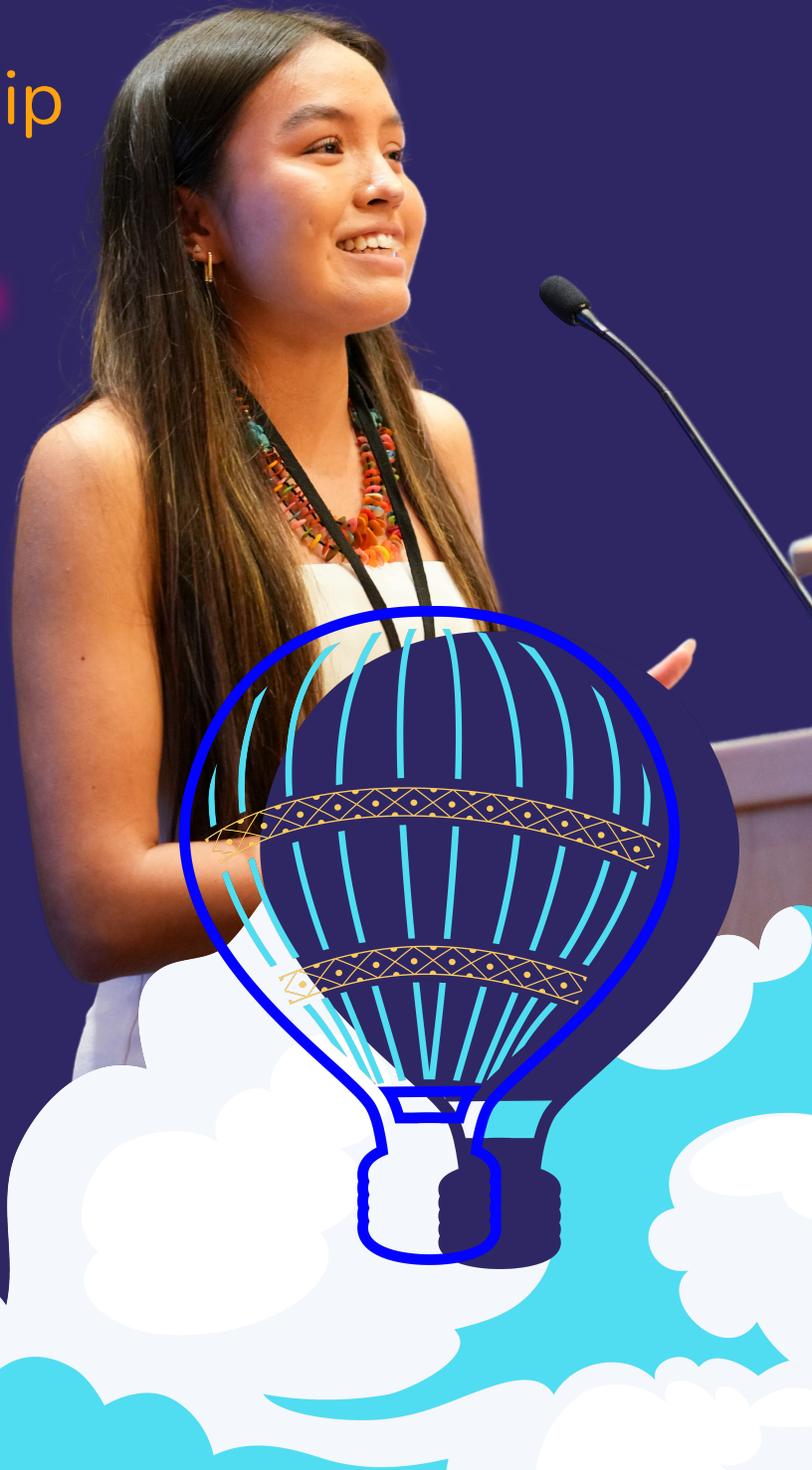


# 2024 Impact report

Business & Leadership  
Student Conference

Light up your Leadership!

Las Vegas | May 11-12



# CONFERENCE RECAP

The AIBL Business & Leadership Student Conference is crucial to fulfilling the mission of AIBL: to empower the Indigenous spirit through business leadership. At the conference, school-based AIBL Chapter members link their traditional school coursework with business and entrepreneurship education in a way that expands their skill set beyond traditional academic methods. Additionally, it serves as a valuable networking opportunity for emerging business leaders to network with like-minded peers and established professionals.

This year's conference was in partnership with the Reservation Economic Summit (RES). RES is a multifaceted event from the National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development (NCAIED) featuring access to respected tribal leaders, members of Congress, federal agency representatives, state and local elected officials, and top CEOs. With over 4,000 attendees at RES, our students were able to network, meet, and hear inspiring words from top business leaders in Indian Country.

Our conference was held on the traditional homelands of the Nuwuvi, or Southern Paiute. All activities, keynote presentations, and workshops were made possible through the generous donations of our sponsors and AIBL Board Members.

## FIRESIDE CHAT | DECOLONIZING WEALTH PROJECT: EDGAR VILLANUEVA

Moderated by Chaparral High School Student: Talon



# THANKS TO OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS



SHAKOPEE MDEWAKANTON  
SIOUX COMMUNITY



CAESARS  
ENTERTAINMENT®



Washington State  
Department of  
**Commerce**



**NATIVE FORWARD**  
SCHOLARS FUND



# ACENDA



## MONDAY, MARCH 11

### 7-8:20am - Promenade Level

Registration-Pompeian Hallway  
Breakfast (provided)-Roman Ballroom

### 8:30-10am - Promenade Level

Opening Assembly-Pompeian Ballroom  
MC Opening | Christian Rangel  
Welcome | Prairie Blount  
Welcome & Prayer | Dave Archambault Sr.  
Welcome | Rulon Pete & Chris James  
Keynote | John Guyan  
Fireside Chat | Edgar Villanueva

### 10:15-noon - Promenade Level

Chapter of the Year Competition-Pompeian Ballroom

### noon-12:45pm - Pool & Promenade Levels

Lunch (provided)  
Students, Professionals-Julius Ballroom  
Advisors-Pisa room  
Board of Directors-Palermo room

### 1-2pm - Promenade Level

Student Business Leadership Panel-Pompeian Ballroom

### 2-4:30pm - Promenade Level

Business Plan Competition-Pompeian Ballroom

### 5-7pm - Pool & Promenade South Levels

RES Tradeshow Reception-Julius Ballroom  
Professional Headshots-Julius Foyer  
Native Art Market-Octavius Foyer

## TUESDAY, MARCH 12

### 9-10:45am - Promenade Level

Opening Assembly-Pompeian Ballroom  
MC Opening | Talon Watchman  
Welcome | Dr. Larry Gianchetta & Don Meyer  
Guest Speakers | Angelique Albert, Tammi Tiger, Danielle Finn, Michelle Van Pelt  
Keynote | Amber Eagleboy

### 11-noon - RES Sessions\*

### noon-12:45pm

Lunch (on own)

### 1-2pm - Promenade Level

Elevator Pitch Competition-Pompeian Ballroom

### 2-5pm - Various Levels

RES Sessions\*  
University of Nevada, Las Vegas Tour Invitation

### 6-8:30pm - Promenade Level

Awards Banquet Dinner (provided)  
Entertainment | Paul Steward  
Welcome | Talon Watchman & Prairie Blount  
Student Speakers | Denmi Whiteman, Waycen Owens-Cyr, Kamia Leano, Lillian Hall  
Competition Awards | Prairie Blount



# IMPACT NUMBERS



227

BUSINESS LEADERS  
IMPACTED



81%

OF ATTENDEES  
IDENTIFIED  
AS NATIVE



30

CHAPTERS IN  
ATTENDANCE



30%

INCREASE IN CHAPTER  
ATTENDANCE FROM  
2023 TO 2024



47

TRIBAL NATIONS  
REPRESENTED



76%

OF ATTENDEES IDENTIFY  
AS EMBODYING AN  
ENTREPRENEURIAL SPIRIT

# STUDENT LEADERS

This year, AIBL incorporated student roles into the conference experience to gain and strengthen valuable leadership, presentation, and project management skills. Roles included:



MASTER OF CEREMONY  
CHRISTIAN



STAGE MANAGER  
ESMARIE



SETUP REGISTRATION  
MAKIYA



SETUP REGISTRATION  
RANDY



AV TECH  
ASHLEY



SOCIAL MEDIA  
FREDERIKA



MASTER OF CEREMONY  
TALON



STAGE MANAGER  
PAIGE



AV TECH  
MELISSA



SOCIAL MEDIA  
ANDREW

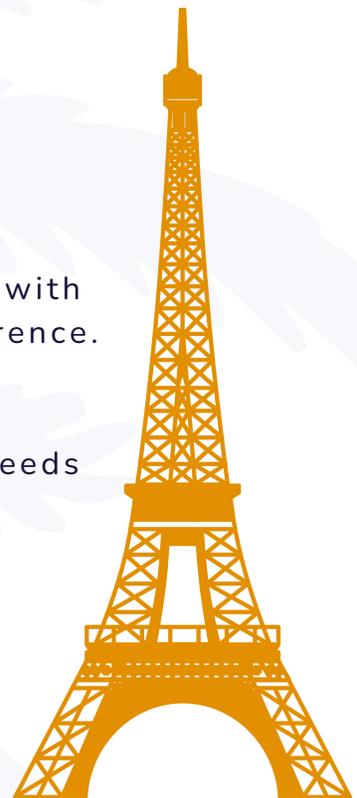
**MC** | Introduce speakers and competitions while keeping the conference moving forward.

**Setup + Registration** | Set up the conference space, hand out badges, and check in participants for the awards banquet.

**AV + Tech** | Cue on-screen presentations, time stage walk ups with music bringing an important ambiance and energy to the conference.

**Stage Assistant** | Organize and raffle swag items to audience members, support the MC and judges while taking care of all needs near the stage.

**Social Media** | Document the conference experience to outside viewers through AIBL's social media channels.



# STUDENT LEADER

## WORDS OF IMPACT



AIBL was a life-changing experience that opened my eyes. I was happy to be part of it, thank you.

**ANDREW: SOCIAL MEDIA MANAGER**



Thank you for the opportunity to participate in the AIBL conference. It was an incredible experience and I am so happy to have had the chance to be a part of this event. This experience was way out of my comfort zone but I feel like I grew both personally and professionally.

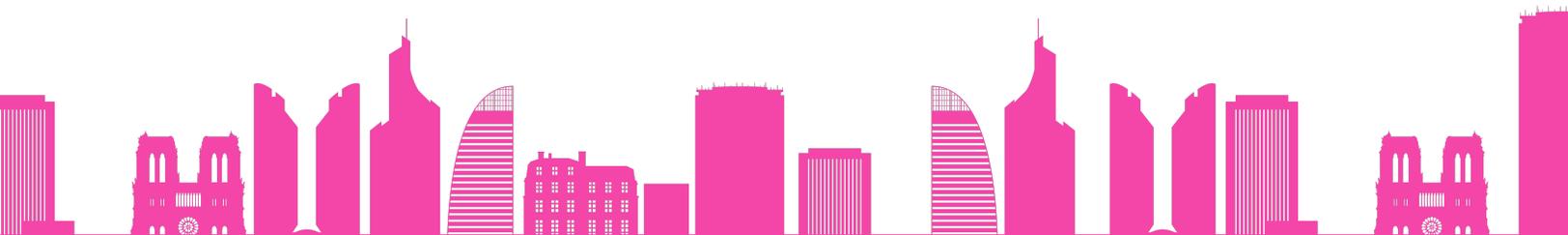
**TALON: MC + MODERATOR**



I had such an amazing time at the AIBL conference this year. You are changing lives. It was an honor to be able to sit on the student leadership panel with such polished students.

This conference has helped me realize that not only do I have a passion for cybersecurity, but a passion in the business industry as well. It has me thinking about minoring in business and maybe one day opening up my own.

**AALIYAH: STUDENT PANEL**



# INFLUENTIAL SPEAKERS

- **Las Vegas Indian Center:** Rulon Pete
- **The National Center:** Chris James
- **Central Intelligence Agency:** John Guyant
- **Decolonizing Wealth Project:** Edgar Villanueva
- **Nike:** Leo Pichette
- **Native Forward:** Sara LaBarge
- **UNLV:** Tammi Tiger & Danielle Finn
- **Cobell Scholarship:** Michelle Van Pelt
- **UNITY:** Mary Kim Titla
- **Synchrony Financial:** Amber Eagleboy





# TOP TIER JUDGES

## CHAPTER OF THE YEAR

- **Washington State Department of Commerce:** Michelle Gladstone-Wade
- **Synchrony Financial:** Amber Eagleboy
- **Synchrony Financial:** Princess Drevet

## ELEVATOR PITCH

- **Synchrony Financial:** Amber Eagleboy
- **Synchrony Financial:** Princess Drevet
- **Caesars Entertainment:** Greg Shinbur
- **Caesars Entertainment:** Heather Rapp

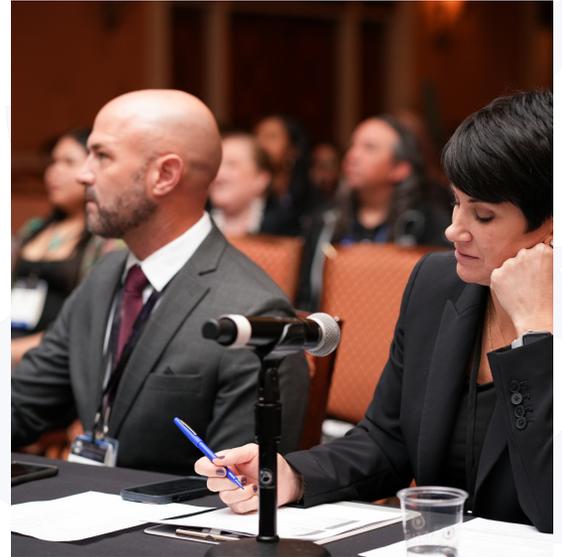
## BUSINESS PLAN

- **RedStreak LLC:** Sam Woods
- **National Native American Human Resources:** Tal Moore
- **CFproductions LLC:** Cherylee Francis
- **Auntie Creations:** Lynn Traylor
- **Mox.E & Entrenuity Inc.:** Haley Garcia
- **AC Hotel Phoenix Downtown:** Lisa Tsosie
- **National Tribal Energy Association:** Daniel Cardenas
- **Tallsalt Advisors:** Delmar Blackhorse



76%

OF JUDGES IDENTIFIED AS INDIGENOUS



# COMPETITION WINNERS

## BUSINESS PLAN



**1** HIGH SCHOOL  
MADRAS HIGH SCHOOL

Students increase their knowledge and enhance business, leadership, and entrepreneurial experience. The competition is an educational experience for students to learn the process of creating and presenting a business plan.



**1** UNIVERSITY  
UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA FAIRBANKS



**2** UNIVERSITY  
MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY - BOZEMAN



**3** UNIVERSITY  
MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY - BILLINGS



**1** TRIBAL COLLEGE  
SITTING BULL COLLEGE



**2** TRIBAL COLLEGE  
SALISH KOOTENAI COLLEGE



**3** TRIBAL COLLEGE  
HASKELL INDIAN NATIONS UNIVERSITY

# COMPETITION WINNERS

## CHAPTER OF THE YEAR

Students highlight the unique and dedicated work of their AIBL Chapter by summarizing yearly leadership activities including educational activities, community service projects, social activities, fundraising efforts, and integration of Indigenous culture.



**UNIVERSITY**  
**FORT LEWIS COLLEGE**



**TRIBAL COLLEGE**  
**NORTHWEST INDIAN COLLEGE**



# COMPETITION WINNERS

## ELEVATOR PITCH

Individual students give a 60-second speech about a business idea, plan, or project, what they would do, and why someone should hire, partner, invest, or collaborate with them.

The competition is an experience for students to learn the process of quickly pitching their concept if fate placed them in an elevator with their dream prospect - where they only have the time it takes to get from the bottom to the top of the building.



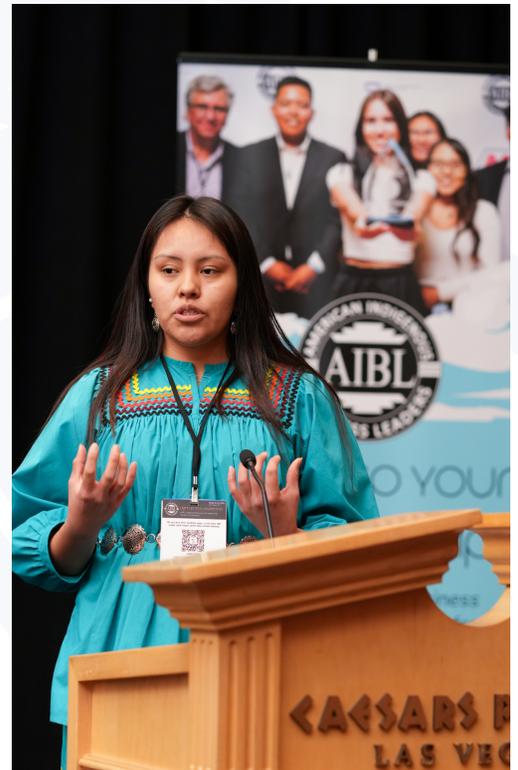
**DANTE**  
AANIHH NAKODA  
COLLEGE



**ALEXIS**  
AANIHH NAKODA  
COLLEGE



**MORGAN**  
AANIHH NAKODA  
COLLEGE



# AWARDS BANQUET



# ATTENDEE COMMENTARY

## WHAT DID YOU LIKE ABOUT THE AIBL CONFERENCE?

- Students were involved as speakers.
- RES sessions were open to AIBL students.
- Different kinds of speakers were highlighted and the potential amount of networking that could be done.
- Hear what other AIBL chapters come up with along with hearing from the judges.
- Opportunity for aspiring entrepreneurs to gain knowledge and experience.
- Guest speakers from all kinds of organizations, companies, and students. There are so many giving their advice, stories, and resources.
- Student panel. It was inspiring to see what the future holds.

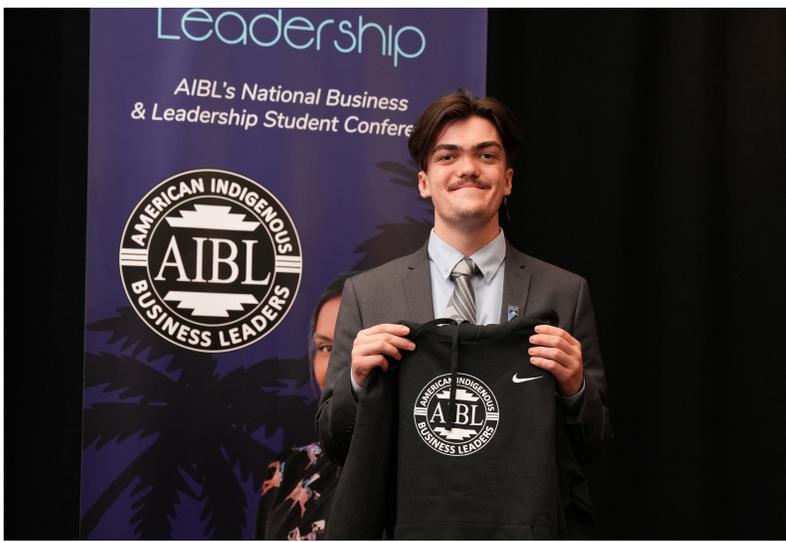


# ATTENDEE COMMENTARY

## WHAT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT LESSON THAT YOU LEARNED AT THE AIBL CONFERENCE?

- Importance of networking.
- How to speak in public.
- It is okay to make mistakes and be nervous. Everyone else there is just the same and you can only learn from your mistakes.
- Stay true to yourself.
- Progress not perfection.
- How to be comfortable being Native American and not to be afraid to show it when I go places.
- Amount of different scholarships available to students.
- How to approach presentations and speeches.
- There are amazing Native student entrepreneurs.
- Job opportunities with well respected companies.









# 2024 Impact report

Empowering the Indigenous spirit  
through business leadership

[AIBL.ORG](http://AIBL.ORG)

