



Courtesy photo
Gabriel Jurado

UNITY announces
25 Under 25 Native
Youth Leaders

Honorees will be recognized at
UNITY's National Conference in
Portland this month

MESA, Ariz. – United National Indian Tribal Youth (UNITY) has announced the latest cohort of 25 Under 25 Native Youth Leaders, which includes Siletz Tribal member Gabriel Jurado.

This esteemed recognition celebrates the exemplary achievements of young American Indian and Alaskan Native leaders who embody UNITY's core values and pursue holistic (spiritual, mental, physical and social) well-being in their lives.

Launched in 2014, this biennial initiative acknowledges the remarkable contributions of 25 outstanding youths under 25 in Indian Country. Its purpose is to:

- Recognize the accomplishments of Native young people, ages 14 to 24, who are dedicated to serving their communities and are active members of the National UNITY Council (youth council affiliates or individual members)
- Provide training and hands-on learning activities that will increase the participants' ability to serve their community
- Encourage rising Native leaders to aspire to greater levels of achievement
- Build a support network of "service to community" minded leaders that will grow with each year and further the UNITY mission of building a strong, unified and self-reliant Native America through greater youth involvement

"Our Native youth are passionate about enhancing their communities. The 25 Under 25 program by UNITY acknowledges their accomplishments and inspires them to continue their engagement while nurturing

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Photo by Diane Rodriguez
Buddy Lane, cultural resources manager and Tribal Council member, talks with visitors about elk horn purses and baskets during Elders Honor Day on May 1 at Chinook Winds Casino Resort. See more photos on page 11.

American Indian College
Fund launches 'Make
Native Voices Heard'
voting campaign

Campaign shares stories of why Native
votes matter and how to register

DENVER – American Indians are more impacted by the law than any other group in the United States. Native students in higher education or seeking a higher education, in particular, are impacted by federal and state laws that impact funding for education, such as Pell Grants, student loans and federal funding for Tribal colleges and universities (TCUs), 70% of which comes from federal sources.

To ensure Native students, community members and their allies are represented and heard at all levels of government, the American Indian College Fund (College Fund) has launched its Make Native Voice Heard – Vote! campaign to encourage Native people to register and vote on Nov. 5.

In addition to ensuring Native voices are heard with regard to higher education, voting also gives Indigenous communities representation within laws and policies that guide Native nations, including housing, health care, early childhood education, energy programs and reservation

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Photo by Andy Taylor
Lylah Vargas and her cousin, Penny Gomez, engage in a Bluey activity book together during Family Literacy Night on April 25 at the Siletz Tribal Community Center. See more photos on page 18.

Siletz Tribal offices will be closed Wednesday, June 19,
for Juneteenth and Thursday, July 4, for Independence Day.