

Dakota Indian Foundation
2020 Fall Scholarship Recipients

Julianna



In May 2022, I will graduate with my Bachelor of Science in Social Work with a minor in Public Health. In the years that follow, I plan to pursue a Masters of Public Health - Masters of Social Work dual degree. When I finish my studies, I want to return home to the Rosebud Reservation to begin my career. With this background, I will be contributing to the improvement of health for Indigenous people.

Miranda



I want people to know that I am a hard worker. I have worked for everything I have in my life. It makes me appreciate what I have and value why I am empowered to finish what I started. I've had to rely on myself and that has made me a hard worker. An accomplishment this past year is becoming a firefighter. I always wanted to be a firefighter. I'm hoping to keep volunteering and becoming an instructor in 5 years. Completing this has shown me that I can do anything I put my mind to.

Gabrielle



My major is Anthropology and I chose it because a lot of what anthropology is, is interpretation. Growing up participating in ceremonies, and going to school with a majority of non-Natives, having to explain my way of life was frustrating because people did not understand. With Anthropology, I am taught how to appreciate and teach about different cultures! I work at the Pipestone Monument as a student ranger, I meet people from all over, many have pre-existing ideas about how I should be or how I should be treated. My job gives me the opportunity to open and change minds about an entire group of people.

Josie



I strongly believe in going back to the reservation to serve my people as a nurse. I grew up in Martin, which is between the Pine Ridge and Rosebud reservations. Science was always one of my favorite subjects in school, so I have known since high school that I wanted to go into the medical career. After working as a certified Nursing Assistant at the Bennett County Nursing Home, I realized nursing is what I want to go to college for. I plan on getting a Bachelor's degree at the University of South Dakota.

Dante



I am member of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe. After my first semester at Western Dakota Tech in Rapid City, SD, I decided to transfer to the University of Minnesota-Morris. I will be the first in my family to go away to school to obtain my Bachelor's degree. My future goal is to graduate with my Bachelor of Science in Computer Science and then attend graduate school to get my Masters in Data Science. This would allow me to become a Data Scientist. I am hoping I will be able to use my knowledge and experience to help my community.

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Jenna

I am a member of the Lower Brule Sioux Tribe of South Dakota where my parents grew up. I was partially raised in Lincoln Nebraska and moved to San Antonio, Texas then to Dallas, Texas. While in Dallas I was exposed to different cultures, socioeconomic backgrounds which helped shape my life into the person I am today. These experiences have led me to want to pursue a career in marketing. After receiving my degree, I hope to work my way up to becoming a Marketing Manager. I believe it is important for Native Americans to earn a higher education, which will give them individually more opportunities but will also give Native communities strength!



Bryann

I am currently enrolled at Nueta Hidatsa Sahnish College in the Environmental Science program. I will continue with my science and general classes before the transition to the University of North Dakota (Fall 2021) where I will major in Biology and go on to Medical School to pursue a career as an OB-GYN Doctor. My overall career goal is to work with Native American women and families. Part of the main drive, for me is knowing my dedication to helping Native American people will set a standard for other communities dealing with health disparities.



Sophia

I am pursuing a degree in both American Indian Studies and Human Services. With these degrees, I plan to return to the Standing Rock Reservation, where I grew up. I would like to teach a culture or language class at the Timber Lake School, where I graduated. As of 2020 they created a position in the school for a Native American Education Coordinator. This is their first step in truly incorporating the Native American Culture in the School.



Dustin

I was born and raised in the Holabird/Highmore area and plan to return there after graduation. I chose this line of education in diesel technology because having the skills to repair equipment and perform diagnostic services in the field will be a valuable asset and make me a marketable diesel technician. My long-term career goal is to own and operate my own farm and ranch, which would be strongly enhanced by the above stated skills.