



Sovereign Nations

TribalSelfGov.org

July 2017 | Issue 6

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California's Number 1

Innovating Health Care & Native Youth Programs

Last fall, Sovereign Nations featured the Southern Indian Health Council, Inc. (SIHC) and its groundbreaking individualized health care system balancing wellness and improving access to medical, dental, pharmacy, and family services.

In April 2017, SIHC sought re-accreditation for its facilities and programs by the Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care (AAAHC), and achieved re-accreditation in May 2017 with an added Medical and Dental Home Accreditation – a first for SIHC. SIHC focused many months on patient and staff education to ensure all services and patient and client centric.

The AAAHC accreditation recognizes SIHC as a quality health care provider that meets nationally recognized standards of care. SIHC joins the more than 6,000 ambulatory health care organizations across the United States as a care center striving for the highest standard for their patients.

Now making waves in their Native youth initiatives, SIHC announced the opening of the State of California's first Native Services Boys & Girls Club on February 15, 2017.

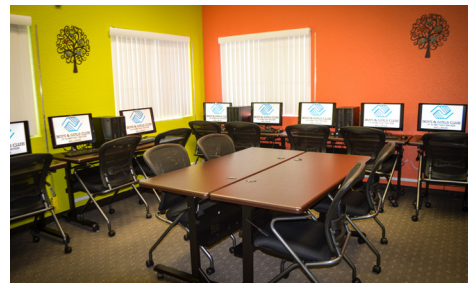
The Boys & Girls Club of Kumeyaay Nation Wellness (Club) celebrated its opening with a special Ribbon Cutting ceremony featuring the Kumeyaay Bird Singers after two years of development and planning. A large part of the development and planning involved extensive community outreach. A total of 24 Native American youth enrolled in the Club on opening day, with more than 30 actively enrolled today.

SIHC, with the support of Native Services Boys & Girls Club, will provide youth with a computer lab, music room, physical activities, homework support, and more. As the Club grows, so will its offerings. Both Native and non-Native youth are welcome to join the Club.

According to Native Services Boys & Girls Clubs of America (BGCA), the Stand with Standing Rock movement has grown the national BGCA network to nearly 200 clubs, serving 86,000 Native youth from over 100 American Indian, Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian, and American Samoan communities in 27 states. Currently, BGCA is the nation's largest youth service provider for Native youth.

SIHC serves a seven-member tribal consortium including Barona, Campo, Ewiiapaayp, Jamul, La Posta, Manzanita, and Viejas in the San Diego, California-area. To learn more about the Boys & Girls Club of Kumeyaay Nation Wellness visit <http://sihc.org/wellness-services/boys-girls-club/>.

The Boys & Girls Club of Kumeyaay Nation Wellness celebrates its opening day with Ribbon Cutting and a performance by the Kumeyaay Bird Singers.



Reaching Back While Moving Forward

A Tribal Leader Reflects on the Journey



Tyson Johnston

*Vice President
Quinault Indian Nation*

On the Quinault Indian Nation Reservation names like Joe Delacruz and Eugena "Mickey" Hobucket are more than familiar. They are cousins, uncles, aunts, tribal leaders, and family relations.

To the rest of Indian Country they are cornerstones and change makers in the tribal Self-Governance movement who paved the way and set examples for the current generation of Self-Governance leaders.

For youth growing up on the Quinault Reservation they set an example of service and commitment to their community that Tyson Johnston, Quinault Indian Nation Vice President, carries on today.

Creating a path forward while reaching back to lift up others, Johnston takes a global approach to Self-Governance.

An elected Councilperson at the age of 24 and Vice President at 28, the now 30-year-old attributes his success to those who came before him and paved the road and invested their time in his development.

"I've been extremely involved in tribal policy throughout my youth starting with my Youth Council work as a teenager," said Johnston.

The product of Quinault traditional values and a strong supportive family, Johnston was taught from an early age that justice and equality for all peoples is paramount.

"Conversations about policy and justice were always around our dinner table," said Johnston. "I started to notice a lot of disparities when I was very young and asked questions like 'Why do our communities exist in perpetual poverty even at the institutional level?' or 'Why do health disparities embed themselves so deeply in our tribes?' and 'Why are these issues not being discussed outside of Indian Country?'"

Furthering his education, Johnston attended University of Washington, Seattle and broadened his understanding of governance in practice by becoming part of the elected student body. Focusing on diversity initiatives and social justice, Johnston began to learn about sovereignty movements from other indigenous students from around the world including the Marshall Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and South America.

After graduation in 2011, Johnston moved back home to the Quinault Reservation to work on policy initiatives and domestic violence, and was shortly thereafter asked to run for tribal council. Now Vice President, Johnston is heavily involved in Self-Governance Communication & Education Tribal Consortium (SCGE) by serving as the Vice Chair of SGCE as well as the Northwest Region Alternate for DOI Self-Governance Advisory Committee (SGAC) and Portland Area Alternate for IHS Tribal Self-Governance Advisory Committee (TSGAC).

"Self-Governance is all about sharing best practices and learning from one another," said Johnston. "I feel like I am a forever student."

As the primary lead for his tribe on local, state, and regional intergovernmental relations he also serves on the local school board.

As a two-spirit person, he is also insuring LGBT youth have the support they need. Developing toolkits and safe zone trainings, Johnston draws from his own youth and reflected that without his support system, he could have taken a very different turn.

A special area of interest for Johnston is getting to mentor new leaders and says that although he is not interested in being in tribal politics forever, he finds great value in his current role and that it is part of making him feel personally whole.

When asked what was the one piece of advice he could provide young leaders, he encouraged others to think about who you may have needed at that lowest point in your life and strive to be that person for someone in your community and provide them with that support.

"The leaders before me truly thought seven generations in the future," said Johnston. "I am the product of their work and I stand on their shoulders. I believe you should leave the world better than you came into it."

*"Be who you needed,
think about what you do
and the legacies that you
make. We all have a role
to play big and small."*

Check out the Quinault Indian Nation online to learn more about their initiatives and catch up on current events at www.quinaultindiannation.com.



2017 TRIBAL SELF-GOVERNANCE ANNUAL CONSULTATION CONFERENCE

APRIL 23-27, 2017 | SPOKANE CONVENTION CENTER-SPOKANE, WA
PROGRESSIVE PARTNERSHIPS: INVESTING IN TRIBAL NATION BUILDING

836

Attendees

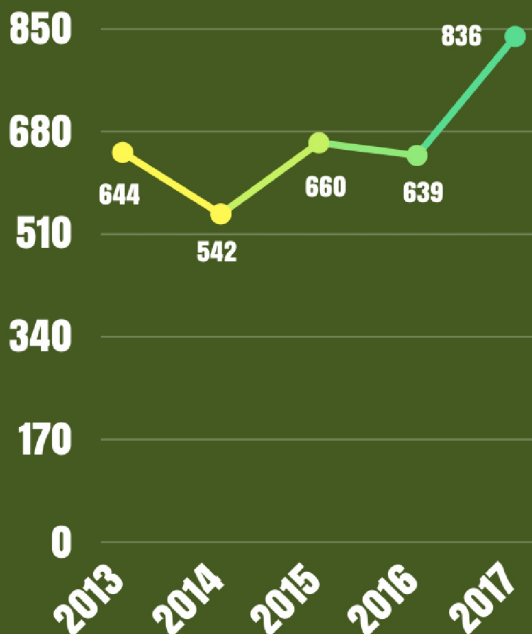
19

Exhibitors

135

Federal Attendees

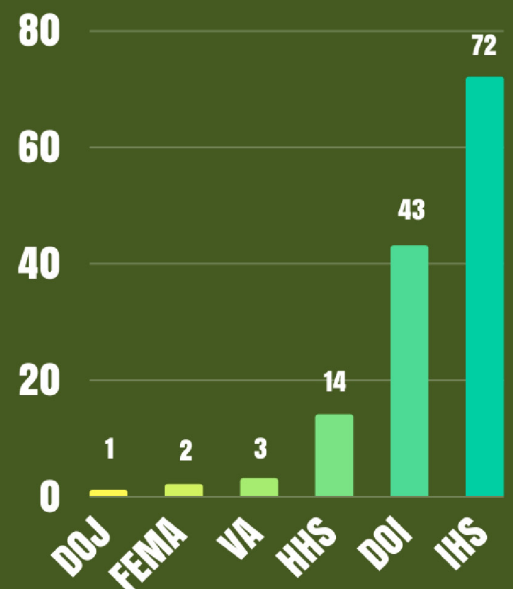
Attendee Numbers by Year



17
Industry
Exhibitors

2
Arts & Crafts
Vendors

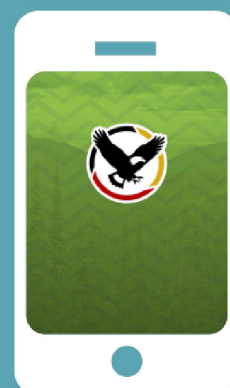
Federal Attendees by Agency



18
SPONSORS

34
sessions

THANK YOU



74%

Attendee App Downloads



Self-Governance Communication
& Education (SGCE)
303 South 5th Street
McAlester, OK 74501

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