



Native Youth Sexual Health Network
www.nativeyouthsexualhealth.com



National Native American AIDS
Prevention Center
www.nnaapc.org

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Announcing National Native American Youth HIV/AIDS Council

Indigenous Pre-Conference, International AIDS Conference, Washington DC - The Native Youth Sexual Health Network and National Native American AIDS Prevention Center are proud to launch the first **National Native American Youth HIV/AIDS Council** in the United States! This national youth council centering the issue of HIV and AIDS in Native American communities is evidence of the value of looking towards future generations to make the decisions now that will empower change and have a lasting impact.

The following Indigenous youth leaders were selected for their passion and experience from a number of strong youth applicants. We would like to express our excitement, respect and anticipation for their new journey.

Allen Felix - Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes
Jordan Heideman – Cheyenne River Sioux
Brent Huggins - Cherokee of Oklahoma
Shea Norris - Oglala Lakota
Brandi Yant - Muskogee Creek

Each youth leader will serve one full year and will provide the National Native American AIDS Prevention Center and Native Youth Sexual Health Network guidance on how to create and craft youth centered prevention and policy strategies, as well as direct community impacts. The objectives of the National Native American Youth HIV/AIDS Council are to:

- Create a national forum where youth can speak about the current state of HIV prevention in Native communities
- Create opportunities for meaningful engagement of Indigenous youth in national prevention and advocacy efforts
- Establish courses of action and primary activities that are in line with the missions of NNAAPC and NYSHN

This formation of this youth council would not be possible without the support of the Indian Health Service and National Indian Health Board. We intend to gather the new National Native American Youth HIV/AIDS Council in the fall for their first meeting and the beginning of a much needed process of strengthening Indigenous youth leadership!

For more information, please visit:

www.nativeyouthsexualhealth.com or visit www.nnaapc.org or contact Matt Ignacio at mignacio@nnaapc.org

The Native Youth Sexual Health Network (NYSHN) is an organization by and for Indigenous youth that works across issues of sexual and reproductive health, rights, and justice throughout the United States and Canada.

The National Native American AIDS Prevention Center (NNAAPC) is a national, Native-specific organization working to address the impact of HIV/AIDS on American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians through culturally appropriate advocacy, research, education, and policy development in support of healthy Indigenous people.