

Jonathan J. Arakawa

Jonathan Arakawa is an enrolled Tribal citizen of the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe and a senior at the Port Angeles High School. Mr. Arakawa currently serves as a Co-Chairperson for the Elwha Youth Coalition, Top Leader of the Elwha Tribal Youth Council, Tribal Youth Representative for the Systems of Care Program Executive Committee and a Leader to the Elwha Klallam Drum Group. Mr. Arakawa is strongly involved in the culture of the Klallam People and devoted to creating a change to a healthy environment of the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribal youth and the Tribal citizens of the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe. Through Mr. Arakawa's services in various capacities in the Tribal Government/Community, he has expressed and shown a great amount of dedication, commitment, honor, and advocacy to his Tribal youth, Tribal elders, and Tribal Community, overall. Mr. Arakawa is very excited, rejuvenated, and ferocious to serve on the Tribal Youth Panel at the AIHC Tribal and State Leaders' Health Summit the next two days. Mr. Arakawa looks forward to meeting with Tribal and State leaders and see how he can assist them and work with them in creating a better future for today's generation and the future generations.

TaNiesha Birdtail

My name is TaNiesha Birdtail. I am from Nisqually Tribe (Washington) as well as the Assiniboine Tribe (Montana). I have a current GPA of 3.7 and I am heading to a university next fall. I am Vice Chair of Nisqually's Youth, as well as Chairwoman of Yelm High School's Native Leadership. I hope to soon be a representative of Nisqually at Yelm's Youth Council. My goals are; to get our youth/community more involved in tribal affairs, graduate with a 3.8+, raise my cumulative GPA significantly, and be a first generation college graduate in my family.

Dishane Everybodytalksabout

Dishane is from the Nisqually Indian Tribe. He is a motivating, self-disciplined, helping person. He is the current Co-Vice President of the National Congress of American Indian's Youth Commission. He, also, is the Chairman of the Nisqually Youth Council. This is where he likes to bring the youth in his community together and to make sure everyone in his community is doing great. Like, he asks everyone if they are okay and if they need help and checks up on people at the Nisqually Youth center.

There are a couple things that drive him to do great things every day. One is his little brother. His little brother is the person who Dishane wants to create a better place for; to grow up and thrive. Another thing that drives him is the fact he wants to get more involved. He wants to learn about different cultures and languages. That to Dishane is the way he could become a better leader of today's society.

Lastly, what makes Dishane the way he is how when he sees an opportunity, he doesn't sit there and just hesitate, he grabs hold of the opportunity and goes wherever it takes him.

MacKayla George

I am Lummi. I am currently enrolled at Northwest Indian College studying Native Environmental Science and going into my second year. Native youth activities that helped me while growing up and still help me today are canoe pulling, going to the longhouse with my family, and other community activities involving and around my reservation. A special accomplishment that means a lot to me is having received a Certificate of Excellence for Science from the American Association of University Woman (AAUW). Something that motivates me to pursue my goals and future is what I keep telling myself, "I AM THE FIRST!" I'm the first person in my family that's in college and I'll be the first to make it. I want to make my family and community proud, I want to make this place a little better for the future generations to come.

Jasmine Jefferson

My name is Jasmine Jefferson. I am Lummi. I am in the 12th grade and attend Lincoln High school. I promote healthy lifestyles by engaging in multiple programs and activities with the Elwha Tribe. For example, I participate and travel with the Elwha Youth Council and the Elwha Song and Dance Group. I am the Lincoln High school Representative and work with the Port Angeles School District Board of Directors. I am also an active member of the Elwha Youth Council, as well as being the Co-Chair of the Elwha Youth Coalition are examples of my leadership capacity. What drives me to do work like this is the fact that I get to gain knowledge and teachings and share mine with others as well. My goals are to graduate, move to Lummi and major in Native American Studies, and move my career into Law or Education. What moves me is that throughout my lifetime, if I do continue to work with Native communities, I can make a positive impact on so many lives.