

**CENTER FOR NATIVE
AMERICAN YOUTH**

AT THE ASPEN INSTITUTE

Champions for Change
Community Toolkit

Native American Youth Being Recognized:
Encouraging Youth Success

Champions for Change

Community Toolkit

Native American Youth Being Recognized: Encouraging Youth Success

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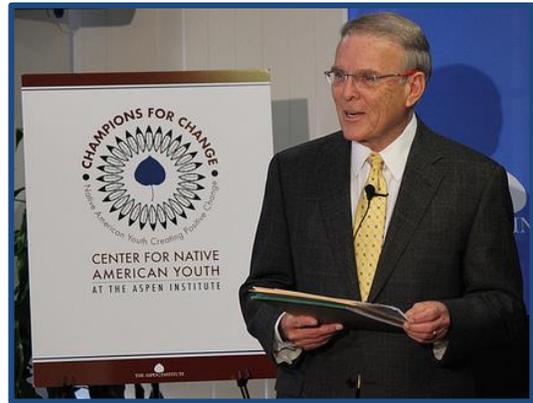
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Champions for Change Community Toolkit Native American Youth Being Recognized: Encouraging Youth Success

INTRODUCTION

The Center for Native American Youth, a policy program at the Aspen Institute headquartered in Washington, DC, is committed to shining a national spotlight on the challenges and successes facing Native American youth across Indian Country. Our founder and chairman, former US Senator Byron Dorgan, board of advisors, and team is committed to highlighting stories of youth success in Indian Country. This Champions for Change toolkit is intended to serve as a guide for Native youth, tribal leaders, schools, and other champions to join the Center in recognizing and encouraging young leaders in tribal and urban Indian communities who are creating positive change. Thank you for your interest to foster youth leadership development and share positive stories from Indian Country.



“It is often said that bad news travels halfway around the world before good news gets its shoes on. At the Center for Native American Youth we are celebrating Native American youth champions - good news!” - Former US Senator Byron Dorgan, Center Founder & Chairman

WHO SHOULD BE INTERESTED IN THIS TOOLKIT?

This toolkit was developed as a resource to share ideas about communities recognizing young Native American leaders who are creating positive change. Listed below are a few questions to find out if this toolkit is something you would be interested in using:

- **Do you want to hear more positive stories about Indian Country and from your community?**
- **Do you know of a friend, peer or young role model who should be recognized for their hard work in the community?**
- **Are you willing and able to organize a small team to create a low-budget, fun and rewarding program for your community?**
- **Are you bored? Ready to try something new? Want to help educate others on how Native American youth are stepping up to the plate and becoming community leaders?**

If you answered yes to any one of these questions you may want to continue reading through this toolkit to further develop ideas about how to organize and create a leadership recognition event - like Champions for Change - in your own community!

BACKGROUND - CENTER FOR NATIVE AMERICAN YOUTH



The Center for Native American Youth at the Aspen Institute was created by former US Senator Byron Dorgan with \$1 million from his excess campaign funds. The Center is dedicated to improving the lives of Native American youth through communication, policy development and advocacy. The Center is aimed at bringing greater national attention to the challenges and successes facing Native youth, with special emphasis on preventing the tragic rates of suicide among young

people in tribal and urban Indian communities. Although a part of the Aspen Institute, the Center is also overseen by a **board of advisors**:

Senator Byron Dorgan, Chairman

Hattie Kauffman

Dave Anderson

Jefferson Keel

Allison Binney

Coloradas Mangas

Tom Brokaw

Sam McCracken

Lucy Calautti

Robert McGhee

Tom Daschle

Lisa Murkowski

Jacoby Ellsbury

Gordon Smith

Megan Gregory

Ernie Stevens, Jr.

Pam Gulleon

Patty Talahongva

Phil Jackson

W. Richard West

Dana Lee Jetty

Dirk Whitebreast

CHAMPIONS FOR CHANGE AT THE CENTER

To help shine a spotlight on inspirational stories and promote hope in Indian Country, the Center added a new component to our work - **Champions for Change**. The Champions for Change (CFC) program, inspired by a 2011 White House initiative, is an annual effort to recognize and encourage inspirational Native American youth (ages 14 to 22) working in their tribal or urban Indian communities to promote hope and make a positive impact. Champions can include individuals who initiate programs, events, or other efforts to improve the lives of fellow Native youth and Indian Country. The CFC program solicits stories from Native American youth in written or video form about how they are making a positive impact in their community.



“Native youth have a lot of **responsibility** because they have a lot of decisions to make”

- Joaquin Gallegos

The Center announced the CFC program during November 2012’s Native American Heritage Month and five individuals were selected in 2013 as the first class of the Center for Native American Youth’s CFC. The inaugural CFC class was invited to Washington, DC in March 2013, and recognized at several celebratory events to share their story of positive change and leadership. The Center’s inaugural CFC class has also been invited to serve a 2-year term on the CNAAY Youth Advisory Board to continue to keep these young leaders involved in our work and active in an advisory capacity moving forward.

Please see a CFC two-page description and brief biographies of our five Champions for Change in the toolkit’s appendix.



CHAMPIONS FOR CHANGE TOOLKIT

Purpose & Description.

This “Champions for Change Toolkit” was developed to encourage local tribal and urban Indian communities to recognize and celebrate Native American youth leaders across the nation. Since the Center was founded in 2011, our team has held over 75 roundtables in over a dozen different states to hear directly from Native youth, tribal leaders, programs and other community leaders about the diversity of challenges and successes facing young people in Indian Country. From these conversations, the Center learned that Native youth feel like there is more bad news than good news about tribal and urban Indian communities. We have heard that youth want to be encouraged more by their family members, teachers, tribal leaders and others in the community. What is inspirational about these visits to Indian Country is when the Center hears Native youth recognize success amongst their peers. We often hear youth say they feel bombarded by negative statistics about Native Americans. Further, it is clear that racism and inequities are challenges still facing young Native Americans today - we believe that sharing positive stories and promoting hope through the CFC program will help encourage Native youth creating change for future generations and share positive news from Indian Country.

In this toolkit, you will find information outlining suggestions for key steps and areas of discussion which will help any individual, tribe, youth council or communities create their own Native American youth Champions for Change initiative. Specifically, this toolkit provides information on the following topics:



- I. Describing the CFC Program*
- II. Packaging Your Message*
- III. Getting Young People Interested*
- IV. Identifying Partners & Engaging Others*
- V. Developing a CFC Program Budget*
- VI. How to Develop, Collect and Review CFC Program Applications*
- VII. Spreading the Word About Your CFC Program*
- VIII. Recognizing Your Champions for Change*

SUGGESTED TOOLS & KEY STEPS

Described below are key steps to help you and your team get started in creating your own CFC program. *You will also find a “Program Development Outline” in the toolkit appendix to continue to think through and organize planning stages for creating your own CFC initiative.* The Center would like to emphasize that these suggested tools and key steps were created as a guideline that can be adapted, tailored or even completely disregarded! There are many young Native leaders who should be commended for their efforts in stepping up to the plate to create youth-led solutions to serious issues impacting Native American tribes. This toolkit is merely providing ideas to get you started as the Center for Native American Youth invites tribal and urban Indian communities to join us in identifying and recognizing Native American youth champions and promoting positive stories with and for Indian Country.

Let’s get started!

Go ahead - start the conversation!

I. Describing the CFC program

This toolkit will begin by discussing your initial ideas and determining whether the program will be a one-time, annual or even monthly event. Gathering a group of friends, adult advisors, tribal leaders and others who you think would be interested in creating this positive initiative would be a great first step in getting the conversation going. Try holding a short planning session with a core group of teammates - made up of peers, teachers, coaches, or supportive adults - to introduce your CFC program ideas and ask for their input to answer the following questions

- Why do we want to see a CFC program initiated in our community?
 - To help you describe the idea behind the CFC initiative, you may want to share the Center’s CFC two page summary (found in the toolkit appendix), or share the link to the Center’s 2013 CFC video that describes the program:
http://cnay.org/Champions_for_Change.html
- Who will the CFC program target?
- What are the age group targets?
- Who needs to be at the table for planning purposes?
- What resources will be needed to get this off the ground?
 - When do we want to see this program launched?

**“Take the first step
with an idea, just to
get their idea in
motion”**

- Cierra Fields

Organizing your ideas!

II. Packaging your message.

Now that you have your team assembled and you have all contributed to ideas about your own CFC program, the next step would be **creating a clear and positive message** about the CFC program. Creating this clear message will help you and your team gain additional support when communicating your program ideas with partners and the community. Thinking through the program's description of the Who, What, Where, When and Why early on in the program development will help you prepare for conversations to recruit and invite others to join your work to initiate a CFC program in your community. Try drafting a "one-page" description or talking points of your ideas for the CFC program. That way, you have a document to refer to and share when you initiate conversations and introduce your thoughts on creating your own CFC program. *Please see the Center's CFC two-page summary for an example of how CNAY packages our message.*



Getting Young People Interested...



III. Getting Young People Interested.

Once you have your team together and working on developing your message, you'll need buy-in from youth! Organizing a team and developing your message is important, and the next step would be getting young people interested and involved. Here are a few ideas about how to ask if youth are interested in getting involved in a local CFC initiative, as well as ways to highlight the potential benefits of being involved with a CFC initiative.

- Think about incentives (prizes)! Ask youth what would motivate them to be involved.
- Post a question or poll with your friends on Facebook or Twitter to ask who thinks recognition is a good idea for the community. Track your responses and keep young people involved from the start!
- Potential CFC benefits you could share with peers to gain interest:
 - CFC recognition looks great on a resume, scholarship application, etc.

- Creating a CFC program in our community could help inspire your peers and younger generations.
- Who doesn't want to celebrate good news and positive stories?!
- A CFC program/event could be a great way to make sure adults are listening to Native youth and hearing about your hard work.
- Why wouldn't want to start something positive in a community?
- **Be Creative!**

Remember, you do not have to do everything by yourself!

IV. Identifying Partners & Encouraging Others.

Once you have an idea of how you and your core team would like to describe the CFC program, the next natural step will be identifying partners and engaging others. This can involve a fun brainstorming session with your team to think through who or what entities need or should be involved to create a successful CFC program. Try to be strategic in thinking about what individuals or entities will bring to the table to support your CFC program development. Initial ideas for partners could include:



- **Tribal Councils or leaders** may be interested in supporting this youth-led effort and could have ideas on what type of stories of impact they want to see highlighted by the CFC program
- **School administrators** can help promote the program and recruit applicants
- **Tribal youth departments or programs** could also help identify potential venues for recognition events or additional support
- **Boys and Girls Clubs or Big Brothers Big Sisters** programs may offer in-kind or additional support
- **Local newspapers or radio stations** could help spread the word about the program throughout the community
- Get creative and try to get as many people involved as possible!

Funding might be helpful!

V. Developing a CFC Program budget.

A suggested next step would be developing a CFC program budget. This toolkit will not explicitly describe how to create a program budget, but instead list a few items that could be considered when thinking about possible costs to get this program off the ground. A CFC program can be a low-cost event and again, this toolkit is created only to offer ideas and suggestions to help you get this initiative started. With that being said, please see the list of potential items that may be considered as associated costs when developing a CFC program:

- Recognition items (medals, plaques, certificates, etc.)
- A dinner or meal for guests at a recognition event
- Travel costs for speakers, Champions, additional guests
- Venue for recognition event
- Printing costs for applications, programs, agendas, etc.



Once you and your team have an idea of what it would cost to create this initiative, you can start to solicit (through outreach calls, letters of support, etc.) financial support from individuals or entities discussed in the previous step - identifying partners and engaging others. Additional financial supporters or fundraising ideas could include, but are not limited to:

- Local corporations
- Local markets
- Tribal governments
- Diabetes prevention or wellness programs
- Mini-Grants for Community Service (Example: [WeAreNative](#))
- Tribal foundations
- Car washes
- Bake sales



VI. How to Develop, Collect and Review CFC program applications.

If you want this to be a contest or application process for young people in your community, this next step in the toolkit will provide some ideas and tools on how to develop, collect and review CFC program applications. Applications can vary and we encourage toolkit users to create a system that works best for your program ideas. *For your reference, a condensed version of the Center's CFC application is included in the toolkit appendix as an example of how applications can be set up.*

- **Setting deadlines:** It is important to have a clear outline of deadlines for when drafts are due, when the applications will be shared, and when you need to review applications to select your Champions. What can be helpful is thinking about the dates backwards. Decide on the actual month or date of when you would like to recognize or announce your Champions, and work backwards from there to think through your target dates and deadlines. *A timeline tool for setting deadlines is included in the toolkit appendix.*
- **Developing an Application:**

- **Identify Categories of Submission:** Creating categories for essay/video application submissions will help you target the topics or areas you would like to highlight in your community. Examples of categories could include:

Health (including youth suicide prevention; bereavement, grief, and healing practices/promotion; and substance and alcohol abuse prevention)

Sports, Nutrition or Wellness

Education, Mentorship or Afterschool Programs

Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

Building Healthy Relationships and Peer Relationships

Cultural Preservation and Native Languages

Anti-Bullying and Personal Empowerment

Self-Expression through Arts and Crafts

Emerging Leadership in Government Service

Economic and Community Development

- Determine the type of application process: Once you decide on the categories of submission, you will need to decide how you want to evaluate applications. Application submission forms could include **essays, videos, presentations, interviews** or other creative forms of messaging and communication from Native youth. In addition to submissions from applicants, you may also want to request letters of recommendations from adults and peers to assist in the application review process. *A condensed copy of the Center’s 2013 CFC application (complete with recommendation forms) can be found in the toolkit appendix.* Please see the short essay prompt below from the Center’s 2013 CFC application:

“Please respond to the essay questions listed below or submit a video no longer than 5 minutes. Each essay response should be between 250 and 500 words.”

- **Question 1:** What are the most important challenges you see facing youth in your community?
- **Question 2:** Describe your leadership initiative. What have you done to help solve the issues outlined in question number one?
- **Question 3:** How many people have been involved or affected with your leadership initiative described in question number two?
- **Question 4:** Describe examples of how your initiative has been successful in positively impacting Native American youth.
- **Question 5:** What are your dreams for your leadership initiative? How do you want to see your initiative sustained and expanded?
- **Question 6:** What specific challenges or barriers did you face and overcome to make your initiative a reality?
- **Collecting & Reviewing Applications:** Hard copies of applications can be made accessible to applicants, however, there are alternative methods of collecting submissions. It’s called “Going Green!” Free online tools like Wufoo.com help create easy forms or applications that electronically collect and organize information online. Other online form makers can include Google Forms, JotForm, and many others. This setup can be helpful to easily organize and share electronic versions of applications with people who you’ve selected to help with reviewing submissions.
 - Depending on the number of applications, it might be helpful to organize a small group of individuals (peers, teachers, community members, etc.) to help review applications and select your local Champions for Change. The Center would suggest using a numerical or other rating scale for each applicant to help you organize your review process and make an objective decision for CFC selections.

You've gotten started, now let's recruit some applicants!

VII. Spreading the word about your CFC program.



Let's recap. You have done all the leg work in getting people on board with your CFC program idea, you've recruited and engaged partners and now the application is drafted and ready to go. Next, you and your team will need to be proactive and creative in spreading the word about this exciting opportunity for Native American youth. This part of the program development and process can be fun! Listed below are some tips and other things to keep in mind as you communicate your CFC program and application:

- Create a list or a map of who your outreach targets are and check them off the list or track your efforts when you've connected, followed up, and confirmed their help with spreading the word.
- Remember to keep pushing information about the program and application process. It is ok to be obnoxious about pushing out information as long as it is done respectfully.
- Follow up with individuals, supporters and recruiters. Just because you emailed or called once doesn't mean they got it the first time. Create a real partnership with these folks by calling back and sending a polite follow-up email to ask if they've followed through with helping you spread the word about the CFC program.
- Make it an expectation that you and your team be responsive. This is a new program and when there are questions about the program, application process or the recognition event, it is incredibly helpful for your team to be quick to answer the questions and explain details to people who are interested in learning more.

Now that you have some tips about effective communication, review the list of ideas comprised below for how to spread the word about the program and application.

- Good ole' fashion flyers
- Local radio stations
- Social media - Facebook, Twitter, Instagram
- Tribal or school newsletters
- School announcements/assemblies
- YouTube video announcement
- Postcards
- Be creative!

VIII. Recognizing your Champions for Change.



Now that you have selected your local Champions for Change it's time to start thinking about how you want to recognize and shine the spotlight on these young leaders! Recognition events can vary between communities, but this toolkit will give you a few ideas on how or where to showcase the Champions.

- **Host a “Community Dinner”** and invite parents, teachers, tribal leaders, peers and other CFC partners to join the community and recognize young leaders who are creating positive change.
- You could **ask the Champions to put together brief presentations** on their youth-led initiatives to then present to schools, youth programs, tribal leaders, or other community stakeholders who would be interested in hearing good news from Native youth leaders.
- Similar to one of the Center’s recognition events for our CFC program, **you could organize a panel discussion**. The panel can be used to facilitate a larger dialogue amongst the Champions to provide them the opportunity to describe their youth-led initiatives and engage the audience in a bigger discussion on priorities for the community through the youth perspective.
- **Champions could also be recognized at a local cultural gathering** like a pow wow, round dance, etc.
- Another idea of how to recognize these youth leaders could be a **feature of their work and CFC status on a local radio station, or in local newsletters** for the tribe, schools, youth programs, etc.
- **If you need additional ideas, you can always ask the youth what they want!** Solicit feedback from youth councils, Boys and Girls Clubs, student councils, etc.

In addition to the recognition event, you may be thinking about a small gift to present to the Champions. Here are some initial ideas to get you started:

- Medals
- Plaques or trophies
- Certificates
- Scholarships
- Traditional artwork
- Blanket

THE CENTER WANTS TO HEAR ABOUT YOUR CFC PROGRAM

The **Center for Native American Youth** would like to track and help recognize your local **Champions for Change** by sharing their stories through our website, e-newsletters, and other networks. Our team remains committed to connecting with and serving as a resource for tribes, youth, and now - local CFC programs. We encourage you to keep us in the loop as you develop your own program, and please contact the Center if you have questions, need advice, or require other technical assistance. Initial ideas are listed below on how the Center would like to stay engaged with your local CFC program.

- The Center will recognize and send local CFC recipients a “Certificate of Positive Change” signed by former US Senator Byron Dorgan (the Center’s founder and chairman)
- Local planning committees for CFC initiatives will also receive “Certificate of Participation” from the Center for Native American Youth
- Local CFC initiatives will be recognized on the Center’s website - CNAY.org

To have your CFC program recognized by the Center, please send the following information to the our staff at josie.raphaelito@aspeninstitute.org

- Name, age, tribe affiliation, photo of each of your recognized Champions for Change
- Short bio of why these individuals were chosen as a Champion for Change
 - See an example from the Center’s CFC program here:
http://cnay.org/Dahkota_Borwn.html
- Name and short description of local host(s) of your Champions for Change initiative - tell us who created the local CFC initiative and why.
- Mailing address (to receive letter of congratulations from the Center for your local Champions for Change)
- Local CFC initiatives will also be highlighted in the Center’s monthly e-newsletter that now reaches over 2,400 recipients throughout the nation!
- The Center will also be happy to share information about your local CFC initiatives by utilizing our social media outlets:
 - Facebook: [Center for Native American Youth](https://www.facebook.com/CenterforNativeAmericanYouth)
 - Twitter: **Center4Native**

CLOSING MESSAGE

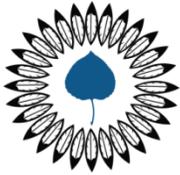
Congratulations on taking this step to help the Center for Native American Youth positively recognize and encourage young Native Americans across the nation. The Center wishes you the best of luck with brainstorming, organizing and planning your local Champions for Change initiative. Please contact our team if you have any questions or require any technical assistance as you move forward with recognizing your own Native youth Champions for Change.

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Phone: (202) 736-2905
Fax: (202) 293-0525

Website: www.cnay.org
Twitter: Center4Native
Facebook: Center for Native American Youth





**CENTER FOR NATIVE
AMERICAN YOUTH**
AT THE ASPEN INSTITUTE

A Brief Overview

MISSION.

The Center for Native American Youth at the Aspen Institute, created by former US Senator Byron Dorgan with \$1 million from his excess campaign funds, is a policy program dedicated to improving the lives of Native American youth. The Center is aimed at bringing greater national attention to the issues facing Native youth through communication, policy development and advocacy.

BOARD OF ADVISORS.

Senator Byron Dorgan - *Chairman*
Allison Binney
Coloradas Mangas*
Dana Lee Jetty*
Dave Anderson
Dirk Whitebreast
Ernest Stevens, Jr.

Gordon Smith
Hattie Kauffman
Jacobus Ellsbury
Jefferson Keel
Lisa Murkowski
Lucy Calautti
Megan Gregory*

Pam Guleson
Patty Talahongva
Phil Jackson
Sam McCracken
Tom Brokaw
Tom Daschle
W. Richard West

*Denotes Native American youth board members

CENTER'S PROGRAMMING.

Outreach into Indian Country: In order to advocate for Native youth issues, the Center is committed to listening in Indian Country by facilitating youth roundtables and visits to tribal and urban Indian communities. We are working together with tribes, tribal organizations, youth, parents and advocates to learn about and address challenges and successes facing young Native Americans.



Shining a National Spotlight: As a policy program at the Aspen Institute, the Center provides a neutral platform for national stakeholders to convene and discuss possible solutions for issues facing young people in Indian Country. We are working together with youth, tribes, federal agencies, foundations, organizations and other key decision makers to develop a productive and coordinated agenda for improving the lives of Native youth.

Become a Trusted Resource: To help increase access to opportunity, the Center created a one-stop shop online resource center for Native youth, tribes and the general public. In addition, the Center operates a monthly newsletter and weekly listserv which provides updates and shares the expansive opportunities for Native youth.

- **Resources for youth:** scholarships, internships, camps, conferences and commissions;
- **Resources for tribes:** technical assistance centers, grants and other available funding;
- **Suicide prevention** efforts, research, articles, and statistics in Indian Country;
- **Resources for everyone:** background information on Native American youth and Indian Country, including fact sheets, public service announcements, summaries of youth roundtables and more.

Recognizing Native Youth: The *Champions for Change* program, an initiative inspired by the White House, was launched in November 2012 to recognize and encourage young Native American leaders who are creating positive change in their communities. Five finalists will be selected and recognized for their efforts in Washington, D.C. each year, along with serving a two-year term on a Center Youth Advisory Board.



For more information about the Center for Native American Youth visit www.cnay.org or contact the Center's staff at cnayinfo@aspeninstitute.org or (202) 736-2905.

**CENTER FOR NATIVE
AMERICAN YOUTH**
AT THE ASPEN INSTITUTE



CENTER FOR NATIVE AMERICAN YOUTH CHAMPIONS FOR CHANGE

Recognizing and Encouraging Native American Youth Creating Positive Change

The Center for Native American Youth at the Aspen Institute, created by former US Senator Byron Dorgan with \$1 million from his excess campaign funds, is dedicated to improving the lives of Native American youth. The Center is aimed at bringing greater national attention to the issues facing Native youth through communication, policy development and advocacy. To help shine a spotlight on inspirational stories and promote hope in Indian Country, the Center launched a new initiative in November 2012 - **Champions for Change**.

CHAMPIONS FOR CHANGE PROGRAM

The Champions for Change (CFC) program recognizes and encourages inspirational Native American youth (ages 14 to 24) working in their tribal or urban Indian communities to promote hope and make a positive impact. Champions include individuals who initiate programs, hold events, or engage in other efforts to improve the lives of their peers, communities, and Indian Country as a whole.

The Center announced the CFC program during November 2012's Native American Heritage Month and five finalists were selected and recognized through a series of events and media attention in March 2013 in Washington, DC. The CFC program is an annual invitation for Native American youth to submit a story in written or video form about how they are making a positive impact. *CFC program submission categories include:*

- Health and Wellness, including Youth Suicide Prevention and Substance and Alcohol Abuse Prevention
- Education, Mentorship or Afterschool Programs;
- Sports, Nutrition or *Let's Move!* in Indian Country
- Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention
- Building Healthy Relationships and Peer Relationships
- Cultural Preservation and Native Languages;
- Anti-Bullying and Personal Empowerment
- Self-Expression through Arts and Crafts
- Emerging Leadership in Government Service
- Economic and Community Development



CHAMPIONS FOR CHANGE RECOGNITION

The five Champions for Change finalists are recognized by the Center for Native American Youth in the following ways:

- Certificate of recognition and medal;
- Travel with a chaperone to Washington, DC for a series of national recognition events;
- Opportunity to participate in a mentorship coordinated by the Center;
- Invitation to serve a two-year term on the **Center's Youth Advisory Board**; and
- Eligible for consideration for **a future visit from a member of the Center's board of advisors** to their home community to share more about their initiative for change.

Visit the Center's website at www.cnay.org or contact us at cnayinfo@aspeninstitute.org or (202) 736-2905 to learn more about the CFC program.



The Champions for Change (CFC) program at the Center for Native American Youth, inspired by a 2011 White House initiative, recognizes and encourages inspirational Native youth working in their tribal or urban Indian communities to promote hope and make a positive impact. Please see abbreviated biographies below for our 2013 inaugural Champions for Change class. Visit www.cnay.org to learn more about the CFC program and the upcoming application process.

CHAMPIONS FOR CHANGE: 2013 INAUGURAL CLASS



Dakota Brown, Wilton Miwok Tribe
Age: 15; Hometown: Jackson, California

Dakota started his own peer-to-peer study group called NERDS (Native Education Raising Dedicated Students). Dakota works with local high schools and middle schools to help Native American students better connect with and relate to lessons. Shortly after his CFC recognition, Dakota received funding to support NERDS for the next year, and he was invited to present on his efforts at the United Way's Day of Action.



Cierra Fields, Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma
Age: 14; Hometown: Fort Gibson, Oklahoma

Cierra is a melanoma cancer survivor and now volunteers her time to travel across the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma to promote healthy lifestyles in order to reduce the risk of cancer. To help share her message, Cierra has collaborated with the Cherokee Nation Comprehensive Cancer Control Program, Mayo Clinic, Circle of Hope, St. Francis Children's Hospital, and the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life.



Joaquin Gallegos, Jicarilla Apache Nation & Pueblo of Santa Ana
Age: 23; Hometown: Denver, Colorado

Joaquin has a strong passion in oral health and access to health care. He collaborated with the Center for Native Oral Health Research at Colorado School of Public Health to secure a grant for a study to determine the dental status of designated tribes in the Southwest. In the summer of 2013, Joaquin interned at the National Institute on Aging at the National Institutes of Health in Baltimore, Maryland.



Vance Home Gun, Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes
Age: 20; Hometown: Arlee, Montana

Vance, a recent high school graduate, has been working with tribal departments, local organizations, and youth groups for over six years to help preserve the Salish language. Vance teaches language classes at high schools and created an organization called *Yoyoot Skvkwimilt* (Strong Young People) that utilizes peer-to-peer methods to teach language and culture.



Sarah Schilling, Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians
Age: 19; Hometown: Charlevoix, Michigan

Sarah worked with her tribal council, peers, and youth programs in the community to organize and develop their tribe's first youth council in 2009. She helped create the youth council's constitution, bylaws, code of conduct, and affiliated the council with the United National Indian Tribal Youth (UNITY) organization.

Champions for Change

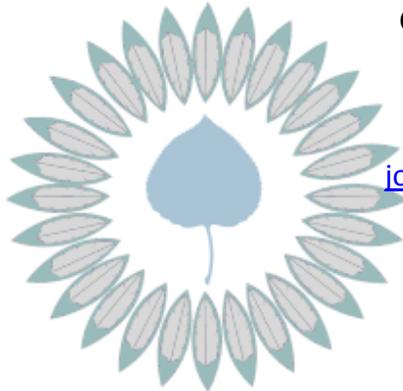
Center for Native American Youth

Application Timeline:

November 1, 2013	Application Process Opens
January 3, 2014:	Application Deadline
February 2014:	Center for Native American Youth announces second class of Champions!
March 2014:	CFC class travel to Washington, DC for recognition events

Application Instructions:

In order for your application to be reviewed by the Center's team, **you must submit a signed and completed application form, an essay or video describing your work to promote positive change, and completed recommendation forms (2 adult and 1 peer recommendations)**. You can submit materials online by visiting http://cnay.org/Champions_for_Change.html. You can also email, fax, or mail all forms in one packet to:



Center for Native American Youth

Attn: Josie Raphaelito

One Dupont Circle NW, Suite 700

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AT THE ASPEN INSTITUTE

Champions for Change

Center for Native American Youth

Application Form

Personal Information

Name:	
Age:	Tribal Affiliation:
Gender:	Grade Level (High School/College/Other):
Home Address:	
Permanent Telephone Number:	
E-mail Address:	

Champions for Change Category

Please select from one of the following categories:

- Health (including youth suicide prevention; bereavement, grief, and healing practices/promotion; and substance and alcohol abuse prevention;
- Sports, Nutrition or Wellness;
- Education, Mentorship or Afterschool Programs;
- Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention;
- Building Healthy Relationships and Peer Relationships;
- Cultural Preservation and Native Languages;
- Anti-Bullying and Personal Empowerment;
- Self-Expression through Arts and Crafts;
- Emerging Leadership in Government Service; and
- Economic and Community Development.
- Other

High School Address:	College/University Address:
Other:	

Additional Contact Information

Champions for Change Submission Category:
Name of Youth-Led Initiative:

I certify that all of the information provided in this application is true and complete to the best of my knowledge.

Applicant's Signature _____

Date _____

Champions for Change
Center for Native American Youth
Essay/Video Form

Student Essay/Video Form

We want to hear from Native American Youth to learn about how you are working to overcome the challenges facing your communities. Please respond to each of the essay questions listed below or submit a video no longer than 5 minutes. **Each essay response should be between 250 and 500 words.**

1. What are the most important challenges you see facing youth in your community?
2. Describe your leadership initiative. What have you done to help solve the issues outlined in question number one?
3. How many people have been involved or affected with your leadership initiative described in question number two?
4. Describe examples of how your initiative has been successful in positively impacting Native American youth.
5. What are your dreams for your leadership initiative? How do you want to see your initiative sustained and expanded?
6. What specific challenges or barriers did you face and overcome to make your initiative a reality?

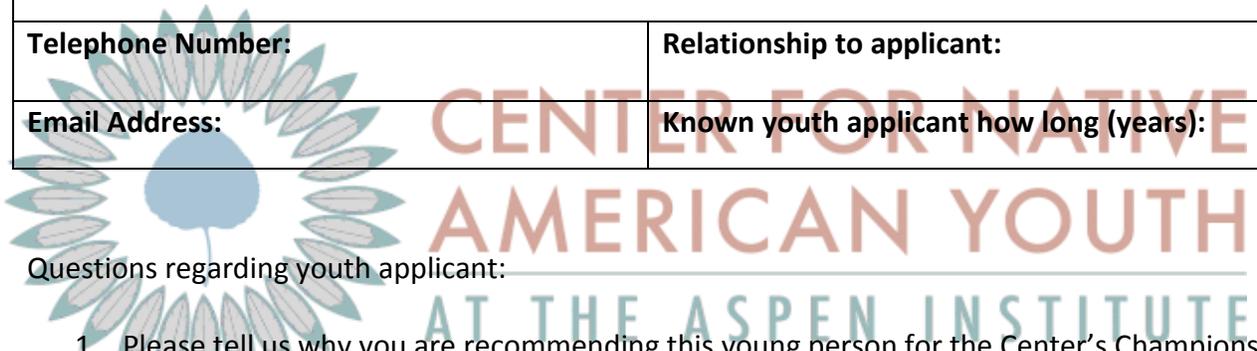


**CENTER FOR NATIVE
AMERICAN YOUTH**
AT THE ASPEN INSTITUTE

Champions for Change
 Center for Native American Youth
Adult Recommendation #1

Recommender can be a counselor, mentor, teacher, advisor or coach.

Recommender Name:	Who are you Recommending?
Work Affiliation:	Title/Position:
Address:	
Telephone Number:	Relationship to applicant:
Email Address:	Known youth applicant how long (years):



Questions regarding youth applicant: _____

1. Please tell us why you are recommending this young person for the Center’s Champions for Change program.
2. What are the first two words that come to mind to describe the applicant?
3. How do you think this young person will continue to make an impact in the community?

Please share more about the student’s characteristics listed below by placing an ‘x’ in the appropriate column below:

Category	Outstand- ing	Good	Average	Below Average	Unable to Assess
Commitment: joins groups, councils, teams and sees the position or project through the end.					
Persistent: stays with tasks, integration toward long-term goals.					
Self-Starter: highly motivated, independent worker, self-directed, pursues individual interests.					
Desire to Achieve: is eager to successfully accomplish goals.					
Community Engagement: Works with community leaders and engages Native youth to support his or her work.					
Respect: Takes responsibility for actions and shows respect for teachers and peers.					
Leadership: Shows maturity/emotional ability, leads when needed or appropriate.					

Overall Rating (circle one) –

- Strongly recommend this applicant
- Recommend this applicant
- Recommend this applicant with reservations (explain any reservations below):

Champions for Change
Center for Native American Youth
Peer Recommendation

Recommender must be a peer from school, youth program, youth council, etc.

Recommender Name:	Grade Level:
Telephone Number:	Who are you recommending?
Relationship to applicant:	
Email Address:	Known youth applicant how long (years):

Questions regarding your peer:

1. Please tell us why you are recommending your peer for the Center’s Champions for Change program? Why do you want this applicant to share their story?
2. What are the first two words that come to mind to describe your peer?
3. Please use concrete examples to describe how your peer demonstrates leadership.
4. As a peer, how do you think this young person will continue to make an impact in the community?

Overall Rating (circle one) –

- Strongly recommend this applicant
- Recommend this applicant
- Recommend this applicant with reservations (explain any reservations below):

Champions for Change Suggested Program Development Outline

This Program Development Outline is shared to help CFC toolkit users think through and organize planning stages for creating local CFC initiatives. The Center would like to emphasize that these suggested tools and key steps were created as a guideline that can be adapted, tailored or even completely disregarded! Feel free to build on this table and add in your own tasks to meet the needs of your Champions for Change program.

Toolkit Step	Task(s)	Status	Deadline	Who's Responsible
I. Describing the CFC Program	<i>(example)</i> Gather a core group of teammates	<i>(example)</i> complete	<i>(example)</i> October 15, 2013	<i>(example)</i> Me!
	<i>(example)</i> Email reminder to teammates to confirm our first meeting!	<i>(example)</i> In process	<i>(example)</i> Email the morning of October 15	<i>(example)</i> Rita
II. Packaging Your Message				
III. Getting Young People Interested				
IV. Identifying Partners and Engaging Others				
V. Developing a CFC Program Budget				
VI. How to Develop, Collect and Review CFC Program Applications				
VII. Spread the word about your CFC Program				
VIII. Recognizing your CFCs				

CFC Application Timeline Tool

When thinking through your CFC initiative, it is important to have a clear outline of benchmarks for when drafts are due, when the applications will be shared, and when you need to review applications to select your Champions. **What can be helpful is thinking about the dates backwards.** Decide on the actual month or date of when you would like to recognize or announce your Champions, and work backwards from there to think through your target dates and deadlines. Time frames and the scale of CFC initiatives will vary between communities. An example of a timeline table is provided below.

Application/Recognition Timeline Example

CFC Recognition Event Date: XX/XX/XX

One Week Before Event

- Finalize all speakers, presentations, caterers, room set-up, and other details for Recognition Event

Two Weeks Before Event

- **Select and announce the winners of your Champions for Change applicants!**

One Month Before Event

- **Deadline for your Champions for Change application**
- Begin reviewing applications with your CFC review committee and teammates
- Publicize and send invitation to the community for the Recognition Event
- Create a checklist of all items that need to be completed before the event

Two Months Before Event

- Find a location to host your recognition event
- Begin developing the event agenda and asking leaders in your community to attend and/or speak

Three Months Before Event

- **Open the application for your Champions for Change program to your community**
- Finalize the budget for your recognition event

Four Months Before Event

- Announce your Champions for Change application!
- Finalize Champions for Change application and ask teachers, school administrators, and community leaders to proof read
- Begin fundraising for your recognition event

Five Months Before Event

- Draft the budget for the CFC initiative and recognition event
- Develop application criteria for your Champions for Change application process and draft the application
- Identify and reach out to key leaders and stakeholders in your community to tell them about the Champions for Change ideas and process

Six Months Before Event

- Gather your core team for the Champions for Change initiative
- Create a clear and promising message about the program that can be shared with the community
- Begin gathering interest and support from your peers