



Courtesy photo

SuSun Fisher

## Fisher named co-president of national UNITY executive committee

Tribal member SuSun Fisher has been named female co-president of the National UNITY Council (NUC) Executive Committee.

UNITY's (United National Indian Tribal Youth Inc.) mission is to foster the spiritual, mental, physical and social development of American Indian and Alaska Native youth, and to help build a strong, unified and self-reliant Native America through greater youth involvement.

It is a 40+-year-old national networking organization that promotes personal development, citizenship and leadership among American Indian youth.

Fisher, 19, previously served as the 2016-2017 Northwest representative of the NUC Executive Committee. Her work with UNITY began at age 14, when she was named a UNITY "25 Under 25" award recipient.

She furthered her leadership skills in 2014 as a White House Tribal youth ambassador and again in 2015 when she was named a UNITY earth ambassador.

She is a student at the University of New Mexico, majoring in political science. Now living in Albuquerque, N.M., Fisher is originally from Grand Ronde, Ore.

She has previously served as female co-president of the Siletz Tribal Youth Council.

Fisher serves on the NUC Executive Committee with:

- Male Co-President: Joseph Davis, Gila River Indian Community
- Northwest Region: Rachel Arthur, Colville Tribe

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Photo by Diane Rodriguez

A young child looks out from the seat of a Siletz Valley Fire District fire truck during the Wellness Carnival held in and near the Siletz Rec Center on Aug. 30. See more photos on page 13.

## National Congress of American Indians celebrates 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary

WASHINGTON – The National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) returns to Denver, Colo., to host its *Honoring the Past, Shaping the Future* 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Annual Convention & Marketplace (NCAI75) at the Hyatt Regency Denver at Colorado Convention Center on Oct. 21-26, 2018.

Founded in 1944 in Denver by 80 delegates representing 50 Tribal nations and associations across 27 states at the first annual convention, NCAI has established a legacy over the past three-quarters of a century as the oldest, largest and most representative organization advocating for the rights of Tribal nations, governments and people.

NCAI is celebrating this landmark year with activities surrounding the anniversary, including the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala, the unveiling of its coffee table

book commemorating NCAI's difference-making legacy, the Cultural Night Pow-Wow and special feature presentations throughout the week.

*Honoring the Past, Shaping the Future* is a rediscovery of NCAI's history, the lessons learned from its journey and how Tribal nations and communities can apply those lessons to shape the future for seven generations to come.

Tribal leaders and other representatives from across the country will come together to celebrate Tribal sovereignty and self-governance as well as decades of tireless work by elders, advocates, allies and friends.

Key subjects to be addressed at NCAI75 will include areas of interest to Tribal governments and leaders, such as Medicaid, making the Native Vote count, ensuring that Census 2020 fully counts

Indian Country, ending violence against women, climate action efforts across Tribal nations, building sustainable Tribal economies, Native homeownership, preventing substance abuse and plenty more.

### About NCAI

Founded in 1944, the National Congress of American Indians is the oldest, largest and most representative American Indian and Alaska Native organization in the country.

NCAI advocates on behalf of Tribal governments and communities, promoting strong Tribal-federal government-to-government policies and promoting a better understanding among the general public regarding American Indian and Alaska Native governments, people and rights.

For more information, visit [ncai.org](http://ncai.org).