

**NEW MEXICO  
INDIAN AFFAIRS  
DEPARTMENT**

Michelle Lujan Grisham, Governor  
Lynn Trujillo, Cabinet Secretary



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**July 25, 2022**

Sherrie Catanach, Communications Director  
[Sherrie.catanach2@state.nm.us](mailto:Sherrie.catanach2@state.nm.us)

## **New Mexico Indian Affairs Department announces the 2022 Indigenous Youth Council**

SANTA FE – The New Mexico Indian Affairs Department (IAD) on Monday announced the 2022 Indigenous Youth Council (IYC or Council). The IYC was established in February 2021 following two listening sessions that IAD held with Indigenous youth from across the state. The topics covered varied from the need for access to higher education resources to behavioral and mental health issues. Participants also expressed a desire for stronger intertribal collaboration among the state's Nations, Tribes, and Pueblos.

The IAD selected members representing the 23 Nations, Tribes, Pueblos, and urban areas to engage with the department and help steer the work of the Council. The IAD provides the space for Indigenous youth to come together to share mutual experiences, collaborate on shared initiatives, and build community. Since 2021, the IYC has hosted two Youth Wellness Summits focused on holistic wellbeing. Click [here](#) to view footage from the 2022 Youth Wellness Summit.

“The Lujan Grisham administration remains committed to supporting and elevating the voices of Indigenous youth,” said IAD Cabinet **Secretary Lynn Trujillo**. “The IAD is excited to hear and learn from the next cohort of young leaders. I look forward to working with each of them this coming year.”

### **2022 Indigenous Youth Council Members**

Returning Council Members:

- Alysia Coriz, Kewa Pueblo
- Ian Teller, Navajo Nation
- Jeremy Begay, Mescalero Apache Tribe
- Shayna Naranjo, Santa Clara Pueblo
- Trinity Roybal, Pojoaque Pueblo

New Council Members:

- Ameerah Suina Thomas, Laguna Pueblo
- Andrea Toledo, Jemez Pueblo
- Chenoa Scippio, Navajo Nation
- Cheyenne Gallegos-Harjo, Santa Ana Pueblo
- Joel Biakaiddy, Navajo Nation
- Joseph Harker, Zuni Pueblo
- Kaiya Brown, Navajo Nation
- Kaleia Vicenti, Zuni Pueblo
- Kari Vallo, Acoma Pueblo
- Kiera Toya, Jemez Pueblo
- K'wani Cortés, Acoma Pueblo
- Kylea Garcia, Kewa Pueblo
- Levi Shije, Zia Pueblo
- Mathis Quintana, Jicarilla Apache Tribe
- Taneya Garcia, Santa Ana and Acoma Pueblo
- Taylor Lucero, Laguna Pueblo

The Council provides a space for young Indigenous people to share their perspectives, thoughts, and ideas. Throughout their term, council members meet regularly with IAD staff to provide feedback on strategy, initiatives, and projects. The IYC will continue their work on holistic wellness and produce a report of recommendations to state and tribal leadership and develop leadership and communication skills. The IAD with expanded IYC membership looks forward to another productive year of youth engagement.

For more information on the IYC and to read member bios, visit [www.iad.state.nm.us/from-the-office/indigenous-youth-council](http://www.iad.state.nm.us/from-the-office/indigenous-youth-council).

###

*Since 2003 the New Mexico Indian Affairs Department (IAD) has implemented groundbreaking state-tribal policies intended to improve the quality of life for the state's Native citizens. Our initiatives are designed to strengthen Tribal and state relations and address the challenges we face in our communities; challenges such as economic development, infrastructure improvement, the protection of our cultures and languages, health care accessibility, and educational opportunities for our most precious resource— our children. Learn more at [www.iad.state.nm.us](http://www.iad.state.nm.us).*