

Summary Report of the Statewide Multicultural Youth Summit and Powwow Survey
Nevada Native Youth Community Project
RMC Research Corporation
April 2019

Overview of the Statewide Multicultural Youth Summit and Powwow

The four-day Statewide Multicultural Youth Summit and Powwow was held April 11-14, 2019 at the Exhibit Hall in Winnemucca, Nevada. Approximately 40 people attended each day of the Summit, including students, parents/guardians, and several educators. Following the Summit, a two-day Powwow was held, with over 100 people in attendance each day.

Day one of the Summit began with a continental breakfast, welcome, opening prayer, and opening remarks. Day one sessions focused on bullying, discrimination, dropout prevention, life skills, dorm life, and listening/study skills. In the evening, entertainment included Basque and Spanish dance performances, as well as a Western Heritage performance.

Day two began with breakfast, an opening ceremony and opening remarks. Day two sessions addressed leading a mission driven life, vocational training and college opportunities, financial aid, life-saving skills, building credit/money management, self-empowerment, and Native American success in post-secondary education.



Pyramid Lake High School students, introduced by teacher Teresa Wright, share a traditional basket song and dance.

Photo by Fredina Drye-Romero

Following the Summit, on days three and four, a Powwow and wellness walk was held. The Powwow featured the honoring of Tribal Elders and veterans, inter-tribal dancing, numerous dancing groups of all ages, ethnic group performances, a community potluck dinner, awards and recognitions. Session topics and facilitators for days one and two of the Youth Summit are presented in Table 1.

Table 1
Statewide Multicultural Youth Summit Session Topics and Facilitators

Topic	Facilitator
Day One:	
<i>Keynote Address: Powerful Steps to Prevent Bullying and Dropping Out</i>	AC Cristales, Independent Consultant, Wylie, TX
<i>Life Skills - How to Live Independently</i>	Nevada Urban Indians
<i>Living the Dorm Life</i>	Kristina Thuemler, Family Resource Center, Elko, NV
<i>The Significance of Maintaining Your GPA</i>	McDermitt Combined Schools
<i>Listening and Study Skills</i>	Great Basin College – Winnemucca Campus
<i>Bullying and Discrimination</i>	Saundra Mitrovich, Indigenous Student Services, University of Nevada - Reno
<i>Shooting the West - Professional Photography Demonstration</i>	David and Liz Sinclair
Day Two:	
<i>Keynote Address: Turning Dreams Into a Mission Driven Life</i>	AC Cristales, Independent Consultant, Wylie, TX
<i>Vocational Occupation Vs. College</i>	Great Basin College – Winnemucca Campus
<i>Don't Be a One-Trick Pony</i>	Levi Blackwolf, Independent Consultant
<i>Financial Aid 101</i>	Ruben Little Head, Independent Consultant
<i>Learning Life Saving Skills</i>	Winnemucca EMS
<i>How to Build and Keep Good Credit</i>	Nevada State Bank, Winnemucca Branch
<i>Money Management</i>	Nevada State Bank, Winnemucca Branch
<i>Self-empowerment and Growth</i>	Taylor Baker, Student, University of Nevada - Reno
<i>Native American Success in Post-secondary Education</i>	Chris Scribe, Director, Indian Teacher Education Program, University of Saskatchewan



During a breakout session, Tayloure Baker, University of Nevada, Reno student and Miss Indian World Candidate, provides an inspirational message to youth and community members.
Photo by Fredina Drye-Romero

Attendee Perceptions of the Multicultural Youth Summit

At the conclusion of the Summit, attendees were asked to complete a survey (Attachment A). There were 28 respondents. Of these, 17 (61%) are female, and 11 (39%) are male. Seven (25%) are in grades 5-8, six (21%) are in grades 10-12, and the remaining 15 (54%) are adults. The vast majority identified as belonging to the Paiute/Shoshone Tribes. Also represented were the Hoopu Valley, Tyme Maidn, and Navajo Tribes. An item-by-item reporting of the results is found in Tables 2 and 3. Attachment B contains all respondent comments.

Overall, attendee perceptions of the Summit were very favorable, with 95% or more agreeing, at least somewhat, to all 12 of the survey items relating to the quality of the Summit (Table 2). The highest percentage (64%) *strongly agreed* that the presenters were knowledgeable. Fewer attendees (36%) *strongly agreed* that their content knowledge increased as a result of their attending the Summit.

Table 2
Attendee Perceptions of the Statewide Multicultural Youth Summit

Topic	N Respondents	% Strongly Agree	% Somewhat Agree	% Somewhat Disagree	% Strongly Disagree
Excellent quality	27	52	44	4	0
Summit was helpful	28	57	43	0	0
Content was meaningful	28	54	46	0	0
Summit was interesting	28	50	46	4	0
Knowledgeable presenters	28	64	36	0	0
Engaging presenters	28	43	54	4	0
Adequate time for questions	28	54	43	4	0
Adequate time for talking with other attendees	28	50	46	4	0
Increased my knowledge of Summit content	28	36	61	4	0
Plan to use what I learned	28	43	57	0	0
Time was well spent	28	50	46	4	0
Would recommend this Summit to a friend	28	57	39	4	0

Note: Percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding.



*Breakout session attendees pose for a lighthearted picture with presenter Tayloure Baker.
 Photo by Fredina Drye-Romero*

Attendees were also asked to provide personal reflections about the impact of the Summit. Table 3 contains their responses. Perceptions of the Summit were very favorable, with all respondents agreeing, at least somewhat, to 9 of the 10 survey items relating to the impact of the Summit. The highest percentage (71%) *strongly agreed* that attending the Summit increased their motivation to attend college or technical school. Fewer attendees (48%) *strongly agreed* that attending the Summit taught them to better understand how to advocate for themselves.

Table 3
Attendee Perceptions of the Impact of the Statewide Multicultural Youth Summit

Attending the Summit helped me to...	N Respondents	% Strongly Agree	% Somewhat Agree	% Somewhat Disagree	% Strongly Disagree
Develop my leadership skills.	25	52	48	0	0
Better understand how to advocate for myself.	23	48	52	0	0
Increase my ability to control my future.	25	60	40	0	0
Improve my relationships with other students.	25	56	44	0	0
Better understand about my health and wellness.	26	58	42	0	0
Improve my academic skills.	24	63	38	0	0
Increase my confidence in my academic ability.	24	58	42	0	0
Increase my commitment to graduate from high school.	24	63	38	0	0
Increase my <i>motivation</i> to attend college or technical school.	24	71	29	0	0
Increase my <i>readiness</i> to attend college or technical school.	24	58	38	4	0

An analysis of the attendees’ comments confirmed that the Summit was very well received. Twenty-one attendees offered commentary on the most important thing that they learned at the Summit. Topics most often mentioned included: (a) self-empowerment and being inspired by the content; (b) life-saving skills; (c) finances/money management; and (d) the importance of education. Only a few suggestions were made for improving the Summit. These included offering sessions on basket weaving, additional sessions on bullying and cultural activities, more interactive activities, more opportunities for youth and adults to interact, more drinks, and a smaller space so that small groups could better interact. Additionally, one attendee suggested that the event be held closer to McDermitt, “so a larger amount of children would be involved.”



Student royalty pose with Tayloure Baker prior to the First Powwow Grand Entry.

Photo by Fredina Drye-Romero.

Attendees were also asked to list topics and speakers they would be interested in seeing at future events. The speakers most often mentioned by the ten who responded to the question included AC Cristales and the photographers who had presented about their craft. Topics of interest for future events included Tribal government and sovereignty; and the making of baskets, costumes, and uniforms for dancing. Several attendees offered praise and thanks for the Summit:

Conference staff were great! Friendly and helpful.

It was awesome and fun.

It was great overall.

Summary of the Multicultural Youth Summit

Overall, the Statewide Multicultural Youth Summit was very well received by the attendees. Attendee perceptions of the Summit were very favorable, with 95% or more agreeing, at least somewhat, to all 12 of the survey items relating to the quality of the Summit. All agreed, at least somewhat, to 9 of the 10 survey items relating to the impact of the Summit. Attendees offered commentary on topics they learned about, those which they are interested in learning more about, as well as suggestions for improvement of the Summit.