About The National Urban Indian Youth Advisory Council

- A 12-month program sponsored by the National Council of Urban Indian Health
- A council that consists of five American Indian/Alaska Native Youth between ages 18 – 24, living in urban communities and off-reservation
- Inaugural cohort organized in July 2018; four additional cohorts since then
- Each cohort chosen, after a competitive application process

Importance of the Youth Council

- Suicide is the second leading cause of death among Native Youth. [WISQARS Data Visualization (cdc.gov)]
- According to a recent survey, almost one third (29.4%) of American Indian/Alaska Native suicides occurred among youth, 24 years of age and younger. [WISQARS Data Visualization (cdc.gov)]
- In a recent survey, 45 percent of American Indian/Alaska Native Youth feel sad or hopeless almost every day for two or more weeks in a row, so that they stopped doing usual activities. [CDC Youth Risk Behavior Survey – Youth Online: High School YRBS - United States 2019 Results | DASH | CDC]

Ways the Youth Council Addresses Risk Factors

- Builds capacity of urban communities to assist urban youth in living healthy lives through community support
- Promotes peer-level awareness and support for youth and young adult American Indians/Alaska Natives living in urban areas.
- Promotes among peers, on a local and national level, awareness of topics including:
  - Substance misuse
  - Trauma
  - Suicide Prevention
  - Mental Health
- Develops a community-driven and comprehensive urban youth suicide and substance abuse response plan for urban Indian communities to provide prevention and recovery support to American Indians/Alaska Native youth aged 24 years and younger.
- To learn more:
  - [Reclaiming Indigenous identities: Culture as strength against suicide among Indigenous youth in Canada - PMC (nih.gov)]
  - [Cultural Identity among Urban American Indian/Native Alaskan Youth: Implications for Alcohol and Drug Use (nih.gov)]
  - [Identifying as American Indian/Alaska Native in Urban Areas: Implications for Adolescent Behavioral Health and Well-Being - PMC (nih.gov)]
Current YC5: Keepers of Resilience – 2022 Cohort

Ella Weber  
Three Affiliated Tribes  
Crookston, MN

Jada Allen  
Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina  
Lumberton, NC

Lauren W. Yowelunh  
McLeaster-Davis  
Oneida Nation of Wisconsin  
New Orleans, LA

Elinor Ascher  
Muscogee Nation  
St. Paul, MN

Gianna Lacey-Howard  
Occaneechi Band of the Saponi Nation  
Durham, NC

To learn more about YC 2022-23 and see their future work: [https://ncuih.org/ta/youth-advisory-council/](https://ncuih.org/ta/youth-advisory-council/)

YC4: Rivers of Rejuvenation – 2021 Cohort

Elena Yellow Bird  
Arikara from the Three Affiliated Tribes  
Sioux Falls, SD

McKalee Steen  
Cherokee Nation in Oklahoma  
Berkeley, CA

Jayson Fisher  
Northern Cheyenne  
Billings, MT

Kamryn Yanchick  
Seminole Nation of Oklahoma & descendent of the Muscogee Nation  
Norman, OK

Marlynn Cloud  
Member of the Crow Tribe  
Billings, MT

To learn more about YC 2021-22: [https://ncuih.org/yc-cohort-21-22/](https://ncuih.org/yc-cohort-21-22/)

Serving on the Youth Council has given us “the opportunity to change our environment and space around us for the better – not only for ourselves, but for generations to come”.

- Jayson Fisher, NCUIH Virtual Conference, April 25, 2022
YC3: Re-Indigenize Health: Decolonizing Our Hearts & Minds – 2020 Cohort

Elizabeth Alexander
Seminole Nation of Oklahoma
Shawnee, OK

Taejonon Denetclaw
Navajo Nation
Albuquerque, NM

Lauren Etcitty
Navajo Nation
Flagstaff, AZ

Samuel Stollenwerck
Cherokee Nation
Golden, CO

Tia Yazzie
Navajo Nation
West Valley City, UT

To learn more about YC 2020-21: https://ncuih.org/yc-cohort-20-21/

“No one is going to do this work for us, and if we don't do it now, no one will.”
- Adon Vazquez, NCUIH Washington Summit, April 23, 2019

YC2: Indigi-Wellness Healer Campaigns #NativeHealing and #IndigiLove – 2019 Cohort

Megan McDermott
Descendant Piegan
Blackfeet & Plains Cree
Lynnwood, WA

Quentin Paulsen
Nima Corporation
Anchorage, AK

Czarina Campos
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma
Rockville, MD

Benjamin Sandecki
Cherokee
Claremore, OK

Taylor Francisco
Navajo Nation
New York, NY

To learn more about YC 2019-2020: https://ncuih.org/yc-cohort-19-20/

YC1: Indigi-Wellness Champion Campaign – 2018 Cohort

Faith Bowman
Stockbridge-Munsee
Band of Mohican Nation
Milwaukee, WI

Lala Forrest
Pit River
Shasta Lake, CA

Abby Jessell
Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma
Stillwater, OK

Shoshanna Johnson
Absantee-Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma
Norman, OK

Adon Vazquez
Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians
Dearborn Heights, MI

To learn more about YC 2018-19: https://ncuih.org/yc-cohort-18-19/
CONTINUED SERVICE TO INDIAN COUNTRY

The National Council of Urban Indian Health, Youth Council Alumni Network

President
Elizabeth Alexander
Seminole Nation of Oklahoma
Shawnee, OK

Vice President
Tia Yazzie
Navajo Nation
West Valley City, UT

Secretary
Faith Bowman
Stockbridge-Munsee Band of Mohican Nation
Milwaukee, WI

Engagement Chair
Lauren Etcitty
Navajo Nation
Flagstaff, AZ

About the Alumni
Currently, the group consists of 20 members and was created and directed by alumni of past Youth Council Cohorts, independent of NCUIH funding and direction.

Activities and Highlights
Through training, experience and personal growth gained during their tenure on the National Urban Indian Youth Advisory Council, the Youth Council Alumni Network continues to engage and participate in the following activities:

- Welcoming of new cohorts of National Urban Indian Youth Advisory Councils
- Presenting at national American Indian/Alaska Native conferences
- Participating in Indigenous cross knowledge sharing events
- Presenting to NCUIH Youth Council cohorts
- Inspiring youth via virtual Gatherings of Native Americans (GONAs) and other events
- Providing focus group project feedback and project promotion
- Hosting national virtual American Indian/Alaska Native youth training
- Providing National Trainings to build UIOs capacity throughout Indian Country