



**2024-25  
SCHOLARSHIP FUND  
REPORT**



# Native American Youth and Family Center

5135 NE Columbia Blvd, Portland, OR 97218 | p 503.288.8177 | f 503.288.1260 | [nayapdx.org](http://nayapdx.org)

October 10, 2024

Dear NAYA Scholarship Donors,

Thank you for supporting the success of our students! Your contributions have made a significant impact on our students' lives. This year, the Native American Youth and Family Center (NAYA) allocated \$10,000 in scholarships to four students, but the benefits extend much further.

I want to highlight how our Individual Development Accounts (IDA) for post-secondary education allow us to maximize scholarship funds. Three of our four scholarship recipients have IDA accounts, effectively increasing a \$600 portion of their scholarship award deposited in these accounts to \$3,000 with the IDA's 5:1 match. Overall this increased the impact of our scholarship awards to \$17,200, allowing our students to use these funds to help cover other essential educational needs like housing and technology.

Thank you for investing in our scholarship program. Enclosed are letters of gratitude from the proud and grateful recipients of NAYA's 2024-2025 Scholarship Program.

Together, we are investing in the Native community and empowering our change-makers, one student at a time. Thank you again for your support.

With gratitude,

Auna Castellón  
College and Career Readiness Manager

P.S. 2024 is NAYA's 50th Anniversary!



# YOUR INVESTMENT CHANGES LIVES

## A NOTE FROM A NAYA SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

I sincerely thank you for your generosity in awarding me this scholarship. I'm honored to have been selected as a recipient, and you have my everlasting gratitude. I know that with this scholarship, I'll be able to pursue my chosen career and aid my community with the proper attention it deserves. To start, I plan to attend Portland State University for the first four years of my college career, where I will major in psychology and stay engaged in my culture. Once I've gained my Bachelor's degree, I plan to transfer to medical school where I may continue my studies on the path of becoming a psychiatrist. My long-term goal is to work in the field of communities that I belong to, meaning Indigenous, two-spirit individuals. I wish to serve the communities that have supported my journey through self-discovery and success and to give back to my people in the same way they motivated me to continue my career. Without the support of the Native community, I likely wouldn't have made it to where I am now, and without the support of donors such as yourself, students like me wouldn't be able to pursue their callings. On top of serving the communities I belong to, I'd also like to support individuals deemed high-risk or people with more advanced disadvantages who may receive less support from other psychiatrists. I'd like to work within the incarcerated community to give those individuals a person they may turn to in hopes of bettering themselves and stopping the cycle of re-incarceration or recidivism. I believe that reform is always attainable, and it's my hope that I can demonstrate this to others once I'm out in the field. Once again, I'd like to thank you for your kindness in awarding me this scholarship, and I can't thank you enough for the headstart you've given me in my college career.



Warmest regards,  
Edwin Brown



# YOUR INVESTMENT CHANGES LIVES

## A NOTE FROM A NAYA SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT



It is an honor to be chosen as a recipient for the 2024 NAYA Scholarship Program.

Being awarded this scholarship means that I can worry a little less about the money for this year and keep pushing through the rest of this year strongly. I chose Tuskegee University because their engineering program is one of the best in the country. A few years ago, I was selected by my high school to attend an HBCU\* college tour where I was able to visit Tuskegee. I fell in love with both the community and the environment in this college. My choice to go into mechanical engineering was easy for me, I've always loved being hands on with projects, building, making different designs, and learning the different ways things can be improved upon. My plans for the future are to take advantage of internships over the school year and over the summer. Thank you again for your gift!

With Sincere Thanks,  
Zeshawn Red Bird

*\*Historically Black Colleges and Universities*



# YOUR INVESTMENT CHANGES LIVES

## A NOTE FROM A NAYA SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

I am writing to express my deepest gratitude for awarding me the NAYA Scholarship. I am honored to have been selected as a recipient, and I want to extend my sincere thanks for your generosity and support. This scholarship will significantly ease the financial burden of my studies, allowing me to focus more on my academic and professional goals. As an Indigenous student pursuing a career in herpetology, your investment in my education is not just an investment in my future but also in the broader mission of preserving biodiversity and Indigenous knowledge. I am motivated more than ever to excel in my studies and make meaningful contributions to the field. Once again, thank you for your support and confidence in my potential. I am committed to honoring this scholarship by working diligently and contributing positively to my community and the field of herpetology.

Sincerely,  
Josiah Marquez





**YOUR INVESTMENT CHANGES LIVES**

## **A NOTE FROM A NAYA SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT**



Thank you so much for supporting my journey to gain a higher education and strengthen my ability to help my community. I feel beyond honored to be a recipient for the 2024 NAYA Scholarship Program. Your generosity will fuel my future in learning about various sciences and how they can be incorporated into creating a sustainable future.

I decided to study at Oregon State University because I felt they could support my aspirations best due to their programs and majors. The major I decided to follow is Food Science and Sustainable Technologies. Earning a degree in this will open opportunities to explore how western science alongside Indigenous traditional cultural and ecological knowledge can lead to a more just food system for us all.

There are so many things I would like to experience while studying, like going abroad and taking internships. I feel like this would allow me to have a connection with what I'm studying and see how I can better use my skills in my chosen field. Thanks to your generous support, the possibilities are wide open.

Thank you so much for uplifting me as not only a student but as a community member.

With Sincere Thanks,  
Kiana Brixey



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