



**2025-26
SCHOLARSHIP FUND
REPORT**



Native American Youth and Family Center

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July 16, 2025

Dear NAYA Scholarship Donors,

Thank you for your continued generosity and commitment to investing in the next generation. At a time when access to education is increasingly complex, your support provides more than financial assistance; it creates opportunity, stability, and hope.

Last year, we piloted a new matched savings component of the scholarship, allowing recipients to allocate a portion of their award into a 5:1 matched account. The results were powerful. This year, three of our five recipients opted to deposit \$600 of their award into the matched account, which was multiplied to \$3,000 per student, adding \$2,400 in match funds per participant. Thanks to your support and their strategic choices, the \$13,000 in scholarships awarded this year leveraged an additional \$7,200 in match funds, bringing the total financial impact to \$20,200.

This kind of innovation and success would not be possible without your belief in our students and your dedication to long-term, community-driven solutions. Thank you for standing alongside education, students, and us at NAYA Family Center.

With deep appreciation,

Auna Castellón
College and Career Readiness Manager



YOUR INVESTMENT CHANGES LIVES

A NOTE FROM A NAYA SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

Dear NAYA Scholarship Program Donors,

Thank you for awarding me a NAYA Scholarship, I am incredibly honored to be one of the recipients of this scholarship. As a first generation college student this means the world to me to be given the opportunity to pursue my dreams of attending college.

Being awarded this scholarship will help me tremendously in pursuing my educational goals by providing further financial assistance. It will allow me to cover the costs of tuition, books, supplies and living expenses. This will also allow me to focus on my academic studies and not have to worry about how I will afford the costs of attending college as a full time student.

I began my educational journey at Portland Community College (PCC) taking GED classes. PCC helped me with my academic development, taught me how to navigate college campuses and be an independent student.

My educational plan is to ultimately obtain a Masters degree in Fine Arts. First I plan on completing one year at PCC, then transferring to the Institute of American Indian Arts in Santa Fe, New Mexico to complete my bachelors degree in Fine Arts. I am choosing to transfer to the Institute of American Indian Arts so that I can pursue my dreams of becoming a professional Indigenous artist and represent my tribes in a positive way. I want to further my horizons with art, network with other Indigenous artists, grow my art skills, and explore different avenues in the art field.



My professional goal is to become a prestigious artist and allow my pieces to convey meaningful messages that tell stories of my cultural backgrounds and heritage. I want to use my art to help others and have a positive impact on the communities I come from and eventually give back. I want to give Native artists insight to resources, strategies and encourage them to overcome their own challenges and help them keep going to reach their full potential and pursue their dreams. Thank you again for your generosity.

Sincerely,
Saquoya Castillo-Goodlance

A photograph showing a woman with her hair in a bun adjusting a black graduation cap on the head of another person. The background is filled with green foliage.

YOUR INVESTMENT CHANGES LIVES

A NOTE FROM A NAYA SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

Dear NAYA Scholarship Donor,

Thank you so much for your generosity and kindness to have chosen me as a 2025 NAYA Scholarship recipient. This scholarship will have a good impact on my ability to continue my education at the University of Southern California without financial stress.

I will be going into my third year of my undergraduate degree in Public Policy Data Analytics, with a newly added Pre-Med track, in the fall of 2025. With this degree I hope that it will cultivate my knowledge on the healthcare systems, policy, and equity, while also creating the opportunity for myself to attend medical school postgraduate.

I'm excited to be focusing on this goal as I enter into this new school year.

Recently I was accepted as a COMPASS Fellow of USC + CIRM. Through this fellowship I get to investigate and add to the growing stem cell field of medicine, by researching clinical trials, focusing on patient outreach, and investigating the ethics of stem cell research. This is a two year fellowship, in collaboration with USC and the California Institute of Regenerative Medicine. It is an amazing opportunity that I'm excited to have!



Whenever I get accepted to programs like those or scholarships like these I'm overfilled with joy and determination because every acceptance is a person, company, or organization that's telling me they believe in my goals, my talents, and my dreams and for that all I have is gratitude.

With warm regards,
Kennedy Phillips



YOUR INVESTMENT CHANGES LIVES

A NOTE FROM A NAYA SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

Dear NAYA Scholarship Donor,

Thank you so much for choosing me as a recipient of the 2025 NAYA Scholarship Program. This scholarship will help me pursue my dream job and reduce stress, leaving me with more mental bandwidth to focus on my studies.

I am in the mechatronics program at Linn-Benton Community College. Mechatronics is a mix of mechanical and electrical engineering. Students are taught a wide variety of skills, from how to plumb hydraulics to robotics and CAD. This program is very versatile and can lead to many different career paths. One path I have available to me is an internship that HP offers, an opportunity that would give me invaluable field experience while still providing a schedule that works around my classes.

I know that I would like to work in the Silicon Forest(Oregon's very own version of Silicon Valley) as either a technician or in a computer hardware factory. Even as a kid, I knew I wanted to work in the tech industry, and my dad guided me in the right direction. He made sure I always had someone to catch me if I fell, while still encouraging me to explore on my own and giving me the freedom to learn from my mistakes.

Unfortunately, we didn't have much money, which made living in Portland very difficult at times.



Even though my father couldn't afford to stay in Portland toward the end of my high school education, he did whatever it took to be there to support me. My culture and family have taught me to be resilient, resourceful, and proud of where I come from, those values are a big part of why I want to succeed in technology. In the future, I hope to eventually make enough money to buy my dad a house and support him and my family in any way possible.

They would do anything for me, and I want to do the same for them. I also hope to give back by helping other Native youth who are interested in technology careers, so they can see that it's possible to build a good future in this field.

Thank you again for believing in me and supporting my dreams.

Blake Harrison

A young man with light brown hair tied back is adjusting a black graduation cap on the head of a young woman with dark hair. They are outdoors, with green foliage in the background.

YOUR INVESTMENT CHANGES LIVES

A NOTE FROM A NAYA SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT



Dear NAYA Scholarship Donor,

Your decision to support my journey for a higher education has made me feel very validated and more secure in my placement at university.

I love my community and NAYA, so to be the recipient for the 2025 NAYA Scholarship Program is a huge honor and not something that I plan to waste. This kindness will allow me to continue my journey in food science and figuring out how I can help my community and others.

So far, my journey at Oregon State has been a bit strenuous, mainly due to my living situation. However, my major Food Science and Sustainable Technologies is allowing me to pursue classes that I adore learning in and try out clubs that I never knew existed.

When my journey at this school comes to a close and I earn my degree, I will remember how NAYA has supported me in so many ways, ever since I was just a child.

You've all opened so many opportunities, allowing me to explore what I'm interested in. Above everything I just want to pay back this amazing community for how I've been treated with an unwavering kindness.

I know that with my future knowledge of western science and Indigenous culture, I can help make a much better and equitable food system that can support every beautiful culture in the world.

While I continue to study at Oregon State, I hope to continue to experience a variety of spaces and learn how to be someone the people there can lean on for help. Thank you for your continued support in my journey, and for being an amazing community.

With Sincere Thanks,
Kiana Brixey

A photograph of a young man with light brown hair tied back, wearing a black jacket, adjusting a black graduation cap on the head of a young woman with long dark hair. They are outdoors with green foliage in the background.

YOUR INVESTMENT CHANGES LIVES

A NOTE FROM A NAYA SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

Dear NAYA Scholarship Donor,

I thank you for the privilege of being a 2025 NAYA Scholarship Program recipient and the generosity of the scholarship.

I chose to attend the University of Oregon as they offer a multitude of disciplines, and this allows me to continue to be absorbed in what is most important and Interesting to me.

I am currently interning with the Bodecker Foundation, an art-focused nonprofit, and soon to start working at the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry (OMSI).

As an Art major with a minor in Environmental Studies and Indigenous Studies, I hope these opportunities will be able to lay the groundwork for my future life and career.

Thank you again for this gift that will assist in my education.

Sincerely,
Tallulah Guilfoyle





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