My part of the presentation for the Washington and Oregon Higher Education Sustainability Conference was about why it is important to preserve the medicines at Licton Spring, especially as a Lakota. Lakota means to be a good relative and since I live in Washington that means I need to be a good relative to the tribes and medicines of this region. I prepared for the Conference by memorizing the Lakota introduction and by organizing my questions so I was prepared to answer them. I didn’t necessarily find any questions challenging, but I was happy to see how many at the conference were willing to help and wanted to know how to help. It made me nervous to present to so many people, but I was able to get through it. If I could go back in time, I would tell myself to go slower and take some deep breaths. I learned the value of taking it slow and I saw the importance of spreading awareness about issues in the Native community because by telling people you can gain allies.

About Us!
Seattle Clear Sky Native Youth Council (SCSNYC) provides:

- **Academic Support:** Instructional tutoring and mentoring.
- **Cultural Learning Activities:** Song and drum instruction, beading, talking circle, mural painting, storytelling, and art projects.
- **Individual Recognition:** Student of the month, monthly birthdays, and Native graduation acknowledgments.
- **Community Involvement:** Spirit Walk, social justice rallies, and field trips.
- **Leadership Opportunities:** Circle discussions, fundraisers, community organizing, and leadership building projects.
- **Basketball Program.**
- **Student Service Learning.**
Billy Frank Jr. Day Reflection

By Jazell J

I was extremely passionate and thankful to be a part of the Billy Frank Jr. Day campaign. In order to make this an officially celebrated holiday in Seattle Public Schools, I created two testimonies with the help of Brooke. One of my testimonies included the Billy Frank Jr. Day Resolution and the other included comments from the Billy Frank Jr. Day Petition on Change.org, which the community wrote in support. I attended the Seattle Council PTSA meeting to give input as to why it’s important to me personally that Billy Frank Jr. Day is celebrated and learned about in SPS. I also urged family and friends to help support this by asking them to learn about Billy Frank Jr. while teaching them what I know about him and why he inspires me and to sign our petition. And this last Sunday me, Kayla, and Lalani recorded a podcast for the Town Hall that had lots of research and time put into the prepared answers about co-creating this campaign for Billy Frank Jr. Day. I think that my favorite part about the whole project was seeing us all come together to talk about how Billy Frank Jr. inspires us personally and the tremendous impact he has made on our lives.

Reflecting on the Elders Care Project

By Aaliyah Konick

I have enjoyed visiting with my Elder, Matt, very much. It has been a good learning experience and quite therapeutic for me as well. It has been wonderful getting to know him through our weekly calls and our in-person visits. I love hearing about his two sweet little kitties and his all time favorite basketball team, the Gonzaga Bulldogs!! He has also shared a lot of spiritual moments with my mom and I and I am so honored to be a part of them and his beautiful life! I always love being in contact with my Native Culture and him helping with this and sharing his wisdom, means the world to me. He is honestly such an amazing soul. It amazes me and building this relationship with him fills me with such joy and happiness!
Clear Sky Academy Student in the Spotlight!

Joseph Aleck is Tla-o-qui-aht, Swinomish, Stillaguamish and Tulalip and is a 12th grader at Evergreen High School, within the Highline District. Joseph enjoys drawing, writing and doing a little music production. The music Joseph creates he would describe as an experimental form of hip hop, which also utilizes Indigenous sounds such as the Native hand drum. The creation of music and writing are both deeply cathartic and reflective experiences for him. Joseph would like to continue producing music and in the future and ultimately hopes to do work that will help others. Joseph has been a student within Clear Sky Academy’s course, American Indian Historical and Contemporary Experience, since the beginning of the school year. His mother originally signed him up because she knew of his interest in learning about Native culture and history. He has enjoyed his opportunities to learn about Native history and culture in the past through Highline’s program, NAYLA, which he was a part of for two years and through the cultural events he has participated in. Within Clear Sky Academy, Joseph has especially enjoyed the different perspectives and presentation styles that each guest speaker has brought to their instruction. He has found the lessons that connect to his personal, lived experience and interests to have been the most impactful but has appreciated learning about a variety of topics and issues that are related to our impact Native peoples. We are grateful to have this reflective, thoughtful and bright learner be a part of the Clear Sky Academy cohort!

STUDENT OF THE MONTH!

We are thrilled to announce that Ty’teanna Smith is the Student of the Month for the month of April! Ty’teanna is the kind of person that takes every opportunity available to her and does so with intention. We have been struck by how present and reflective she has been within each class session or workshop that she has been a part of. It has been an honor to work with her and learn from her and we are grateful to have her be a part of this community.

Please read her bio to learn more about this inspiring young woman:

My name is Ty’teanna Smith. My tribes are Nottoway And Tuscorara nation. I am 15 years old. I attend Decatur high school. I enjoy cooking and photography. Some of my Cultural interests are Powwows, Beaded jewelry, and traditional food. I am a domestic violence survivor and my hope for my future is to become a domestic violence lawyer. I am new to Washington state and my auntie introduced me to UNEA and told me about a wonderful opportunity for QPR training and an Indigenous social studies course. I told her right away I wanted to sign up. I was so excited to be accepted into the program. I have learned so much about myself and my culture through Elders, guest speakers, writing prompts, and the amazing staff.
Press Release

In Solidarity with our Relatives

Our Urban Native Education Alliance Intertribal community stands in solidarity with our Asian/Asian American relatives. The current spike in anti-Asian hate crimes, violence and murder underscores Seattle's historical anti-Asian policies (Chinese Exclusion Act 1882, Japanese Internment, racial restrictive covenants, Page Act of 1875), practices (segregation and discrimination) and attitudes (forced removal and expulsion by white led mobs termed “Tacoma Method” in 1886) stemming from white supremacy and imperialism. Anti-Asian racially motivated violence reflects deeply imbedded dehumanizing stereotypes including; objectification, fetishization, and eroticizing of Asian/Asian American women. The pandemic crisis coupled with anti-Asian rhetoric and fueled by ongoing systematic and institutionalized racism has magnified the violence against our relatives. Asian American hate crimes have increased 149% in 16 of the largest cities in America (Source: Center for Study of Hate and Extremism, California state University). Our ancestors past, present and future call on us to disrupt, deconstruct, and decolonize racist structures, institutions and systems of oppression. We will unite, protect, and defend our Asian and Asian American relatives. We are committed to undoing all forms of anti-Asian racism, oppression and prejudice. Join us in our unwavering commitment to support our Asian and Asian American relatives from: Japan, India, Philippines, Nepal, Vietnam, Palestine, Turkey, Iran, Thailand, Myanmar, Indonesia, Hong Kong, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Bangladesh, South Korea, Iraq, China, Saudi Arabia, Uzbekistan, Malaysia, Yemen, North Korea, Sri Lanka, Kazakhstan, Syria, Cambodia, Jordan, Azerbaijan, United Arab Emirates, Tajikistan, Laos, Lebanon, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, Singapore, Oman, Kuwait, Georgia, Mongolia, Armenia, Qatar, Bahrain, Cyprus, Bhutan, Maldives, Brunei, Timor- Leste, and Macao.

Mitakuye Oyasin (All my Relations),
UNEA Board of Directors
Clear Sky Youth Council
UNEA Elders Council

Below are some resources to educate and empower allies to interrupt and fight against anti-Asian hate:

Stop AAPI Hate National Report

Hollaback Bystander Intervention Training
https://www.hollaback.org/bystanderintervention/

Anti-Defamation League’s “Student Tool Kit: Responding to Hate”
https://www.adl.org/media/12084/download

Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus’s “Hate Crimes Tool Kit and Messaging Guidance on China”

https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5e84f1ce44c90b6e8e673212/c/5e6d65b3d19b544b1d15b998/159110658969/OCA+-COVID-19+Chapter+Toolkit+2020-05-21+complete.pdf

“America’s Long History of Scapegoating its Asian Citizens” by National Geographic
https://www.nationalgeographic.com/history/article/asian-american-racism-covid

Mitakuye Oyasin (All my Relations),
UNEA Board of Directors
Clear Sky Youth Council
UNEA Elders Council

Resources

Please consider taking action by donating to the following organizations serving, protecting and empowering the Asian/Asian American community within this city and beyond:

Asian Counseling and Referral Service - https://acr.org/
OCA-Greater Seattle - http://ocaseattle.org/
CID Community Watch - https://www.facebook.com/groups/cidcommunitywatch/
National Asian Pacific Center on Aging - https://www.napca.org/
International Community Health Services - https://www.ichs.com/
APACE Votes - https://spacevotes.org/
Stop AAPI Hate - https://stopaapihate.org/
Asian Mental Health Collective - https://www.asianmhc.org/
Asian Americans Advancing Justice - https://www.advancingjustice-asjc.org/
Asian American Feminist Collective - https://www.asianamfeminism.org/
Stop Hate Project - https://lawyerscommittee.org/project/stop-hate-project/
Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund - https://www.aaldef.org/
Volunteer of the Month!

We are excited to lift up Scott Sterrett as Volunteer of the Month for his continued support of our tutoring program. Scott has been a consistent, reliable and valued member of the tutoring team since the beginning of this school year. He goes above and beyond to provide support to the students he works with and we are grateful to have him on board. Thank you, Scott!

1. What volunteer work do you do with UNEA? What has this work been like for you?

“I have primarily been tutoring students in math and science, but have also helped out with the elder care program around holidays. Tutoring virtually has been an easy way to learn with students in a personalized way, which has been great. It has also been a difficult time for educators to create a learning environment with their students where everyone feels engaged. Despite this, we can come to the session each week, check-in with where we are at that week, and try to make progress from there.”

2. How did you first get connected with UNEA? What led you to want to become a volunteer with them?

“I first heard of UNEA through the Billy Mills 5K in the summer of 2020, which was when I first met Sarah and Brooke. I had just moved to Seattle and hearing about their tutoring program, it was just what I was looking for. I had been involved with math and science education for the last few years in Baltimore and was hoping to find a way to connect to that here so UNEA was a great way to continue with that line of work.”

3. What has been most rewarding about volunteering with UNEA? What keeps you coming back each week?

“The sense of community that comes from the students consistently showing up to build something together has kept me coming back. Some weeks we can’t work through all the homework set, but we can still check in with each other and talk about what has been the ups and downs of the last week.”
Participating in the Bracelet and Earring Workshop
By Olivia Vann

I decided to participate in the workshop because when my mom brought it up, I thought it would be pretty interesting, and I like making stuff, like earrings and bracelets. It would’ve been a new experience for me, and I’m glad I joined because now I have a pair of really cool earrings and a nice bracelet. My sister, who also agreed to join, agrees too. I have not really done this kind of artwork before, but I thought that it was really fun, and I do think my finished pieces turned out well, if I do say so myself… It was also somewhat challenging, but that was part of the fun of it! I really enjoyed it, and I think that I will want to do it again if I have the opportunity!

“...bracelet and earring workshop was a creative and welcoming event for the youth. Events like this are a good way to keep the youth involved within our cultural teachings and support younger Native students in ways to represent our beautiful Native artwork within our own personalities and emotions. This event was a good gathering to distract students and young ones from these hard times within the pandemic.” - Lailani Norman (Intern with UNEA)

NWA Staff Highlight
Dupree Kness

Dupree Kness is an enrolled member of the Walker River Paiute Tribe, located in Schurz, Nevada. Dupree was born and raised in Reno, NV and graduated from Spanish Springs H.S. As a successful Scholar Athlete Dupree earned accolades and athletic awards such as ‘First-Team Defense’, ‘First-Team All –State’, and set records in basketball, swimming, and soccer. Dupree continued his athletic and academic career at Northwest Indian College studying Business and Entrepreneurship. Dupree’s unique experiences as a successful athlete have provided him with valuable sports knowledge, skills, and techniques specific to effective coaching.

“My training experiences with prestigious coaches in communities around the country have substantially increased my basketball and coaching IQ. I want to share my basketball expertise in team building, player development, and training with NWA athletes.”

– Dupree Kness