



Top left to right. Ben Richmond, Susanna Herndon, Tiffani Begay, Mike Alexander. Bottom left to right: Taylor Wingfield, Kendall Welliver, Marti Lindsey, Cheyenne Francisco-Grabiec, IngriQue Salt all showing Wildcat Spirit, "WC"

SWEHSC outreach & engagement

Letter from the Tribal Liaison

Ya'át' ééh áltaháásijígó, [greetings to all my brothers, sisters and existing living organisms],

The *Indigenous Stewards* magazine, in its third volume, continues to share the stories of tribal communities and individuals. The articles reflect various writing styles and cover a multitude of topics -- youth empowerment, environmental justice, advocacy, leadership, and how scholars are pursuing their journeys in STEM fields. In addition, beautiful images are shared that reflect youth, family, community, support and passion. The uniqueness of the magazine is that it not only features stories that are personal and relatable, but it also encompasses the importance of arts produced by Native community members and provides resources for readers. As Indigenous peoples, we have languages and ways of communication carried throughout generations. It is our oral stories, art, weaving, pottery, petroglyph's, baskets, and clothing that carry documentation of our tribal histories. That is how we have recorded our "data," information, knowledge, resources, and solutions to issues and potential challenges that we interact with daily.

Our history includes the removal of our peoples from our traditional lands. This has borne a plethora of constantly developing environmental issues that impact human health. With the removal came the placement of Indigenous peoples on reservations. All reservations are located on, near or bordering lands that contain natural resources that are scraped from our Mother Earth for her high value. Clean-up has often been inadequate and not properly performed. The result is issues that impact the lives of our children and elders---mentally, physically, emotionally and spiritually. Whether it be fish, seafood, metal, wood, minerals, energy and so on, the amount of resources extracted from the land is ever increasing.

The "Indigenous Stewards" in this magazine share their stories of Indigenous Peoples addressing environmental health, how the environment impacts human health and how we impact the environment. As you read these stories, you are also an Indigenous Steward through expanding your knowledge, expanding your points of view, planting that seed to be an agent of positive change to help combat environmental issues. All individuals have their stories of motivation, inspiration, environmental justice advocacy, and experiences that influence them to be Indigenous Stewards through education. That is what we would like to share.

On behalf of our entire SWEHSC team,
Ahe'hee'! [Thank you!]

Lók'aa' Dine'é - Áshjìhí - Bi't'ąanji - Tódich'iinji [I am of the Reed Clan, born for the Salt Clan, my maternal-grandfather is of the Leaf Clan and my paternal grand father is of the Bitter Water Clan]
IngriQue Salt, Diné