

My name is Lanie Grimm. I am 19 years old from the Kickapoo and Winnebago tribes. I currently attend Native American Youth and Family Center's Early College Academy where we started the group S.T.E.P. 2 RESPECT Leaders. I'm very involved with my community. I've been in the group since it first began 3 years ago and have gotten a lot of my peers to join. We work to inform youth and others in the community about teen dating violence, sexual assault/ harassment, stalking and knowing the signs and red flags of healthy and unhealthy relationships. I want to help youth empower themselves, to empower one another, and to come together as a stronger community.

According to National Indigenous Resource Center, which my group recently did a webinar for, nearly half of Native Women have been raped, beaten, or stalked by an intimate partner. My commitment this year is to continue working in the Native community here in Portland to end Teen Dating Violence and Sexual Violence for Native youth. I am a leader in my community because I reach out to my peers, family, and community to educate them about teen dating violence through many ways: I wrote and directed a public service announcements on Healthy Break ups and I help coordinate many activities throughout the year in my school and community including February Teen dating Violence Awareness month events and the Portland Healthy Break Up Summit for youth all around Portland.

Last year 2014 we coordinated the first annual at our school and invited all 100 students at NAYA ECA, elders in our community, adults, parents and youth of all ages. The club members and I decided that the first annual Healthy break Up Summit should focus on the 10 Native values of NAYA. We even received a donation of money from Defending Childhood Initiative of Multnomah County so that we could afford to invite Jessica Danforth to speak. Jessica Danforth is a Native woman who is the Executive Director of Native Youth Sexual Health Network. She was very inspiring and encouraged us youth to speak up about our own thoughts and ideas to create community and spread the word about healthy relationships.

This year I am committed to STEP 2 Respect working towards the 2nd Annual Healthy Break Up Summit of Portland, Oregon. This year the summit is just for youth! We really wanted to create a space where youth felt comfortable to talk about healthy relationships from their point of view. We asked other youth out in the community to put on workshops for the summit. We had middle school students present what they learn with Portland Police Girl Strength program. We invited two girls from another Portland High School who started their own club

called SAFER- they spoke about sex and consent in relationships. We also invited a club at my school called NAYA Safe Space Alliance where they talked about LGBTQIA relationships.

Other events include Art & Poetry Contests and help teachers educate our peers during February Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month. Just last month I was on the radio with Sex Education teacher and TED talk speaker Ed Vernachio. Last year I wrote and directed a public service announcement on Healthy Break Ups.. I am committed to spreading any and all useful information to other schools and community members because I feel like what we learn in STEP 2 Respect Leaders can benefit the young and the old.