

## Dakota Indian Foundation

### 2025 Spring New Scholarship Recipients



#### **Taylee**

*Since I was a young girl, I knew I wanted to spend my life helping people when I was older! Now that I am older, I realize “helping people” is not a career but it gave me a good start to figure out what I wanted to do. I want to obtain a Bachelor of Science in Social Work and obtain minors in Health Sciences along with Addictions Studies and Counseling. From there I want to attend a Social Work Master’s program to become a Licensed Social Worker in South Dakota!*



#### **Taylor**

*I am a second year student at the University of South Dakota where I am majoring in Kinesiology with a minor in Psychology. With a degree in Kinesiology I hope to attend graduate school and receive my doctoral degree in Physical Therapy. I not only want to help individuals in a healthcare setting but I also want to inspire the youth in my community to pursue a higher education!*



#### **Arielle**

*I am going to school to earn my Bachelor’s of Business Administration Degree. I am working on this Business Administration Degree because I want to have a diverse career path and have network opportunities. I always knew I can quickly adapt and navigate problems from a personal and business standpoint.*



#### **Wasagya Mani Win**

*Academics are a high priority for me! I have been on the President’s list for multiple semesters while attending Sinte Gleska University and Ihanktonwan Community College. My current GPA is a 3.6 . I strive to keep my GPA high. I am currently set to graduate in August 2025 with my BA Degree in Business Management with an emphasis in Tribal Management.*

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#### Rylie

*As a proud Dakota woman, I have developed a deep-rooted passion for social justice that has significantly influenced my academic pursuits and career goals. I am a sophomore who is majoring in political science with a minor in history and business. Once I complete my bachelors degree, I plan on attending law school to become a lawyer. My passion to pursue a degree in law and politics stems from my desire to advocate for marginalized voices particularly within indigenous and rural communities.*



#### Mitchell

*I have completed 24 credit at Southeast Tech in Sioux Falls and plan to apply the credits I have received to pursue a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration at USD Sioux Falls. Financially things have been tough but I plan to continue to work while going to school! I have completed all of my coursework with A's and only need to pass my final tests to make it!*



#### Amber

*Having a higher education is very important to me because education is knowledge and knowledge is sacred. By the end of 2025 I will have my B.S. in Information Technology. My plan for after graduation is to find employment opportunities within my Tribe (Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe) or at our local I.H.S. in their I.T. Department. I want to foster positive identity development and help uphold the working force of women in the I.T. field.*



#### Tucker

*I am currently a second year student at Lake Area Technical College in the Diesel Technology program. I have always had the intention of working on agricultural equipment. I went to work for Titan Machinery and signed on as a Student Tech. I am obligated to Titan Machinery for 3 years following my graduation in May 2025. My plan is to fullfill my obligation to Titan and return to Higmore in order to give back to my community by keeping our local farmers up and running!*

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**Dalton**

*I have one semester left before entering the work force. My goal is to graduate from Eastern Wyoming College and return to Lower Brule and save to buy my own welding rig. My long term plan is to be able to provide welding services to agricultural operations!*



**Camryn**

*As a Native American woman from a small town in rural Oklahoma, my journey toward becoming a nurse is deeply rooted in my heritage and personal experiences. My mother's upbringing on the Cheyenne River reservation taught me the importance of resilience and community. These values have inspired my goal of becoming an ICU traveling nurse, a career where I can provide critical care and connect with diverse communities across the country.*



**Meghan**

*For the past 5 years I have been working with Native Youth, on and off the reservation through the Education and Human Services Fields. This has led me to strive for a bachelors and graduate degree in Social Work at the University of South Dakota so that I can assist them, through culture, language and traditional practices. I plan to incorporate these into my profession practices to assist people by providing therapy.*



**Charla**

*I am currently a junior at Oglala Lakota College He Sapa Campus, I plan to graduate with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration-Management. My educational interests are mainly focused on financial literacy among my Lakota People. I believe in the positive impact financial literacy can have on communities and families by empowering them to take control of their financial futures and build generational wealth.*