

“Montessori helps my community.” Theresa Smith – Primary Student

From the Montessori Northwest newsletter in Portland, Ore; originally posted October 2015

I am a member of the Siletz Tribe in Oregon and I began college when I was 28 years old. My love of children led me to major in child and family studies with a focus on early childhood education and administration of programs and services.

I also earned a degree in psychology with a focus on human development. Currently, I am taking my primary training at Montessori Northwest.

The Portland Public Native Montessori School was opened in the early 2000s and it is where I did most of my practicum. My children were also enrolled there.

We were all saddened when the program ended around 2007 due to lack of funding. When I learned in 2014 that it was opening again, I left my existing job to become their educational assistant – anxious to be a part of the phenomenal potential it could have for our community.

Only half of Native American populations earn their high school diploma.



Courtesy photo

Theresa Smith

These statistics are not accurate, however, for the grown children that attended the Native Montessori School. Their love of learning was planted early and although they come from different family structures and socioeconomic status, they will all have the same outcome – success.

I am training at Montessori Northwest because I want to be a part of this future success within my community. Helping bring Montessori into our public schools is my path to helping my Native American community succeed.

Sundance Institute selects 4 Native filmmakers for Full Circle Fellowships

LOS ANGELES – Sundance Institute recently announced the four 18- to 24-year-old American Indian filmmakers – three from the Southwest and one from Michigan – selected for the 2016 Full Circle Fellowships.

This program develops and supports young Native filmmakers and is part of the institute’s year-round support for Native artists at all stages of their careers.

The Full Circle Fellowship Program, launched last year with support from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, is a year-long program for 18- to 24-year-old American Indian filmmakers.

The fellowship began with attendance at the annual Native Forum at the 2016 Sundance Film Festival in January in Park City, Utah. Throughout the year, fellows will be mentored by esteemed independent filmmakers and creative advisors.

The 2016 Full Circle Fellows are Megan Babbitt (Diné), Taylor Bennett-

Begaye (Diné), Devin Weekley-Dean (Saginaw Chippewa) and Shaandiin Tome (Diné).

“Through the Full Circle Fellowship we build on our longstanding mentorship and support for three generations of Native filmmakers by focusing on the emerging fourth generation and ensuring these young artists have the tools and resources to share their stories,” said N. Bird Runningwater (Cheyenne/Mescalero Apache), director of Sundance Institute’s Native American and Indigenous Program. “We look forward to a year full of creativity, collaboration and inspiring experiences with these very talented artists.”

The 2016 Native American and Indigenous Program Full Circle Fellows are:

Megan Babbitt (Diné) is from Flagstaff, Ariz., and currently is a student at Northern Arizona University (NAU) as a creative film and media major with an emphasis in media production. Her interest in film began when she was 8 years old.

In high school, she founded the Ninjacorn Films Workshop. Initially centered on teaching filmmaking to her siblings and friends, it has grown into an annual week-long summer workshop focusing on film production.

She has participated in her high school’s Emerging Filmmakers Program, NAU’s Native American Broadcast workshop, NAU’s campus-based broadcast channel UTV62 and Paper Rocket Productions.

Taylor Bennett-Begaye (Diné) is a graphic designer from the Navajo Nation in New Mexico. She completed her associate of arts in digital arts and general studies at Mesa Community College in Mesa, Ariz., and also played on the women’s soccer team.

Currently, she is finishing her final year at Fort Lewis College in Durango, Colo., where she will receive a BA in graphic design and a minor in socio-cultural anthropology. She also spent five months studying abroad in Viterbo, Italy, and exploring eight other European countries.

In her free time she is a designer for the Survival of the First Voices Festival and works with Native youth.

Devin Weekley-Dean (Saginaw Chippewa) is from Mount Pleasant, Mich. Growing up, he attended an all-American Indian grade school and has been acting since the first grade in shows at his local theater.

In high school, he developed a passion for film through a TV and radio course. With the encouragement of his teachers, he formed a video production team with a group of friends that has since gone on to win a state competition for video production by Business Professionals of America.

Shaandiin Tome (Diné) resides in Albuquerque, N. M. She recently gradu-

ated cum laude from the University of New Mexico with a BFA in film and digital media production.

Her work in filmmaking has included small roles in major motion pictures and key positions with documentaries in Montana, Washington, Arizona and South Dakota.

The Sundance Institute Native American and Indigenous Film Program is supported by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, Time Warner Foundation, Surdna Foundation, Ford Foundation, Native Arts and Cultures Foundation, SAGIndie, Comcast-NBCUniversal, and Cindy and Alan Horn.

Sundance Institute

Founded in 1981 by Robert Redford, Sundance Institute is a nonprofit organization that provides and preserves the space for artists in film, theatre and new media to create and thrive.

The institute’s signature labs, granting and mentorship programs, dedicated to developing new work, take place throughout the year in the U.S. and internationally. The Sundance Film Festival and other public programs connect audiences to artists in igniting new ideas, discovering original voices and building a community dedicated to independent storytelling.

Sundance Institute has supported such projects as *Beasts of the Southern Wild*, *Fruitvale Station*, *Sin Nombre*, *The Invisible War*, *The Square*, *Dirty Wars*, *Spring Awakening*, *A Gentleman’s Guide to Love and Murder* and *Fun Home*.

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2016 ready.gov/calendar
NATIONAL SEASONAL PREPAREDNESS MESSAGING CALENDAR

DECEMBER Winter Weather Safety* Holiday Safety* Flu Vaccination Week	JANUARY Winter Weather Safety* Holiday Safety*	FEBRUARY Flood Safety*
MARCH American Red Cross Month Severe Weather Safety* Tornado Safety Tsunami Safety	APRIL Financial Literacy Month National Volunteer Week National PrepareAthon! Day (4/30)*	MAY Older Americans Month Military Appreciation Month National Building Safety Month Nat'l Hurricane Preparedness Week* National Police Week National EMS Week National Small Business Week Wildfire Community Preparedness Day National Dam Safety Awareness Day
JUNE Pet Preparedness Month* Extreme Heat Safety Lightning Safety	JULY Firework and Outdoor Cooking Safety	AUGUST National Night Out
SEPTEMBER National Preparedness Month & PrepareAthon! Day (9/30)* Youth Preparedness Education*	OCTOBER Cybersecurity Awareness Month National Crime Prevention Month Fire Prevention Week The Great ShakeOut Earthquake Drills	NOVEMBER Critical Infrastructure Preparedness Month Military Family Month Native American Heritage Month

*Activities denote topics that will feature a preparedness-related digital toolkit.

To learn more about each topic month or week and to get consent to promote preparedness information all year visit: www.ready.gov/calendar

While FEMA suggests the above content to promote, content please feel free to adapt topics to your local area and use this calendar as a guide only.

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