



NCAI Youth Commission Meet & Greet

On Monday evening, NCAI youth engaged in ice breakers and general preparation for the week ahead. It was a great opportunity for the youth to network with one another and build relationships. NCAI President Brian Cladoosby and Chairman of the Mohegan Tribe, Kevin Brown, also joined the youth. "Native youth are the future," said President Cladoosby, while sharing his advice on having passion for your work.



Reflections on Breakout Sessions

At the end of each day, the youth commission reflected on the sessions they attended, and thought about how the information they learned applied to their lives. One youth commission member spoke about the education challenges in her school. She said, "kicking kids out of school [for disciplinary reasons] doesn't teach them anything. It effects their learning and self esteem."



NCAI Youth Commission Co-President, Mikah Carlos, participated as a panelist for the "Where Healing Really Begins" breakout session on mental health, well-being, and resilience. She strongly encouraged tribal leaders in the room to listen to the Native youth in their communities, and ensure youth are at the table when discussing policy decisions that impact youth.



I've learned as Native American people and Indian Country, we have faced many challenges and we're certainly not anywhere finished.

- NCAI Youth Commission Member





NCAI Youth Commission Vice President, Rory Wheeler, snaps a selfie with Secretary of the Interior, Ryan Zinke.

NCAI Youth Meet With Secretary Ryan Zinke

Immediately following the Secretary of the Interior's remarks at the First General Assembly, the NCAI Youth Commission had an opportunity to speak with Secretary Zinke. One Native youth, who is passionate about the river that surrounds her reservation, asked about the preservation of sacred lands and the amount of importance the Secretary puts on the Clean Water Act.



"I learned a lot about Native American issues, such as mental health, and I realized that my community is not alone."

Personal Branding on Social Media

The Native youth in attendance also had a chance to learn about how to develop a professional personal brand on social media. During this session, the youth wrote personal mission statements, within which many of the youth touched on the importance of being open-minded and compassionate leaders.

" I am strong.
I am beautiful.
I can do anything
I aspire to be. "

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