

**RESOURCE ROUNDTABLE**  
**GENERATION INDIGENEOUS: OPPORTUNITIES TO ENGAGE NATIVE YOUTH**  
FRIDAY, MAY 29, 2015  
**NOTES**

**AGENDA**

<b>9:00 – 9:30am</b>	<b><u>WELCOME &amp; OPENING REMARKS</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Meeting Overview and Introductions</li><li>- Chairman’s Remarks</li></ul>	<b>CNAY Staff</b>
<b>9:30 – 10:00am</b>	<b><u>GENERATION INDIGENEOUS UPDATES</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- White House Tribal Youth Gathering</li><li>- Cabinet Tour</li><li>- White House Council on Native American Affairs<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>o Gen-I Subgroup Activities</li></ul></li><li>- Kick-Off Event</li><li>- Native Youth Community Projects</li></ul>	<b>Senator Byron Dorgan (ret.)</b> , CNAY Founder & Chairman <b>Raina Thiele</b> , Associate Director of Intergovernmental Affairs and Public Engagement, The White House <b>Alison Grigonis</b> , Senior Director, Office of Cabinet Affairs, The White House <b>Tracy Goodluck</b> , Policy Advisor, Native American Affairs, Domestic Policy Council, The White House <b>Valerie Hauser</b> , Director, Office of Native American Affairs, Advisory Council on Historic Preservation <b>Erin Bailey</b> , Executive Director and <b>Ryan Ward</b> , Senior Program Associate, Center for Native American Youth
	<b><u>NATIVE YOUTH NETWORK UPDATE</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Network components and engagement</li><li>- Creating Opportunity for Native Youth Convening</li></ul>	
<b>10:00 – 10:20am</b>	<b><u>GEN-I UPDATES DISCUSSION</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- What are others up to? What activities does your agency have under way as a part of Gen-I? Are you looking for further opportunities to engage?</li></ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>--BREAK--</b></p>	<b>All</b>
<b>10:25 – 10:55am</b>	<b><u>PERSPECTIVES ON ENGAGING AND SUPPORTING YOUTH IN INDIAN COUNTY</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Challenge efforts across the country and connections to agency programs/services</li><li>- Youth perspectives on engaging youth and supporting local efforts</li></ul>	<b>Vanessa Goodthunder</b> , Lower Sioux Indian Community <b>Teddy McCullough</b> , Coyote Valley Band of Pomo Indians <b>Tyler Owens</b> , Gila River Indian Community

<b>10:55 – 11:15am</b>	<b><u>MAPPING IMPACT</u></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Network of youth leaders and programs</li> <li>- Discussion – What programs in your network should be on the map? What connections are you looking for?</li> </ul>	<p><b>CNAY</b></p> <p><b>All</b></p>
<b>11:15 – 11:30am</b>	<b><u>CLOSING</u></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- General participant updates</li> <li>- Survey evaluations</li> <li>- Next roundtable</li> </ul>	<b>All</b>

## ATTENDEES

### CENTER FOR NATIVE AMERICAN YOUTH

- Senator Byron Dorgan (ret.), Chairman and Founder
- Erin Bailey, Executive Director
- Ryan Ward, Senior Program Associate
- Josie Raphaelito, Program Manager
- Amber Richardson, Program Assistant

### YOUTH PRESENTERS

- Vanessa Goodthunder, Lower Sioux Indian Community
- Teddy McCullough, Coyote Valley Band of Pomo Indians
- Tyler Owens, Gila River Indian Community

### FEDERAL AGENCY PARTICIPANTS

- Tracy Goodluck, Policy Advisor, Native American Affairs, White House Domestic Policy Council
- Alison Grigonis, Senior Director, Cabinet Affairs, The White House
- Valerie Hauser, Director, Office of Native American Affairs, Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
- Rick Haverkate, American Indian/Alaska Native Policy Lead, Office of Minority Health, Department of Health and Human Services
- Dr. Susan Karol, Chief Medical Officer, Office of the Director, Indian Health Service
- Bill Mendoza, Executive Director, White House Initiative on American Indian/Alaska Native Education – US Department of Education
- Meredith McCoy, Intern, White House Initiative on American Indian/Alaska Native Education – US Department of Education
- Dr. Ais Murray, Public Health Advisory, Division of Behavioral Health, Indian Health Service

- Jean Plaschke, Youth Programs Officer, Office of Tribal Affairs and Policy Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
- Geoff Roth, Senior Advisor to the Director, Indian Health Service
- Michelle Sauve, Intergovernmental Affairs Specialist, Administration for Native Americans, Administration for Children and Families
- Georgeline Sparks, Health Insurance Specialist, Division of Tribal Affairs, Department of Health and Human Services
- Raina Thiele, Associate Director, Office of Intergovernmental Affairs and Engagement, The White House
- Michael Weaver, Public Health Analyst, Office of Health Equity, Health Resources and Services Administration
- Wilbur Woodis, Senior Policy Analyst for External Affairs, Office of the Director, Indian Health Service

#### NATIONAL TRIBAL ORGANIZATION PARTICIPANTS

- Joel Chastain, Wilma Mankiller Fellow, National Congress of American Indians
- Michelle Castagne, Public Health Policy and Programs, National Indian Health Board
- Jackie Engebretson, Public Health Project Coordinator, National Indian Health Board
- Whitney Hewlett, MSPI Coordinator, Methamphetamine and Suicide Prevention Initiative, National Council of Urban Indian Health
- Rudy Soto, Policy Analyst, National Council of Urban Indian Health

#### UNIVERSITY PARTICIPANTS

- Charmayne Champion-Shaw, Director, American Indian Programs, Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis
- Kathrynne Shaw, Vice President, Native American Student Alliance, Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis
- Ellia John, Treasurer, Native American Student Alliance, Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis

### KEY MEETING TAKE-AWAYS

#### HIGHLIGHTS

- Generation Indigenous
  - Broad cross-agency initiative, which includes private partners
  - Three main components:
    - Budget
    - Policy
    - Engagement
  - Efforts underway to institutionalize Gen-I and ensure its sustainability
  - White House Tribal Youth Gathering on July 9
  - Mapping youth leaders and impactful programs

- Youth Engagement Strategies
  - Visit youth in their communities
  - Be willing to connect with them when they are in DC
  - Sit down and talk with them
    - Listen to their perspectives
    - Talk about your experiences
  - Support the programs that are creating young leaders
- Ability to Influence Change
  - Everyone has the ability to make change in their individual capacity at organizations and agencies
- Native Youth Events in DC
  - Capitol Hill Briefing: Native Youth Panel on July 8
  - Native Youth Welcome Reception on July 8
  - UNITY Annual Conference on July 10-14

## PRESENTATIONS

### CENTER FOR NATIVE AMERICAN YOUTH

- **Welcome from CNAY:** Brief overview of CNAY, the resource roundtable series and the agenda for the morning.
  - Purpose of the Policy and Resource Roundtable series:
    - Provides a closed, safe space for open dialogue that can catalyze cross-collaboration between agencies to support Native youth-led youth-influenced efforts.
- Welcome from Senator Dorgan:
  - This meeting is CNAY's 17<sup>th</sup> roundtable and we convene because we're all working on issues affecting Natives and Native youth.
  - CNAY focuses on youth and all of you have a focus on youth, as well.
  - Puzzle Pieces:
    - When I was young, my parents bought me a puzzle that took a long time to put together and the only way to see the picture was to put the pieces together and see how they fit.
    - That's how it works here. Every agency is doing something, but we have to fit the pieces together to do the best we can for them.
  - Native youth have been left behind.
  - They have tremendous talent and capability, but they need help.
  - Tribal leaders and parents do the best they can, but need help, too.
  - This needn't be the future. We can fix this.
  - Harry Chapin, a singer/songwriter, attended fundraiser where he played music and told me that night he played 200 concerts and donate proceeds from 1/2 of his concerts towards addressing hunger.

- “There’s a lot of need out there. I do one concert for me and one for the other guy.”
  - That instinct is in all of us. We want to do something for yourself, but we feel better when we’re working to improve the lives of others.
  - This roundtable group works in so many different ways on these issues and we want to coordinate and work with all of you.
  - Since the last time you were here, Gen-I has taken off. The President and First Lady came back from Standing Rock and wanted to create a program to focus on Native youth.
  - They created Gen-I and in a short period of time, we have 1400 Native youth who have been engaged through a Challenge and are doing something positive for their community.
  - We’re just starting on these issues, but I’m convinced that we can and will make a difference. We may not know all of their names, but later we will know that we have done something.
  - Thank you for coming, for digging in, and for being a part of this.
  - This table full of people represents a lot of special interests – interests that will focus on the lives of young people.
  - Erin
    - In addition to seeding the program, BLD donates personally to support our work.
- **Raina Thiele, Associate Director, Office of Intergovernmental Affairs and Engagement, The White House**
  - Origin of Gen-I:
    - On June 13, 2014 Jodi Gillette and Raina brought the President and First Lady to Standing Rock to talk with 6 youth - average kids from the reservation (weren’t highest or lowest achievers, but fell somewhere in the middle).
    - When the President and First Lady heard their stories, that’s when Gen-I kicked off.
    - When they emerged from the room after an hour, you could see in their faces that they were very deeply impacted by what they experienced: Suicide, homelessness, substance abuse.
      - They were also inspired by the resilience of the kids.
  - Creating a Broad and Sustainable Initiative:
    - Leaving Standing Rock, it was clear that there needed be something – an initiative – to support Native youth.
    - Thus, Gen-I was created as a multi-pronged effort led by the federal government and partnerships outside of the White House.
    - Since there is only about 18 months left in the current administration, there is a need to work toward making Gen-I sustainable and institutionalized outside of the Administration.

- The big question is: Who do we continue this when we are no longer in our current positions?
  - Gen-I Components:
    - Gen-I is like an atom with the nucleus being internal US government pieces
    - Some of those pieces include:
      - The Native Youth Community Projects at the Dept. of Education:
        - NYCP are a recently opened grant program with \$4M and the administration have requested another \$3M.
      - BIE Reform:
        - Broad reform with the Blueprint available here.
      - Budget Increases:
        - FY16 – Budget \$1.5B increase.
        - The President is prioritizing Native youth
      - National Native Youth Network:
        - CNAY is leading this, which includes the Youth Ambassador network and the Challenge.
      - White House Tribal Youth Gathering:
        - 800 youth potentially attending the first-ever WHTYG, which is held in partnership with UNITY.
        - It will be a milestone that increases awareness of Native youth issues
  - **Alison Grigonis, Senior Director, Cabinet Affairs, The White House**
    - Cabinet Listening Tour Background:
      - When the President announced Gen-I, he instructed Cabinet members to go out to communities to talk to youth and have the experience he had.
        - The President wanted his Cabinet to be as deeply affected as he was
    - Tour Kickoff:
      - Secretary Jewell kicked off in February in Arizona by visiting both the Gila River Indian Community and Salt River-Pima Maricopa Indian Community
    - Recent Cabinet Tour Trips:
      - In April, EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy went to Washington State to visit the Lummi Nation and Swinomish Indian Tribal Community.
        - She participated in ceremonial dances, canoed, and toured the tribal college and fish hatchery.
        - She wrote about it in a note to the President saying, “I didn’t want to end and will never forget.”
      - Secretary of Education Arne Duncan traveled to Denver, Co in mid-May to talk with urban Indian youth about their experiences in public school.
        - He also put on a basketball clinic.
    - Upcoming Tours:



- Focuses specifically on Gen-I and is an effort for folks at the federal government staff level to stay informed of what each other is doing and to partner more (some are already actively partnering).
  - The subgroup brainstorms ways to be creative in addressing issues, particularly sustainability.
  - It also collects youth-focused information from the WH to share broadly, which helps the subgroup highlight things that federal agencies are doing or planning to launch.
  - Currently searching for ways to engage in efforts across agencies – working more directly with Native youth.
  - Working as a team, we can understand and tackle the obstacles. Lots of great ideas, but working within the rules to accomplish what we want to.
  - Gathered info on summer job and internship opportunities that will be posted any minute now on Gen-I portal.
  - Also collecting info to announce at WHTYG.
  - In the past 25 years, never seen fed staff so energized from leadership level down to field level people doing the work. We’re just as concerned about WH about sustainability.
- **Erin Bailey, Executive Director, Center for Native American Youth**
  - Connecting with communities:
    - We know this coordination is happening at federal level, but that coordination isn’t always visible at the community level.
  - Network Goals:
    - Engage native youth,
    - Create permanent national platform for their voices and priorities,
    - Expand opportunity for those young people
  - Network Components:
    - Engagement
      - Calls: Calls are held monthly to provide opportunities for youth and community members to engage and learn more.
        - Several feds have been on the calls, including SAMHSA who talked about suicide prevention cell phone app.
      - Chats: Bi-weekly chats to provide opportunities for youth who feel more comfortable engaging in that setting.
      - Meetings: Ongoing face-to-face meetings in communities with youth.
        - South Dakota, New Mexico and Oregon.
    - Partners Convening
    - Youth Ambassadors
    - Challenge
      - Over 1,400 Challenge submissions covering a wide range of topics.
      - CNAY is recognizing them on Twitter and Facebook.



- Mapping youth leaders and impactful programs:
  - Youth, philanthropies, institutions, educational institutions, can find youth leading positive change and support their work; build and leverage challenge exercise to bring them to scale.
  - Grassroots – what do we hear from Native youth about what’s working. With the Cabinet Tour, we’re contributing input but we don’t want to be the gatekeeper.
  - Ex: CNAY toured homeless shelter at capacity and having to remove kids, facing budget cuts because of sequestration and came back to a voicemail from a small family foundation that wanted a connection to direct-service programs.
  - Because CNAY had a connection to this community, I connected them and they had a grant within 12 hours. That shouldn’t be left to personal connections and gatekeeping so there needs to be a place for people to go like the map, to find that information readily.
  
- White House Convening
  - Constantly thinking about public-private partnership 3/10 of 1% of giving is going to tribal communities. Couldn’t focus on Native youth issues because they’re focused on low income, at risk kids. Lay the groundwork and leverage attn. from WH to bring in new commitments to this work. Heard from foundations that the youth panel was most impactful part, second was FLOTUS.

## GEN-I UPDATES – ACROSS AGENCIES AND TRIBAL ORGANIZATIONS

- **Jean Plaschke, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration:**
  - Youth Workgroup:
    - SAMHSA is creating a youth workgroup which came out of Native youth conference held last November in Washington, DC.
    - Some youth have been selected and SAMHSA is in the process of selecting more through regional administrators.
    - Started out with smaller number, but looking at expanding it 30 youth total.
  - Workgroup Roles:
    - Youth will provide input to the work we do with SAMHSA through our tribal advisory council – will be working through our social media.
  - Engagement and communication:
    - At conference, put together Facebook page – Young Native Leaders for Change; having them involved with SAMHSA YouTube, newsletter, working blog.
    - Want them to put input in behavioral health resources and priorities , involve them in trainings, and starting to develop a TCU initiative and have youth involved in that effort.
    - Youth between 14 and 24. Expressed an interest in behavioral health. Show leadership potential within their communities. Rural and urban youth.

- Ryan – youth gathering happening again? Jean: Hopeful, but probably not this year. Ryan: one of our CFCs attended as moderator and was very impacted. Hear from them about that exp.
- **Joel Chastain, National Congress of American Indians:**
  - Tribal Leader Challenge:
    - Close to 30 tribal nations that have taken the challenge. Committed to youth engagement. Community gardens, one up north doing a summer language immersion group, some are creating first ever youth council within their tribe.
- **Valerie Hauser, Advisory Council on Historic Protection:**
  - ACHP just launched a youth-focused program.
    - Launching a conversation among Native youth about what it is, how you can become involved in sacred sites protection, and career possibilities.
  - Hosted its first roundtable with youth at Suquamish to discuss historic preservation.
    - Highlighted what historic preservation is and how it can be a career possibility.
  - Continuing historic preservation work:
    - Heard from the past tribal leaders that this work needs to be passed down (sacred site protection included).
    - Heard from YAs at WHTNC that this is a concern.
  - Upcoming plans:
    - Another roundtable scheduled in July at Mohican.
    - Planning to connect with students at Narragansett who are learning underwater archaeology and getting diving certificates.
    - Confederated Tribes of Salish and Kootenai have a historic preserve program.
  - Difficulties:
    - We have the challenge of no budget for this. 3 people in office and facing cuts. Interested in partnerships so please talk with us. Setting up network among Native students involved in these networks.
    - Particular challenges – Choctaw anthropology – not uncommon for you to hear that your version of the past is a story and nonscientific. Lot of issues around that.
  - Outcomes:
    - Great to encourage students to go into this and we are setting up network of other Native professionals to support those students.
- **Michael Weaver, Health Resources and Services Administration:**
  - CNAY presented at HRSA/IHS joint committee meeting to talk about Gen-I, the Network in particular.
  - HRSA is trying to figure out how it can plug in to Gen-I, especially related to increasing visibility and access to job opportunities.
  - At the SAMHSA youth summit Dr. Wakefield asked who knew about HRSA and very few people were aware.
  - Tasked our team with finding out how many of our programs are impacting Native youth. Met with all programs within our agencies. Been looking at it ever since. Scholarships and

loan repayments – trying to be strategic in our approach and disbursement. Leadership want to know what their role is in WHTYG and UNITY.

- Raina: Can't host travel and lodging for youth. No fee to attend. Federal folks will get an invitation within next few weeks. Very targeted invitations.

- **Michelle Sauve, Administration for Native Americans:**

- Native youth compendium:
  - This will include a summary of all projects ANA are funding that involve youth and include profiles for these projects.
  - The goal is to share what projects have been going on and what's working so they can learn from each other.
- ANA and the White House Initiative on American Indian/Alaska Native Education are planning a Native language summit for this fall on September 10 and are trying to figure out how to connect Gen-I.
  - Youth involvement: It would be great to have Teddy and Vanessa and Vance as panelists.
  - Challenges: Last year, main challenge was getting people in their community behind the revitalization effort.
  - Coordinated efforts: Thinking with partners NCAI, NIEA to take the effort on the road. States are taking this direction but they don't know what to do so there needs to be folks guiding them through that.

- **Health and Human Services (updated provided by Track Goodluck, White House):**

- Kickoff conference in New Mexico in conjunction with Gathering of Nations.
  - Between 200-300 youth.
  - Huge success, kids loved it, every youth there took the challenge.
  - Had roundtables to talk about what to do and their visions for their communities.
  - Youth really stepped up.
- Tracy: Also a session for orgs and education institutions to get involved. In conjunction with WH and HHS, NCAI. Seeing this catch fire. But how do we engage not just philanthropic partners but native orgs. 40-50 people in that meeting. Great to engage the youth, but if we don't have the partnerships to support it, it's not going to be very successful.
  - Josie: sat with parents too and talked about how to stay engaged. People have been reaching out to continue the conversation. Lot of focus on the WHTYG

- **Michelle Sauve, Administration for Children and Families:**

- ACF-wide effort partnering on human trafficking and family youth services bureau to address the issue of native youth and trafficking.
- Polaris runs national resource center on trafficking. Sponsored clearinghouse. Have student engagement toolkit, but catered toward middle class mainstream college.
- Partnering with UNITY and CNAY, NCAI, NIEA to have a steering committee to make this empowering for native youth. More culturally and situationally appropriate resource. Get youth input to make sure it's useful. Had a kickoff meeting and will follow up to use input to build it appropriately.

- Will be able to roll it out later, after WHTYG.
- **Bill Mendoza, White House Initiative on American Indian/Alaska Native Education – US Department of Education:**
  - In build up to and in the wake of Gen-I, held Native student school environment issues.
    - The report will be released at WHTYG.
  - Purpose:
    - Focused on hearing from the youth. What’s happening with stereotypes, bullying, and imagery with civil rights lens? Continuing the focus on Native youth.
    - Who are decision makers having most influences – higher rates of incidents are where there’s a lack of tribal support? There is a need for toolkits with resources that can have direct impact since invisibility is very real when you get further away from those support centers.
  - Currently working hard to create a directory to be able to pump out info to grantees and be strategic on touch points on where we visit them with this youth engagement.
- **Geoff Roth, Indian Health Service:**
  - At IHS, we are trying to engage and think about our footprint and be strategic but as simple as possible to have maximum impact across Indian Country.
  - Recently rolled out package for summer internships in IHS operated service units.
  - All area directors are so engaged and excited about Gen-I, which hasn’t really existed before.
  - Using Pathways {program at HHS – year round program allows students to come in and out of fed system as they’re in school (high school, college, etc.). when graduate, can transfer into fed position after that. Doing that with internship. Looking at local level – youth advisory local CEO and service unit level to talk about dialogues on how to engage and target behavioral health needs in our communities an identifying gaps and better youth engagement at the local level. Building cadre of youth in communities that are engaged.
  - Will build that up to national eventually, but stay focused on local to have best impact in short term. Also want to fold in Let’s Move into Gen-I. Share resources, best practices, and digital storytelling. Engaging with LMIC contractor on Gen-I. Want to engage with youth to talk about best investments re: budget.
- **Erin Bailey, Center for Native American Youth:**
  - We have several community visits set up over next few months - including during NCAI Mid-Year.
    - If you’ll be there and want to attend and can listen to youth with us, the offer is on the table.
  - Capitol Hill Briefing and Reception on July 8:
    - Congressman Cole and Congresswoman McCullum will co-host, along with CNAY, two events around Native youth issues on July 8 – the day before the White House Tribal Youth Gathering.
  - Federal agency staff are invited to join the welcome reception.

## YOUTH PRESENTATIONS – VANESSA GOODTHUNDER; TYLER OWENS; AND TEDDY MCCULLOUGH

- Engaging youth:
  - Native youth are a great resource for you on figuring out how to engage them.
  - These youth are already leading awesome efforts and we have to figure out how to support what they're already doing.
- Youth speakers background:
  - Teddy is doing great things in his community, at his college, at CNAY and in his previous position with the Office of National Drug Control Policy.
  - Tyler has worked with CNAY in the past and spoke very passionately about issues in her community and how federal agencies can plug in at a previous roundtable.
    - She is part of youth steering committee for the White House Tribal Youth Gathering, pushes back and keeps us in check, great vision for the gathering. Talk about her role there.
  - Vanessa is one of our Ambassadors and is a great example of a young person leading positive change in her community and making the connection between that important work and what's happening in DC.
    - She is bringing great information and knowledge with her, and will talk about challenges and success.
    - Can share back with her community about what we've talked about here today.
- **Vanessa Goodthunder, Lower Sioux Indian Community:**
  - Making a national impact:
    - It was hard to envision myself making an impact on this level when CNAY reached out and invited me to participate.
    - It's inspiring to see all of you here and I can now see what I can do to help on this level, rather than only in my community.
  - Life goal:
    - My goal is to become a high school social studies and Dakota language teacher.
      - Currently enrolled at University of Minnesota
  - Learning the Dakota language:
    - Thanks to an ANA grant to build my skills and have been teaching for the last three years.
  - Life changing experience:
    - The horse program changed my life. Those horses teach us values, language and culture within it.
      - We currently only have five fluent speakers left and they're all 75 years or older.
    - Since then I have dedicated my life to teaching the language because when you know your language, you know who you are and where you're going – you're going up.
  - Moving from a horse program to a broader focus:

- Our program started with the horse program, grew into Dakota Way of Life program, which includes language and cultural revitalization.
  - Currently have boys programs for grades 5-12.
  - Girls in college come back once a month mentor 9-12 grade girls and those girls mentor the younger ones. Kinship building took six years to create.
- Mentoring and creating leaders:
  - In my program we nourish leaders to help them figure out where the opportunities are and how to get them.
  - We are very adamant about youth leadership, but we don't speak before the youth – they are given opportunities to talk first.
- Challenge:
  - Inspiration for Challenge:
    - Attended the NB3 conference and learned about diabetes and other health issues.
      - Also learned that when you take care of your body, you can take care of other people.
  - Airplane analogy:
    - When the airplane is going down. Put the oxygen mask on yourself before you help others. Always tell the girls that they have to love themselves before you love yourself.
  - Challenge in action - diabetes bingo:
    - Over the course of a few weeks, planned and executed a bingo event for youth and community members.
    - Borrowing from a White Earth model, created a diabetes bingo that incorporated information about health and the Dakota language called "Of Course! We're Going to Walk Healthy Together."
    - White Earth made this diabetes prevention, focusing on primary prevention rather than tertiary, while teaching language and life ways to kids.
    - The event was widely attended by youth in the community and there was a lot of excitement.
  - Fundraising for Challenge:
    - Approached the diabetes program, the tobacco prevention and the Dakota nonprofit about providing funding.
  - Challenge Outcome:
    - Helped the youth become leaders and opened their eyes to healthy lifestyles.
  - Follow-up from the event:
    - Evaluated the event and surveyed attendees.
- Community issues:

- Although youth eat healthy foods at these programs you don't always have that food available at home.
  - Other positive efforts:
    - Created a play in the Dakota language that teaches kids both language and important tribal values.
    - Travels to classrooms to help teach about Native and Dakota history at the request of teachers.
- **Tyler Owens, Gila River Indian Community:**
  - Involvement in tribe's youth council:
    - My tribe has a youth council that has been around for 27 years and it is the longest standing youth council in Indian Country.
    - The youth council is in the tribal budget and plays a vital role.
    - We have 25 youth from 7 districts.
    - Tribal government allows us to go to conferences, hold sessions to learn about our tribe, and cover community issues.
  - Confusion about the youth council:
    - The council strives to create leaders and help them develop into successful citizens.
    - The council is more than happy to volunteer in the community, but many see the youth council as a volunteer group. What they don't understand is that our youth council are elected officials just like our tribal council and do more than community service.
  - Youth conference:
    - Each year about 400 youth come to our conference with a lot of difference sessions for youth.
  - Taking advantage of leadership opportunities:
    - CNAY has provided opportunities that have allowed me to go beyond what I thought I could do.
  - Challenge:
    - Education focus:
      - I focused on education because it is important to push for higher education in addition to graduating from high school.
      - The possibility of going to college incentivizes finishing high school, which is incredibly important.
    - Addressing a need:
      - Created scholarship for high school students that enables them to take the ACT, SAT and apply for colleges.
      - Many youth don't have the money to pay for those tests and applications.
      - I had difficulty paying for these things, so I thought if I can barely afford to apply, what are my peers doing?

- Lots of people turn to community colleges because it's cheap, sometimes free admission, and close to home, which is fine, but I know youth take this option because they can't afford to take the tests and submit the applications necessary to go to 4-year institutions.
  - Putting the idea into motion:
    - Reached out to my governor about the issue and the scholarship and learned that the education department will reimburse you for the application fee of the college you end up going to, but not all of the ones you apply to.
    - My Challenge addresses that issue and I helped educate them about why it's necessary.
    - I then asked them to donate funds to support my efforts.
  - I've collected \$200 so far in the early stages and I am continuing to raise awareness and solicit donations.
  - I challenged my tribal council to put in money.
- **Teddy, Coyote Valley Band of Pomo Indians:**
  - Loss of language:
    - In my community, there are seven different dialects and in 2006 the language went extinct when we lost our last fluent elder.
  - Connecting with an expert:
    - We learned that a Dr. Catherine O'Conner at Berkeley had spent 25 years documenting the language with the last two elders.
    - She recorded over 25k words, phrases, stories that we had no clue about and she was using them at the time to study the linguistics. We reached out a year ago to try to figure out how to bring this back to our community.
    - Together we applied for National Science Foundation and National Endowment for the Humanities grants which we used to put all this info into website and a mobile app.
  - Challenge:
    - For my Challenge, we created and promoted the language app to our community.
    - We had a release party which brought in 50 youth from different Pomo bands and approximately 100 adults.
    - We then held an event in April where 30 young people came to start learning the basics of the language, which is where I started learning.
    - In June, we will be holding language seminars for two weeks around the area.
  - Issues with community support:
    - Lots of people in the tribe don't really understand or support the effort.
    - We tried to get council on board but they don't think this is worth their time.
  - Engaging youth:



- It's difficult for the adults in the community to engage with us but having youth act as liaisons helps.
- I'm persistent and active, but a lot of people in my community and cousins won't get involved unless there's an incentive.
- I show them that engaging in their culture can be something that helps with healing or remedying the negative things you see in your community – substance abuse, suicide prevention, etc.
- Urban Native Challenge:
  - I'm also working on urban Indian health and with urban Indian communities, especially in DC area, especially for youth. One member of my group created National Urban Indian Youth alliance, which is an opportunity for urban Indians to apply for grants and scholarships and to learn more.

## YOUTH ENGAGEMENT DISCUSSION

- Strategies for planning and executing projects:
  - Vanessa:
    - Write down any idea you have – whether it's an event idea or a connection you would like make.
    - Keep in mind, there are people who are willing to provide funding so go talk to them.
  - Tyler:
    - If you write it down in blue, it has to happen, so go make it happen.
    - Tell people about what you're doing and you'll find grants and other resources/networks to help you, but you have to be aggressive in your follow up.
  - Teddy:
    - Speaking your ideas into existence by telling people what you're trying to do and asking for their ideas. Then start working hard to make your idea happen.
    - Google is also great, so start looking up grant opportunities, organizations and other things necessary to ensure your success.
    - Be ready to go out and ask businesses, even non-Native businesses, for support after you've created a plan.
- Youth engagement strategies:
  - Tyler:
    - Offer food:
      - To get youth involved, start by offering food and a place for them to meet.
    - Start with a small group, then build out:
      - You should also start with small, influential group of youth and build those relationships. Once you do, word of mouth will take it from there and it will catch fire.

- Engaging someone in one thing to start:
      - I was invited to a youth conference at a young age and I was not interested, but I was enticed by all of the programs and incentives they were offering.
      - Now I'm constantly telling people how amazing the conference is and what we can do. Five years later we have 500 people and now people are modeling their conferences after ours.
  - Teddy:
    - Getting kids involved:
      - People underestimate the value Native youth have on just being involved in some way. Just getting talked to and feeling like our voices mean something.
    - Provide incentives:
      - Incentives are a big part of getting us involved.
    - Come out to see us:
      - If you want to work with us, going out to communities – outreach tours for high level Administrators but also lower level folks, as well.
      - To even have lower levels who might just be a policy analyst – for someone from DC working for federal government to come out and see you and to talk to you, it's awesome.
  - Vanessa:
    - Being patient with youth:
      - Youth are teachers of themselves, but some kids just aren't ready to speak to you and they don't understand their potential yet.
    - Recognizing the issues youth face:
      - Youth may have self-confidence issues and even suicidal thoughts. We did an evaluation and half of our kids had suicidal thoughts. They were so nonchalant about those things.
      - In middle school, we had about three suicides per year.
        - I was always in the auditorium listening to someone talking to us week after week.
        - Don't want another name on a t-shirt for that. I want you on a tee and in the newspapers for good.
    - Effective programs take time:
      - Youth programs help grow and develop those kids as leaders but it takes time.
- Tyler:
  - The power of engagement:
    - Even if you don't have food or prizes, if you just have some big fancy title and are coming from DC to talk to them, they get will get excited.

- Erin from CNAY came out to my youth council with US Department of Interior and US Department of Justice listening session.
    - People from DC are coming to our community and they're coming to sit down with us.
      - That carries so much weight.
  - Federal investments:
    - Hearing about the different programs you have for Native youth and how you're looking to invest in us is inspiring.
  - Starting a movement:
    - And to see how much excitement and movement the Gen-I initiative has created is encouraging and opening doors for advocacy.
      - Last month we talked to youth about diabetes and how to strengthen themselves as individuals because of Gen-I.
  - Creating leaders:
    - Kids want to know how you do what you do and how they can become you.
- Tracy:
  - Getting youth involved:
    - So helpful at fed level to hear your ideas and think about how we can support you. Flip that, too. As we're working to set up youth advisory councils with our agencies and government, we need your expertise. You can provide us TA when we're setting it up.
- Elia:
  - Exciting but scary:
    - First time hearing about Gen-I so I'm really pumped, but it is intimidating to think about the Gen-I Challenge. It's hard to know where to start.
- Valerie Hauser:
  - Making programs more approachable:
    - Elia said it's intimidating. We need to think about it and how we can make Gen-I less intimidating and we need to think about that going forward as we create programs.
- Charmayne:
  - Being left out:
    - Living in Indiana we are usually left out of conversations about Indian Country, along with Ohio and Kentucky.
  - Risks of youth involvement:
    - When we talk about those programs there's a delicate balance about having these youth speak up.
    - Easy to get pulled from top up without structure below.
    - Youth can get tokenized.
    - As important to know youth are reaching out and those youth aren't being used for the commercial.

- Bill Mendoza:
  - Urban youth outreach:
    - Secretary Duncan was purposeful in going to Denver to speak with urban Native youth.
    - There he saw the importance of peer to peer in Native-serving institutions.

## FOLLOW-UP

Please visit the CNAY's Dropbox website to view and download presentations, handouts, participant lists, and other items shared during the May 29 roundtable.