

Native Youth Community Adaptation and Leadership Congress


NYCALC
2019
Report



What is NYCALC?

Native Youth Community Adaptation and Leadership Congress (NYCALC) is a week-long conference with Native American, Alaskan Native, and Pacific Islander high school students interested in environmental issues, natural resource conservation, community leadership, and public service. The conference takes place at the National Conservation Training Center, located in Shepherdstown, West Virginia and is sponsored by the Fish & Wildlife Service, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and several other agencies.

The Chickasaw Nation, as a consortium member of the South Central Climate Adaptation Science Center (SC CASC), together supported six people to attend NYCALC 2019. This included two Chickasaw employees (April Taylor and Kylie Arter), two SC CASC employees (Maurice Cruz and Gabriel Pelayo), an intern from the Bureau of Indian Affairs (Tyler Delmedico), and a SC CASC sponsored Speaker (Devon Parfait).



South Central Climate Adaptation Science Center Tribal Liaisons (pictured above)

April Taylor – Chickasaw Nation
April.Taylor@Chickasaw.net

Maurice Cruz – University of Oklahoma
Maurice.P.Cruz-1@OU.edu

For more information visit:
<https://www.nycalc.org>



Devon Parfait – Speaker

Devon is a citizen of the Grand Caillou/Dulac Band of Biloxi Chitimacha Choctaw Indian Tribe. Which is one of the five Louisiana tribes in talks of relocating due to sea level rise and subsidence. He is using his knowledge of GIS to develop maps to show the loss of land in his community throughout the years, while continuing to further his education to benefit his tribe.





Left to Right: April Taylor, Tyler Delmedico, Gabriel Pelayo, Kylie Arter, Devon Parfait, Maurice Cruz



SC CASC Workshops

Rain Harvesting – By: Gabriel Pelayo



Many communities rely on rain harvesting as a way to catch the rain and save it for daily use. This workshop shows how rain harvesting can be used in everyday life and it demonstrates how to harvest your own rain using a first-flush, filters, and other techniques to insure that the water is safe to use.



Storytelling – By: Kylie Arter

As the world changes, the importance of Native storytelling becomes more important. Words and phrases of the language of our people may become lost and the future generations would not learn from our past if it wasn't for storytellers. This workshop helps the students to tell their own story of how climate change has impacted their community and communities around them. Students told how Alaska is having warmer days which makes timing of berries harvesting uncertain or how in Oregon the salmon are going deeper underwater which makes it hard to catch salmon when fishing.

Cultural Gathering

Everyone is encouraged to participate in the Cultural Gathering presented on the last night of the Congress. With native regalia shipped from all across the U.S. and territories, tribes show off their culture in unique ways. Many dance and sing, while others read stories and poems. It shows the diversity of the over 30 tribes represented in the congress.



Gourd and water drum from Gabriel Pelayo (The Osage Nation)

Students Projects

At the beginning of the week students are asked a question to reflect on. This year's question was "As future leaders, how can you use your voice and skills to make a difference for the environment, while continuing to respect your culture and strengthen your sovereignty?" Students are grouped together to present a presentation, as a team, to answer this question.