EMPOWERING INDIGENOUS YOUTH LEADERSHIP IN THE CLIMATE MOVEMENT

APRIL 1, 2021
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DON SAMPSON
- SESSION MODERATOR

Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indians

Climate Change Project Director at ATNI.
OVERVIEW OF TODAY

• Invocation
• Keynote messages
  • Daniel Wildcat – Elder, Yuchi member of Muscogee Nation of Oklahoma, Haskell Indian Nations University
  • Peter Iotenerah’tate:nion Thais – Youth spokesperson, Akwesasne Mohawk Native, Wolf Clan
• Panel 1 – Empowering Indigenous Youth for Climate Action – Why and How? (60 min)
  • Coral Avery, Youth Moderator, Shawnee Tribe
• Youth in Climate Action – Upcoming events, opportunities, videos, and song
  • Sam Schimmel, Siberian Yupik & Kenaitze Indian
• Panel 2 - Tribal Youth Internships and Leadership Opportunities (55 minutes)
  • Alyssa Samoy, Chippewa Cree Tribe Member, Youth Moderator
• Closing Message and Prayer –
  • Nikki Cooley, Dine’, Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals Tribes’ and Climate Change Program; and
  • Amy Juan, Tohono O’odham Nation
INVOCATION

RACHEL BILLIOT

UNITED HOUMA NATION
NATIONAL TRIBAL LEADERSHIP CLIMATE CHANGE SUMMIT

Virtual Session I - TRIBAL CLIMATE CHANGE POLICY
13 Oct 2020

Virtual Session II - Promoting Tribal Climate Resiliency
Jan 12, 2021

Virtual Session III - Empowering Youth
April 1, 2021

Virtual Session IV - Traditional Knowledges
May/June 2021

Possible In-Person - Final Session of National Tribal Leadership Climate Change Summit
Winter 2021

https://atnitribes.org/climatechange/ts/
PURPOSE OF THIS SESSION

• Discuss the important role Indigenous youth can and should play in broader efforts of the climate movement
• Explore pathways for Indigenous youth to become climate/culture change agents
• Learn for successful approaches at local, community, tribal, and international scales
• Learn from youth about experiences and opportunities
• Inspire – Empower – Inform
CORE TEAM SUPPORTING THIS EVENT
WHO IS JOINING THE SESSION TODAY?

- Over 270 registered
- Elders and youth, policy makers, program managers, communicators, volunteers, students, and scientists
- 60% Tribal Organizations
  - US focus and Canada
  - PNW, SW, Midwest, NE, East coast, SE US, and AK
- 12% Federal Agencies
- 12% Academic/universities
- 11% Conservation organizations and funders
- Also – State agencies, local governments, private businesses
BIG IDEAS FOR ENGAGING YOUTH
KEYNOTE REMARKS

Daniel Wildcat – Elder, Yuchi member of Muscogee Nation of Oklahoma, Haskell Indian Nations University

Peter Iotenerah’te:nion Thais – Youth spokesperson, Akwesasne Mohawk Native, Wolf Clan
EMPOWERING INDIGENOUS YOUTH FOR CLIMATE ACTION – WHY AND HOW?

Coral Avery, Youth Moderator, Shawnee Tribe
- Roberto Borrero, Taíno Tribal Nation – Urban Native Programs
- Mike Durglo, Confederated Salish Kootenai Tribes – Tribally-led Programs
- Rebecca Descombes, Inupiat, Native American Youth and Family Center – Community-based Programs
- Chris Honahnie, Hopi and Dine’ Nations, International Indian Treaty Council – International Programs
REBECCA DESCOMBES
INUPIAT

Health & Environment Policy Coordinator
NAYA Family Center
NAYA Many Nations Academy (MNA)

- Serves 9th – 12th grade aged 14 to 20
- Operating in partnership with local school districts, Students referred to MNA have been unsuccessful in traditional public schools and 93% of student body are students of color.

NAYAs diverse programming and wraparound services:
- Cultural Nights (beading, moccasin making, cooking)
- Two-Spirit Alliance
- Athletics
- Gang Outreach & Intervention
- Oregon LEAD Program
YOUTH & EDUCATION SERVICES

Educational Youth Advocates:
- Encourage, develop, and enhance culturally relevant skills, cultural pride, and identity
- Attend school meetings with parents.

Gang Outreach & Intervention
- Fosters strength in youth and helps them to avoid possible gang affiliations, police, or juvenile crime involvement

Youth Development Advocates:
- Advocated trained in trauma-informed care and understand unique circumstances.
- Provide stable supports around housing and other basic human needs like food, hygiene, childcare, and connection to culture.
- On-site or Off-site services.

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**Virtual College Night**
Job and College Application Support
Financial Aid (FAFSA Filing)
Scholarship Application Assistance
Homework Help
Online Drop In for Youth (Ages 13 - 24)
Tuesdays and Thursdays
3pm - 6pm

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**Portland Metro Native Student Union**
Every other Monday at 6:00pm, starting 9/9/2000 on zoom:
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85456944357
password:853
Activities, Workshops, & Speakers
Hosted by NAYA Youth Education Services Department

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**Cultural Arts**
Contact: Michaila Taylor
michailat@nayapdx.org

Cultural Arts (2-8th)
MON/WED/FRI 4-5pm
(FRI is a Beading Circle for all ages)
Register here

Culture Night (all ages)
WED 7-8pm
(Every last Wed is Indigenous Games)
Register here

*No programs the last week of each month

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**Cooking Together at Home**
Simple Bison Hash
Thursday, March 18th
3:30pm on zoom

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**Meet New People, See Old Friends**

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LEADERSHIP
DEVELOPMENT &
YOUTH EMPOWERMENT

“to enhance the diverse strengths of our Youth and families in partnership with the community through cultural identity and education.”
ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

Coral Avery, Youth Moderator, Shawnee Tribe

Roberto Borrero, Taínó Tribal Nation – Urban Native Programs

Mike Durglo, Confederated Salish Kootenai Tribes – Tribally-led Programs

Rebecca Descombes, Inupiat, Native American Youth and Family Center – Community-based Programs

Chris Honahnie, Hopi and Dine’ Nations, International Indian Treaty Council – International Programs
YOUTH IN CLIMATE ACTION

Sam Schimmel, Siberian Yupik & Kenaitze Indian

- **Youth-Only event**, April 6th

- **Video: Changing Delta** (5 min)
  [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R08mbHZarys](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R08mbHZarys)

- *(Stretch break)* Slide show of youth programs - compiled by Alexis Wagner, Metlakatla Indian Community; accompanied by traditional flute music from Jerry Pardilla, Penobscot Nation (10-15 min)

- **Climate Videos Shorts** – (2 min), with raffle prizes, submitted by registrants, edited by Coral Avery
PANEL II - TRIBAL YOUTH INTERNSHIPS AND LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Alyssa Samoy, Chippewa Cree Tribe Member, Youth Moderator

- Danae Sakuma, Umatilla Tribe
- Darcey Evans, Quartz Valley Indian Reservation
- Haley Case-Scott, Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians
- Amanda Rouillard, Santee Sioux Nation
- Tiyana Casey, Nez Perce Tribe
Youth Opportunity Panelist:

Danae Sakuma, *Confederated Tribes of Umatilla (Walla Walla Tribe)*
Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission & Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians’ Research Internship Program

- Architectural Degree, University of Oregon and Clark Honors College
  - Thesis on "Connecting People with Regional Ecosystems by Designing for Seasonal Change"

- Climate change research internship at the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission, through ATNI.
  - Akana, a Native-owned engineering firm in Portland, OR
  - Project to help the Army Corps of Engineers fulfill an outstanding treaty promise with the four Columbia River tribes to construct an Inter-Tribal fishing village
  - Facilitated workshops with Tribal members to create a vision for the village

- Hennebery Eddy Architects
  - Focus on net-positive design
  - Projects: advanced manufacturing training center for PCC, the Concourse E Extension at the PDX airport, and an environmental education center for the Mount St Helens Institute
Youth Opportunity Panelist:

Darcey Evans, *Quartz Valley Indian Reservation*
Klamath Basin Tribal Youth Program

- PhD Candidate in Anthropology at UC Santa Cruz
- Two summers participating in the Klamath Basin Tribal Youth Program, which emphasized the importance of conducting research that was community-based and culturally-valued
  - Internship was specific to her heritage and helped her to become better acquainted with the peoples and landscape of her ancestry.
  - Participation in this program influenced her decision to go to graduate school and led to additional opportunities, such as serving as a Climate Change Management intern with the North Pacific Landscape Conservation Cooperative and ATNI
- Education Coordinator for the Indigenous-led and women-led organization, Save California Salmon
- Dissertation on the issues that surround salmon farming in WA and British Columbia
Youth Opportunity Panelist:

Haley Case-Scott, *Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians*
Research Assistant Internship with the Pacific Northwest Tribal Climate Change Project, the ATNI Climate Change Program, and the US Forest Service

- B.A. degree in Political Science and a minor in Native American Studies from the University of Oregon

- Currently works for the Beyond Toxics and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) as their Climate Justice Grassroots Organizer
Youth Opportunity Panelist:

Amanda Rouillard, *Santee Sioux Nation*
Haskell Environmental Research Studies (HERS) Internship

- Senior in the Environmental Science program at Haskell Indian Nations University
- Completed research focused on her tribe's unsafe drinking water
  - Santee Sioux Tribe is in the midst of making plans for a new water treatment plant and distribution system
  - She has been able to participate in these planning meetings
- Plans to attend graduate school at Northern Arizona University to study anthropogenic nutrient loading in freshwater systems
Youth Opportunity Panelist:

Tiyana Casey, *Nez Perce Tribe*
Camas to Condors Project,
Northwest Youth Corps Tribal Stewardship Program

- Undergrad in Env. Geology, General Science, and Indigenous Nations Studies at Portland State University

- National Science Foundation-funded research in Glacial Sedimentology and Air Quality research

- Wisdom of the Elders and ATNI-funded work for Tribal Climate Justice

- Indigenous Relations Liaison for the Camas to Condors Project of the Blues to Bitterroots Coalition and Nez Perce Tribe
  - Tribal Stewardship Coordinator for Northwest Youth Corps: Cultural transmission and education of indigenous youth, with the intention of offering healing pathways to professional spaces
Round Table Discussion
WORDS OF INSPIRATION

**Nikki Cooley**, Dine’, Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals Tribes’ and Climate Change Program

**Amy Juan**, Tohono O'odham Nation