Nominated by Rosebud Sioux Tribe

A youth role model serving her community since 2015 on her homeland with the Rosebud Sioux Tribe. She is the youth internship coordinator with Sicangu Co and the 7Gen Vision which imagines the type of world to see their descendants living in 175 years from now. She is a current member of Native Governance Center Native Nation Rebuilders two-year, cohort-based leadership training experience for Indigenous changemakers.



Project Now

COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY



OUTSTANDING EMPLOYER

Nominated by California Indian Manpower Consortium, Inc.

Project NOW helps serve tens of thousands of individuals and families in Rock Island, Henry, and Mercer Counties in Illinois. From an original staff of three, today there are 113 employees on the payroll with an annual budget of approximately \$21 million and we are celebrating our 55th year of moving people up and out of poverty.



Driftwood Lodge



OUTSTANDING EMPLOYER

Nominated by the the Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Tribes of Alaska

Tlingit & Haida's Driftwood Lodge exemplifies what it means to be an employer that uplifts, empowers, and invests in its people. The Driftwood Lodge prioritizes providing employment and training opportunities to Tribal Citizens, particularly those facing barriers to meaningful employment. The Lodge supports Tlingit & Haida's mission by offering second chances to at-risk individuals—helping them build confidence, develop new skills, and gain stable employment within a culturally grounded environment.