

# NATIVE ACTION NETWORK



**2010 ENDURING SPIRIT HONOREE,  
GLORIA SIMPSON (COLVILLE);**

**LEFT 2010 YOUNG WOMEN'S  
LEADERSHIP ACADEMY GRADUATES**

## 7th Annual Leadership Forum a Great Success

Native Action Network continued its tradition of hosting the annual Native Women's Leadership Forum & Enduring Spirit Honoring Luncheon on September 28-29th at the Tulalip Resort. Now in its 7th year, the Leadership Forum featured panelists from a wide range of experiences and backgrounds. Topics included: Protecting our Sacred Gifts, Protecting our Future Generations; Creating the Change We Want; Creating Environments for Educational Success;

Tutu and Me – A Hawaiian Approach to Education incorporating Culture, Elders, and Youth; and, the Tribal Law and Order Act to name a few.

A separate track for youth included workshops on: career options, job training, public speaking, college options, and safe relationships. The goal was to provide students with personal development and leadership training intended to plant the seeds for future success



**PAMELA JAMES**



**YOUTH ACADEMY**



**7TH ANNUAL**

*My best leadership strength is that I am motivated by people telling me it cannot be done! This inspires me to prove them wrong.*

~~~~2010 Youth Leadership Academy Alumni

while simultaneously exposing them to strong role models. During the youth breakfast past youth panelists, Paulette Jordan and Brooke Pinkham returned to share their stories with attendees. Today, Paulette serves on the Coeur D'Alene Tribal Council and Brooke is an attorney with Northwest Justice Project.

This year, our Hawaiian brothers and sisters from the Partners in Development Foundation (PID) shared their success with their traveling preschool program with us. Youth and care givers are supported through a comprehensive education program that infuses Native Hawaiian culture and values within the curriculum. As a result of their great work, thousands of young preschoolers were provided with a strong educational foundation to

*"Inspiring is a strength that is the foundation to all of my success"*

prepare them for kindergarten and beyond. This model can be replicated in our tribal communities as well. PID is interested in pursuing partnerships with tribes to share what they've learned over the years and would love to hear from you.

Once again the workshops provided at this year's session were informational, inspiring, and strengthened the sisterhood of women in attendance. Speakers included: university presidents, professors, attorneys, public servants, domestic violence professionals, and small business women.

We are grateful to all of the speakers that stepped forward to give of their time and expertise. You nurtured our spirits and inspired us all. Thank you all for the great work you do serving our community.

And, finally, a special thanks goes out to everyone that took two days out of their busy schedules to join us.

## HIGHLIGHTS



Photos by LaVerne Wise





## 2010 Enduring Spirit Award Honors Native Women

On September 28th during a special awards luncheon presentation, four Native women were honored for their lifetime achievements in addressing the needs of their people and communities. Through their work these amazing women have shared their talents, cultural knowledge, and expertise to positively impact: tribal self-determination, community health and wellness, the educational needs of youth, and the retention and preservation of culture. Honorees are nominated by their community for outstanding recognition of their lifelong contributions to building, strong, healthy Native communities.

The Enduring Spirit Award was created back in 2001 specifically to honor Native women who have devoted their lives to working for and on behalf of their communities by creating positive outcomes. In 2006, the Sister Spirit award was born to recognize women

who are forging new paths and new directions for Native people.

The featured keynote speaker was Bettina Carey, Founder and Chief EmPOWERment Officer of Women in Small Biz, a motivational & educational speaker who conducts keynote presentations & training programs that inspire, motivate and leave a lasting impression.

After a moving keynote, the honorees were introduced by their nominators who provided specific details about their life's work. Congratulations honorees and thanks for your important service.

### **Marlene Spencer Simla (Yakama).**

Marlene is a life long champion of children. She earned a BA degree in Humanities and later received a Child Development Associate degree. She is a past director of the Yakama Tribal Headstart program where she taught for 14

years. Her love of education led her to earn an MA in Education. As an active member of the Toppenish Historical Society, Marlene contributed to the publication "Toppenish – from Sagebrush to 1997"; she has conducted family research which was compiled into "The Legacy of Chief Spencer." Today, she devotes her time to youth and families, writes, paints, sculpts, and travels to historical sites on the Yakama Reservation. She engages youth in their culture through Cam Nak Nu We Sha and nurtures their personal development through the Independent Living Skills Project. Marlene supports youth not just by doing, but also by believing in them and ensuring they believe in themselves.

**Ileen Sylvester is Yup'ik, Athabaskan and Aleut.** She holds an MBA and is a leader in Alaska Native health care administration. She has served as the vice president of executive and tribal services for Southcentral Foundation since 1998.

She currently manages and directs the day-to-day operations of tribal relations and village initiatives for health care delivery to 55 rural villages, as well as traditional healing, youth and Elder programming, public relations, planning and grants, and more.

She has been a champion of self-determination and self-governance in tribal health care, and is a frequent speaker at meetings and conferences on the topic of health care solutions and innovations—most recently speaking at the National Congress of American Indians Mid-Year Conference and the National Indian Health Board's Consumer



Conference. In recognition of her outstanding leadership, Ileen was inducted into the YWCA Academy of Women Achievers alongside the Alaska Supreme Court's first female Chief Justice and other prominent Alaskans.

**Gloria Simpson (Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation Chief**

**Joseph Band of the Nez Perce)** Glo has been an inspiration to anyone who has met her, and is known near and far for her sense of humor and friendliness. Her life teachings have touched others in her walk of sobriety, traditional "Washut" religion, pow wow trailing in her younger years, attending self enrichment conferences, as well as mothering dozens of tribal kids while raising her own three sons, and later step sons as well.



Glo is a gatherer and a leader in the Nez Perce Longhouse. Members spend a good part of the year digging, picking, and cooking for the longhouse. She helps with sewing, cooking, or gathering things for a bundle in times of need. Her generosity is never ending.

Glo attended boarding school in Oklahoma for 3 years of her high school at Chilocco Indian School, near Ponca City, Oklahoma. She later went on to attend two years of college and countless training programs. Today, Glo is the Data Processing Manager of the D.P. program, which is really a misnomer as there are only 2 of them who work in her office. This 2-woman team handles programming for the accounting, accounts payable, purchasing, and payroll programs for the Colville tribal organization. They also help with risk management / benefits, enrollment, and the day-to-day reporting requirements of an automated tribal system.

**Deborah Parker (Tulalip)** Deborah is a multi-talented, passionate advocate for Native rights, civic participation, youth, and women's issues. She carries her great grandmothers Indian name "tsi-cy-altsa" and is an enrolled member of the Tulalip Tribes and is also of Yaqui/Apache descent. She holds a BA Degree from the University of Washington and currently serves as a Legislative Policy Analyst with the Tulalip Tribe.



Deborah was instrumental in developing the Tulalip Tribal Tobacco program that incorporated culture into the teachings and she took it upon herself to create curriculum on how to use tobacco in a traditional way and not abuse it. She strengthened relationships and partnerships with the local Health District and state that resulted in national recognition for the Tobacco Program.

In 2006, Deborah worked with a team of Native colleagues to form Native Vote Washington as a 501 (c)(4) organization to encourage Indian participation in the political process. Today, Native Vote Washington's work has created a public relations campaign on the importance of the Native Vote and serves as a model for other states to follow.

Most recently, Deborah worked to address racism in the local school district. She created testimony, media events, and synergy that focused on providing a safe, welcome and nurturing environment for Native students to learn free from the biased attitudes of those making key decisions on their behalf.

**A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO  
OUR YOUTH ACADEMY  
FACULTY**

- Pam James*
- Julie Johnson*
- Deborah Juarez*
- Theresa Sheldon*
- Deborah Parker*
- Dr. Charlotte Cote, U of WA*
- Molly Cohan, U of WA*
- Dr. Cheryl Crazy Bull,  
President, NW Indian  
College*
- Nicole Baker, NWIC*
- Brook Waite Keller, NWIC*
- Krista Mahle, NWIC*
- Lyn Dennis*
- Gaard Swanson*
- Leilani Walkush*

- Dr. Cassandra Manuelito-  
Kerkvliet*
- Johnpaul Jones*
- Paulette Jordan*
- Brooke Pinkham*
- Jodi Rave*
- Velma RealBird*
- Star Nayea*

**OUR CHAPERONES**

- LoVina Louie*
- Mary Wilber*
- Cindy Pederson*
- Michelle Brandser*
- Juanita Brown*
- Shana Barehand*
- Holly Stanton*

**VOLUNTEERS**

- LaVerne Wise*
- Cheyenne Sanders*
- Michelle Dawson*
- Joey Ketah*
- Cher Ketah*

**PRESENTERS**

- Dr. Cheryl Crazy Bull*
- Dee Koester*
- Christina Parker*
- Julia Kellison*
- Nicole McGrath*
- Jennifer Yogi*
- Bettina Carey*
- Helen Fenrich*
- Danny Goya*
- Millie Kennedy*
- Christine Kerline*

- Shelley Means*
- Gail Omoto*
- Robbie Paul*
- Laura Perry*
- Jessica Porter*
- Renee Roman Nose*
- Valerie Segrest*
- Marjorie Sheldon*
- Gail Small*
- Kia Ratliffe*
- Denise Stiffarm*
- Joan Staples-Baum*
- Leah Henry Tanner*
- Crystal Tetrick*
- Renee Swan Waite*
- Marie Zackuse*

# Youth Academy Graduates 26 Students

Native Action Network realized one of its long term goals this year by instituting our first ever Young Native Women's Leadership Academy. The intent was to nurture a new generation of female leaders by providing them with personal and professional development training that incorporated traditional leadership components along with a background in federal Indian policy and sovereignty perspectives.

On Sunday, September 26<sup>th</sup>, twenty-six young women, representing 19 different tribal communities from around the country, gathered at the Tulalip Resort for their first day of leadership training. With applications from Alaska, Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and California the women selected represented a wide range of cultures, interests, traditions, and goals. All students were accepted on a scholarship that covered conference fees, materials, Nation Action Network gear, meals, and hotel for out of town participants.

The Leadership Academy was designed to empower young women as they continue their journey to become leaders of their community. Today, over 65% of the Native population is under 25 years old. In this rising generation, Native women are preparing to take lead of Native communities, cultures, and current issues. As a community, Native Action Network is committed to uniting behind our youth as they prepare to lead Indian Country to new heights and accomplishments.

To be admitted to the Academy, women were subject to a competitive selection process. Sophomores in high school through juniors in college/university were encouraged to apply. Each applicant provided a detailed outline of their educational history, community involvement and leadership potential.

In addition, students submitted an essay that narrated their educational and professional goals for the future.

The theme for this year's Academy was "Declare Your Power, Define Your Future." Beginning Sunday evening, students attended eleven workshops that were designed to strengthen their understanding of money, popular media, personal development, goal setting, leadership, tribal sovereignty, tribal legal cases, State legislation, networking, and self-expression.

Participants were exposed to a vast network of talented Native professionals in their workshops that included a visioning session under the direction of Northwest Indian College president Cheryl CrazyBull and her staff. Through a hands on exploration of their future possibilities the young women artistically visualized their future 5, 10, and 15 years from now.

Monday evening's graduation ceremony hosted by Cassandra Manuelito-Kervliet, president of Antioch University Seattle, inducted Academy participants into the sisterhood of Native women through ceremony and a recognition of their accomplishments. Graduates were gifted with Native Action Network jackets, duffle bags, mirrors, water bottles and a certificate documenting their accomplishments.

On Tuesday, Native Grammy-winning singer/songwriter Star Nayea worked with the ladies to create an original song of empowerment made up entirely of contributions by participants. Sharing her own personal story, Star imparted the power self-expression through song with her own journey of healing and growth. During Tuesday's closing sessions, Star sang the Academy's final song written entirely by the Leadership Academy of 2010. A powerful moment for all, the

words of humility, hope for the future and pride in culture, provided a perfect ending to three-days of training, learning, and sharing.

The Class of 2010 is a welcome addition to the Native Action Network community. We look forward to hearing of their continued success and sharing updates with you through our facebook site - Native Action Network.

*We give our sincerest thanks to the Tribes, Suquamish Tribe, and Muckleshoot tribe for their support as Founding Members of the Young Native Women's Leadership Academy.*

Native Action Network is a grassroots volunteer organization that promotes civic participation and leadership development through ongoing forums, workshops, and honoring sessions.

The Network is staffed by committed community volunteers who give of their time, energy, and expertise to make a positive impact on community affairs.

For more information on the 7th Annual Native Women's Leadership Forum and a listing of the agenda and presenters visit our website at:

[www.enduringspirit.org](http://www.enduringspirit.org)

Join us on Facebook --- Native Action Network

# LEADERSHIP HIGHLIGHTS



## 2010 SPONSORS

SUQUAMISH TRIBE



MUCKLESHOOT TRIBE

TULALIP TRIBE



SQUAXIN ISLAND TRIBE



SPIRITWALK

WILLIAMS KASTNER  
BANK OF AMERICA

## Sponsor Recognition

As we say goodbye to 2010 and welcome in 2011, we give thanks to those that made the Annual Native Women's Leadership Forum a great success! We especially would like to recognize the Suquamish, Muckleshoot, and Tulalip Tribes who stepped forward as founding members of our Young Women's Leadership Academy! With your support we are nurturing up and coming leaders and providing them with opportunities to expand their personal and professional development.

We continue to engage our first alumni class by highlighting successes and accomplishments, informing them of opportunities, and in the future, we will reunite them for professional development training.

We also recognize our supporting sponsors who stepped forward and sponsored our youth breakfast and Enduring Spirit Luncheon. With your support we not only recognized our young women, but paid tribute to Native

women who have devoted their lives to serving Native people.

Thank you all for your support!

