

# First Kids 1<sup>st</sup> Newsletter

*June 2015*

*Edition 2*

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We're excited to share the positive work of tribal nations and communities, Native families and organizations, and the Administration that empowers our youth to thrive. In partnership with the My Brother's Keeper, Generation Indigenous ("Gen I"), and First Kids 1<sup>st</sup> Initiatives, please join our First Kids 1<sup>st</sup> community and share your stories and best practices that are creating a positive impact for Native youth.

To highlight your stories in future newsletters, send your information to [firstkids@ncai.org](mailto:firstkids@ncai.org).

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# YOUTH HIGHLIGHTS

## 2015-2016 Miss Indian World Crowned – Cheyenne Brady



The 2015-2016 Miss Indian World, [Cheyenne Brady](#), was crowned on April 25 during the 2015 Gathering of Nations Powwow in Albuquerque, NM. Cheyenne is Sac and Fox/Cheyenne/Tonkawa from New Town, ND.

Brady plans to work with children during her year-long term as Miss Indian World. She will be speaking at the 2015 UNITY National Conference in July in Washington, D.C., as well as traveling extensively throughout the U.S., Canada, and internationally. Miss Indian World is a role model to young and old. She helps educate and demonstrate the beauty and diversity of Native American cultures, as well as represent the Gathering of Nations throughout her travels.

## NCAI Youth Commissioner Hosts Apache War Dance Special

Jared Massey, NCAI Youth Commission Co-President, hosted the “**Jared Massey Apache War Dance Special**” during the 2015 Fort Apache Heritage Celebration & Festivities on **Saturday, May 9** at the **Fort Apache Museum in Fort Apache, AZ**. The Apache War Dance was done in times of victory and prosperity; through the event, Jared hopes Apache youth will take time to learn this powerful dance and participate. In addition to the event, participants also submitted a half-page essay on “What it means to be an Apache Warrior,” with awards given to the top three places in two categories. The event is Jared’s **Gen-I Youth Challenge**.

JARED MASSEY APACHE  
WAR DANCE SPECIAL

IN COLLABORATION WITH  
THE FORT APACHE EVENT

16TH ANNUAL  
GREAT FORT APACHE  
HERITAGE REUNION

GENERATION I INDIGENOUS

PARTICIPANTS MUST  
REGISTER  
AWARDS TO THE TOP  
THREE PLACES IN  
WOMEN AND MEN ALL  
AGE CATEGORIES

PLUS ADDITIONAL PRIZES FOR  
PARTICIPANTS INCLUDING  
A BEADED APACHE POUCH,  
PENDLETON, CAMPDRESSES, ASU  
GEAR, AND BEADED EARRINGS BY  
KENDRA REDHOUSE

BONUS POINTS  
BY SUBMITTING A SHORT  
STATEMENT ON WHAT IT MEANS  
TO BE AN APACHE WARRIOR

10AM SATURDAY, MAY 9



## Southern Ute Youth Leadership Conference Honors Late Chairman Newton

In May, the [Sunshine Cloud Smith Youth Advisory Council](#) hosted the [Southern Ute's Youth Leadership Conference](#) in honor of late Chairman Jimmy R. Newton Jr. The conference was designed to help the youth build team-building and leadership skills, while at the same time learning about Ute culture. One of the lead organizers of the event, Mary Guenther, is also a member of the NCAI Youth Commission.

## Crow Nation Hosts Youth Cultural & Language Camps, “Walk Against Meth”

As part of the Crow Nation’s ongoing engagement with Native youth through the Gen-I Tribal Leaders Challenge, the tribe hosted a Language Immersion Camp that included cultural games such as arrow throwing and hand games, Crow language teachings, Crow storytelling, Crow songs, Crow sign language, and various other cultural events. During this camp, the Battle of Grapevine was re-enacted by the youth attending the camp.



The tribe also held the Apsaalooke Language Summit with the theme: “I understand Crow but I am afraid to speak it” which focused on 27 Crow words. In addition, teachings on how to better understand the Crow Clan system were provided. The summit was held at the Little Big Horn College Health and Wellness Center in Crow Agency, MT.



The tribe also hosted a “Walk Against Meth” event that involved all local schools in the community, including Lodge Grass Schools, Wyola Public School, Plenty Coups High School, and Crow Agency Public School. The event took place over three days and many tribal programs were involved by hosting speakers, providing T-shirts and water. Meth use has become a serious issue on the Crow Reservation and the main focus of the walk was to teach Crow youth the harmful effects of meth use.

These are just a few of the many events the Crow Nation hosts throughout the year focused on cultural teachings and healthy living for Crow youth. Several more events and learning opportunities are planned.

## Aroostook Band of Micmacs Youth Department – Local Law Enforcement Visit Youth to Discuss Drug Abuse, Crime Prevention

Earlier this year, the Aroostook Band of Micmacs hosted local law enforcement to talk with youth about drug abuse and how it relates to crime happening in the county. The Youth Department is planning its first annual Substance Abuse Prevention Science Fair. The fair will have presentations from tribal youth, Boys & Girls Club members, and other tribes in the area. The Aroostook Band of Micmacs’ young women’s drum group will be doing a prayer song for the opening.



## Central Council Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska Launches “Fatherhood is Sacred” Program

*Central Council Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska's*  
**FATHERHOOD IS SACRED PROGRAM**

*Fatherhood is Sacred* is a 12-week program that focuses on the sacredness of being a father, principles all fathers must live by, and the importance of Alaska Native/Native American heritage and how it applies to each father in the past, present and future.

**Who:** All Fathers (married, widowed, single, divorced)  
**When:** Every Thursday from 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM  
 May 14, 2015 - August 6, 2015  
**Where:** 320 W. Willoughby Avenue (2nd Floor)  
**Why:** Positive Aspects on Being a Father

**Some activities are planned for the weekend.**  
 \*\*\* Child Care is not provided \*\*\*

If you would like more information, please feel free to contact  
 Ian Petershoare at 907.463.7737 or ipetershoare@ccthita.org.

Field Trips

Dinner Provided

The Central Council recently announced the launch of its “Fatherhood is Sacred” program, which will focus on the sacredness of being a father, principles all fathers must live by, and the importance of Alaska Native/Native American heritage and how it applies to each father in the past, present and future. During the 12-week program fathers will explore the importance of character, integrity, order versus chaos, the power of choice, the impact of vision in our relationships, the importance of truth, knowledge/experience/courage, and service.

## Gila River Indian Community Participates in Gen-I Tribal Leader Challenge

The Gila River Indian Community took the Gen-I Tribal Leader Challenge and has made great progress over the last few months in engaging its youth. In May, 10 tribal leaders met with 50 youth, participating in icebreakers, physical activities, discussions, and presentations. The two-hour event also allowed youth and tribal leaders to brainstorm together on ideas of what programs they would like to see implemented. The youth council plans to utilize social media and individual feedback to select which idea(s) are feasible and will have the largest impact on the community. The program or event will be submitted to the Executive Office for implementation.



## Oneida Nation of Wisconsin Kicks off Gen-I with Earth Day Events



In May, the Oneida Nation of Wisconsin kicked off their Gen-I Challenge with a community clean-up event as part of Earth Day. Councilwoman Fawn Billie is leading the efforts, having already formed a Youth Clean Up Group to clean up areas around the reservation. Included in the collaboration are the Oneida Community Library, Conservation Department, Environmental Health and Safety Department, Youth Community lacrosse teams, and other youth in the community. Councilwoman Billie aims to promote leadership, volunteerism, and stewardship.

## Denver UNITY Youth Council Speaks Before Colorado House Committee on Education

Mile High chapter of United National Indian Tribal Youth (UNITY) has been very active, participating in the Denver March Powwow as well as testifying before the Colorado House Committee on Education earlier this year on House Bill 1165, titled *School's Use of American Indian Mascots*. Many Mile High UNITY members were present and told their stories, many sharing that their self-esteem and confidence was affected when schools use Native American mascots. Mile High UNITY member Chenoa Francis stated, "We are not a Halloween costume, we are sacred people."



Colorado Rep. Joseph Salazar introduced the bill; the Denver urban Indian community and Mile High UNITY supported the House Bill and shared stories of their sacred names and cultures. The House passed the bill by a narrow margin, 6-5. Look for more support and conversations with Mile High UNITY as this bill travels to the next phase.

## Nearly 100 Native Youth Receive Service Training at Today's Native Leaders Academy in Rapid City



Nearly 100 Native American youth and their advisors from tribes across the nation discussed how they can give back to their communities at a leadership training last month in Rapid City, SD. United National Indian Tribal Youth (UNITY), in partnership with the Department of Justice Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) hosted the "Today's Native Leaders" (TNL) youth leadership event at the Hilton Garden Inn in Rapid City.

The free TNL training, which focused on culturally relevant leadership development, included a curriculum promoting team-building activities, action planning and event promotion, developing community service projects, and "How to create a UNITY youth council". A group of Native youth peer leaders assisted in the training.

To learn more about the event and upcoming UNITY TNL trainings, visit [here](#).

## National Indian Child Welfare Association (NICWA) Update

- At NICWA's 33rd Annual Protecting Our Children conference, Native youth and their experiences were a central focus. On the second day of the conference, the participants heard from a panel of five Native youth about their experiences in foster care. The panel was facilitated by a Native youth leader and the presentation provided critical information for tribal leaders, social workers, and legal professionals on how they can better support Native youth and successfully engage them. In addition, a Native youth leadership workshop was provided at the Protecting Our Children conference on leadership development and community organizing. This was the first-ever workshop specifically for Native youth at the Protecting Our Children conference and sets the stage for additional youth-focused sessions in the future.
- The Bureau of Indian Affairs is proposing new regulations for the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA). As part of its public comment process, it is holding public hearings in five cities across the United States. At the first hearing in Portland, OR, NICWA supported the participation of two Native youth, both of whom had been in foster care. Their testimony was the only testimony from Native youth and provided an insight into the impact that non-compliance of ICWA has had in their young lives. Both testified how important it has been to them to have knowledge of and opportunities to participate in their culture – something that was not always present when they were placed in non-Indian homes. They also acknowledged that while they did not have all of the protections of ICWA, they hoped that the proposed regulations would change that for other Native youth.
- NICWA continues to participate in the Gen-I initiative with NICWA's Youth Engagement Specialist, Linda Gookee-Rindal, serving on the Gen-I Youth Advisory Committee. The committee is organizing the White House Tribal Youth Gathering that will take place on July 9, 2015. Linda brings several years of experience in working with Native youth (and is a Native youth herself!), with skills in youth leadership development, youth engagement, and community organizing. Linda also led NICWA's first-ever youth assessment in 2015 to measure NICWA's support for and approaches to youth engagement.
- Before ICWA was passed, there were thousands of Native children who were removed and placed in out-of-home placements far from their communities, with little information on where they were placed or their status. Today we have a little more information, thanks to ICWA, but there is still much less information on this population than other children in out-of-home care. NICWA has been working diligently to change this situation by requiring states to include ICWA-specific information on Native children who are placed in out-of-home placements through state or private agencies in the federal government's largest data system – the Automated Foster Care and Adoption Reporting System). Recently, NICWA's efforts have come to fruition with the Department of Health and Human Services publishing its intent to ask states to provide information on Native children, their tribal affiliation, and status in the future. The Supplemental Notice of Public Rulemaking that will identify the data elements being proposed is expected to be released soon. NICWA will be working with tribes and other advocates for Native children to ensure that comments supporting the collection and reporting of this data becomes a reality.

## National Indian Health Board (NIHB) Update

On April 23, 2015, the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies held a Budget Hearing on Programs Serving Native Americans. This subcommittee is responsible for allocating annual funding for agencies of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) (with the exception of IHS, the Indian Health Service ) and the Departments of Education, Labor, and related agencies. The hearing represented a key opportunity for tribal advocates to describe challenges that Indian Country faces when it comes to accessing federal programs at HHS and other federal agencies. NIHB Executive Director Stacy Bohlen was among the witnesses testifying before the Committee.

NIHB testified on behalf of several priorities for Native American youth. These include additional funding for mental health programming in Indian Country, adverse childhood experiences, and the need to coordinate programs for youth more efficiently through schools, health clinics, and other social service entities.

To read NIHB's testimony visit [here](#).

You can view a webcast of the hearing [here](#).

### NIHB/CMS – A Toolkit: Five Fast Facts about the ACA for Native Youth

The National Indian Health Board (NIHB) and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services' (CMS) Division of Tribal Affairs joined forces to create Affordable Care Act (ACA) educational materials specifically for the Native youth population. The materials, highlighting the Fast Five Facts that Native youth need to know about the ACA, include three public service announcements, a poster, and a brochure. All materials are available for immediate download at [NIHB's Tribal Health Reform Resource Center website](#). Tribes, tribal organizations, Indian Health Service, Tribal Health Services, Urban Indian Health Services, and other ACA stakeholders are encouraged to use the materials in their own respective communities to keep youth thinking about their health and being the voice for their family about the importance of having health insurance coverage.

The Five Fast Facts that Native youth need to know about the Affordable Care Act are:

1. They can be added to or kept on their parent or guardian's health insurance until they turn 26 years old.
2. They will be covered for prevention screenings for STDs, HIV, pregnancy, depression, and diabetes.
3. Their additional coverage will allow them to receive services outside of the Indian Health Service.
4. Medicaid is an additional option for health coverage.
5. Their parents can file an exemption from the tax penalty for them.

For more information, contact April Hale, NIHB Tribal Health Reform Outreach and Education Communications Coordinator, at 202-507-4077 or [ahale@nihb.org](mailto:ahale@nihb.org).

## American Indian College Fund 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary LA & Chicago Galas

In April, the [American Indian College Fund](#) (the College Fund) celebrated its [25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Los Angeles Gala](#) where more than 210 attendees gathered to honor 10 of the organization's founders. The founders included: Lowell Amiotte, Dave Archambault, Sr., Lionel Bordeaux, Gail Bruce, David Gipp, Anne Sward Hansen, Phyllis A. Howard, David Kennedy, Joseph "Joe" McDonald, and Gerald "Carty" Monette. Attendees also enjoyed a silent auction and entertainment by the Oscar-winning actor Jeff Bridges and his band, The Abiders. The gala was the second of three formal galas the College Fund is hosting to continue the celebration of its 25-year anniversary and raise funds to benefit Native American education.

In May, the College Fund hosted its third and final 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala in Chicago, IL at the Drake Hotel in downtown Chicago. The event included a welcome reception, a silent auction, and live entertainment featuring Jim Belushi & The Sacred Hearts.

The American Indian College Fund provides Native American student scholarships and programmatic support for the nation's 34 accredited tribal colleges and universities located on or near Indian reservations to provide access to an affordable, quality higher education.



## ADMINISTRATION INITIATIVES

### Gen-I Native Youth Challenge

Youth ages 14-24, Indian tribes, non-profits, and educational institutions are invited to join the National Native Youth Network by accepting the [Gen-I Challenge](#).

Organizations, colleges, universities, as well as tribal colleges and universities can take the Gen-I Challenge too by committing to help their youth and students complete the Gen-I Challenge! Just follow [this link](#) to get signed up!

**The following organizations have already committed to take the Gen-I Challenge:**

- [American Indian College Fund](#)
- [American Indian Higher Education Consortium](#)
- [Boys and Girls Club of America](#)
- [Center for Native American Youth at the Aspen Institute](#)
- [National American Indian Education Association](#)
- [National Congress of American Indians](#)
- [National Indian Child Welfare Association](#)
- [National Indian Health Board](#)
- [United National Indian Tribal Youth](#)

## Gen-I Tribal Leaders Challenge

During NCAI's 2015 Executive Council Winter Session, the administration announced the latest installment of the Gen-I Initiative with the [Gen-I Tribal Leaders Challenge](#). The White House is inviting tribal leaders to take concrete steps to engage with Native youth in their communities, including: working with or creating a youth council; hosting a joint meeting between youth and tribal leaders; and partnering with youth to plan a program to support positive change in their community.

### **The following tribes have already accepted the Gen-I Tribal Leaders Challenge:**

- Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Tribes of Alaska
- Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians
- Gila River Indian Community
- Ho-Chunk Nation of Wisconsin
- Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians
- Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians
- Three Affiliated Tribes
- Native Village of Afognak
- Crow Tribe
- Southern Ute Indian Tribe
- Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians
- Round Valley Indian Tribes
- Mashpee Wampanoag
- Nez Perce Tribe
- Lummi Nation
- Tsimshian/Pawnee
- Oneida Tribe of Wisconsin
- Ponca Tribe of Nebraska
- Osage Nation
- Tulalip Nation
- Yakama Nation
- Aroostook Band of Micmacs
- Puyallup Tribe of Indians
- Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians
- Navajo Nation
- Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes
- Coeur d'Alene Tribe
- White Mountain Apache
- Lummi Nation
- Cedarville Band of Piscataway Indians
- Wilton Rancheria

For more information, such as the Gen-I toolkit, latest news, and other resources, visit [www.genindigenous.com](http://www.genindigenous.com).

## President’s Cabinet Native Youth Listening Tour – OPM Director



In March, the Director of the Office of Personnel Management (OPM), [Katherine Archuleta](#), traveled to Haskell Indian Nations University to meet with staff and students to discuss ways OPM can help better invest in Native youth in Federal service. The Director discussed opportunities for Federal service for students both in Washington, D.C. and in the greater Kansas City area – the home to Haskell University. The visit is part of Director Archuleta’s new REDI Initiative (Recruitment, Engagement, Diversity, and Inclusion) aimed at expanding OPM’s relationships with colleges and universities, including minority-serving institutions. This was the second visit by a member of the Obama Administration’s Native Youth Cabinet on its Listening Tour. More trips are expected by members of the president’s Cabinet in the coming weeks and months as part of the Gen-I Initiative.

## President’s Cabinet Native Youth Listening Tour – EPA Administrator

In April, EPA Administrator [Gina McCarthy](#) visited the Pacific Northwest as part of the Gen-I Cabinet Tour. While in the region McCarthy visited with the Columbia River Tribal Leadership Council which includes the Lummi, Nez Perce, Warm Springs, Yakama, and Umatilla Tribes. She additionally spent quality time with youth from the Lummi and Swinomish nations. The EPA director discussed the work EPA is doing with states and tribes to protect



resources such as clean water, to which many tribes retain treaty rights. Also included in McCarthy’s trip was an opportunity to spend time at the Northwest Indian College speaking with students about the value of a college degree for both the students’ future and their tribes’ futures. McCarthy was also able to see the progress of the EPA’s partnership with the tribal college in the [Tribal ecoAmbassador Program](#). Since 2011, the Tribal ecoAmbassadors Program has created the opportunity for hundreds of students to gain over 4,500 hours of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) training.

## President's Cabinet Native Youth Listening Tour – Secretary of Education

In May, U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan held a roundtable discussion with Native youth in Denver, CO, followed by conducting a basketball clinic with the youth.



## Oglala Sioux Students Celebrate Let's Move! Initiative's Fifth Anniversary With First Lady at White House

Students with the Oglala Sioux Tribe helped celebrate the Fifth Anniversary of the [Let's Move! Initiative](#) with First Lady Michelle Obama at the White House earlier this month. Two students from the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota, Avianna Garcia and Gabriel Brooks, were in attendance as ambassadors of the [Let's Move! In Indian Country Initiative](#).



## My Brother's Keeper Alliance Launched

Last month, President Obama announced the latest expansion of his administration's "My Brother's Keeper" Initiative. The president joined CEOs, entertainers, athletes, leading non-profits, and current and former government officials to announce the launch of the [My Brother's Keeper Alliance](#) ("MBK Alliance"), a new, independent non-profit organization aimed at eliminating gaps in opportunity and achievement for boys and young men of color. Over the next three years, the organization aims to improve the lives of more than 275,000 boys and young men of color. In the longer term, it plans to directly affect at least five million boys and young men of color.

The MBK Alliance will support program interventions targeting six key life milestones:

1. Entering School Ready to Learn (Early Childhood)
2. Reading at Grade Level by Third Grade (Middle Childhood)
3. Graduating from High School Ready for College and Career (Adolescence)
4. Completing Post-Secondary Education or Training (Adulthood Transition)
5. Successfully Entering the Workforce (Adulthood)
6. Reducing Violence and Providing a Second Chance (Throughout Life)

As part of the announcement, the MBK Alliance announced three initiatives:

- **Playbook for Corporations and Businesses** – MBK Alliance developed a comprehensive guide to mobilize the private sector in addressing key obstacles facing young men of color;
- **Innovation Grants** – MBK Alliance will disperse up to \$7 million in grants to programs and organizations with proven, innovative intervention programs; and
- **Community Grants Competition** – MBK Alliance will create a \$15-25 million grants competition to reward up to nine communities with \$3 million to build local infrastructure and capacity.

Indian Country's own [Dahkota Brown](#) (Wilton Rancheria) is featured on the My Brother's Keeper Alliance website! Dahkota serves on NCAI's National Native Youth Cabinet and also was a White House Tribal Youth Conference Youth Ambassador. Also serving on the non-profit's Advisory Council is Brandon Yellowbird-Stevens, councilman of the Oneida Tribe of Wisconsin.



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## UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **NCAI and the National Financial Education Coalition Launch “NAT\$VE in the BANK” Campaign**

The National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) and the Native Financial Education Coalition have launched the “NAT\$VE in the BANK” campaign for Native youth and young adults ages 13 to 25. Open a bank account, increase your financial knowledge, and win some exciting prizes! To learn more, go to: <http://nfec.us/>

### **NCAI 2015 Mid Year Conference – June 28-July 1, St. Paul, MN**



NCAI’s [2015 Mid Year Conference](#) will be held in St. Paul, MN, on June 28-July 1, 2015. This year’s conference theme is: “Nurturing Tribal Resources: Culture, Land & People.” Several sessions pertaining to Native youth are scheduled including:

- ICWA and Juvenile Justice
- What Tribes Are Doing to Support Native Youth
- Indian Country TED Talks
- NCAI’s 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Tribal/Leader Scholar Forum: *Back to Our Futures: Re-searching for Justice*
- Early Education: Changing the Narrative for Our Children & Families
- Tribal Communities Responding: Shaping an Agenda for Resilience
- Building Self-Sufficient Tribal Citizens through Financial Literacy

These are just some of the many events being planned for the upcoming conference. A youth track also will be a part of the conference with special sessions, speakers, and events.

### **2015 White House Native Youth Gathering Announced – July 9**

In April, President Obama announced the date for the first-ever [White House Tribal Youth Gathering](#) that will take place in Washington, D.C., on **July 9** to provide American Indian and Alaska Native youth from across the country the opportunity to interact directly with senior Administration officials and the

White House Council on Native American Affairs. He made the announcement in a [video message](#) played during the Gathering of Nations Powwow in Albuquerque, NM.

The Tribal Youth Gathering, a collaboration between the White House and [UNITY, Inc.](#), will continue to build the President's [Generation Indigenous](#) ("Gen-I") Initiative and his commitment to improve the lives of Native youth across the country.

Youth who successfully participated in the Gen-I Native Youth Challenge and submitted their application were invited to the Gathering on July 9.

## UNITY National Conference – July 10-14, 2015

*Strengthening Self-Identity: Defining the "U" in UNITY*

United National Indian Tribal Youth (UNITY) will be hosting their 2015 Annual Conference in Washington, D.C. on July 10-14, 2015. For all information on the upcoming annual gathering, please visit the conference [website](#).



## National Urban Indian Youth Alliance Seeking Youth Board Applicants

The [National Urban Indian Youth Alliance](#) (NUIYA) is currently accepting applications for positions on its Board of Directors. NUIYA is a new youth-driven organization that advocates for American Indian and Alaska Native youth living in urban areas. The organization was created for and by Native youth with the goal of providing a national, unified voice for urban Indian youth and a platform to engage local and national philanthropic organizations, city and state governments, and tribal entities. NUIYA also provides grants and other funding opportunities to individuals, students and youth groups, organizations, and tribal entities that emphasize and work with urban Indian Youth. The organization is headquartered in Washington, D.C. with regional hubs in Denver and Seattle. Applicants must be 25 years of age or younger and a resident of an urban area.

To learn more on the board positions and how to apply, visit [here](#).

## Cobell Scholarship Now Accepting Applications

Last month, the American Indian Graduate Center announced that it is now accepting applications for the Cobell Scholarship. The Cobell Scholarship is the result of the *Cobell v. Salazar* litigation that is intended to provide financial assistance in the form of scholarships to American Indian and Alaska Native students to defray the cost of attendance at both post-secondary vocational schools and institutions of higher education.

The Department of the Interior announced in early April a \$12 million transfer to the Cobell Education Scholarship Fund. The Department makes quarterly transfers to the Scholarship Fund, which is expected to total \$60 million.

To access the scholarship application and to find out more on the Cobell Scholarship, visit [here](#).

## American Indian College Fund Disney Scholarship

The American Indian College Fund (the College Fund) announced that the Walt Disney Company has committed \$250,000 to create the Walt Disney Company American Indian College Fund Scholarship. The program will provide Native American and Alaska Native students who have financial need with multi-year support to attend tribal colleges and universities nationwide. The announcement was made during the American Indian College Fund's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala in Los Angeles. To access the scholarship application and to find out more on the Walt Disney Company scholarship, visit [here](#).

## More Scholarship, Internship, and Fellowship Opportunities!

Please visit the websites of our partner organizations to learn about more upcoming opportunities:

- [American Indian College Fund](#)
- [Center for Native American Youth](#)
- [National Indian Education Association](#)

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## CALL FOR FUTURE CONTENT

### We'd Like To Help Tell Your Stories!

If you have any content that you or your organization/tribe want to share please send to [firstkids@ncai.org](mailto:firstkids@ncai.org) and we'll be sure to include it in the next issue! Pictures and external links are especially welcome!

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