



**TRIBAL YOUTH
RESOURCE CENTER**

www.TribalYouth.org

RESILIENCY THROUGH ADVOCACY: THE IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON COMMUNITY HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Shace Duncan, Youth Ambassador, Tribal Youth Resource Center, Founder and Vice President of 7 Ravens non-profit

Sam Schimmel, Youth Ambassador, Tribal Youth Resource Center

Kaitlin Martinez, Youth Ambassador Mentor, Tribal Youth Resource Center

Bella Fridia, Youth Ambassador, Tribal Youth Resource Center



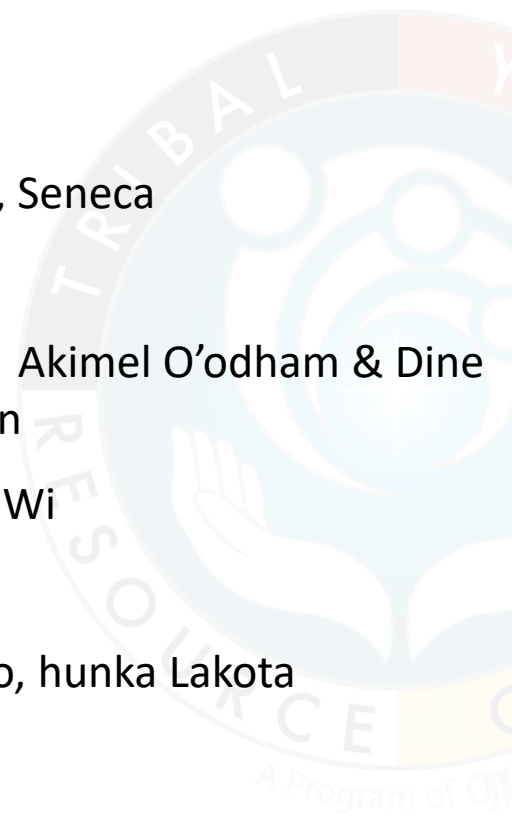
▶ OVERVIEW

- Introduction
 - Where we come from
- Our connection to land as Indigenous people
- The United States Government's attempts at disconnecting us from the land
- How Western ideologies are affecting land negatively
 - Extortion of land as leading to climate change
 - How this affects marginalized native communities
- Diaspora of disconnection
- How this is affecting Native and Indigenous youth
- What we are doing to combat colonial mindsets on climate justice and their negative effects on Indigenous folks: importance of Tribal Youth Programs

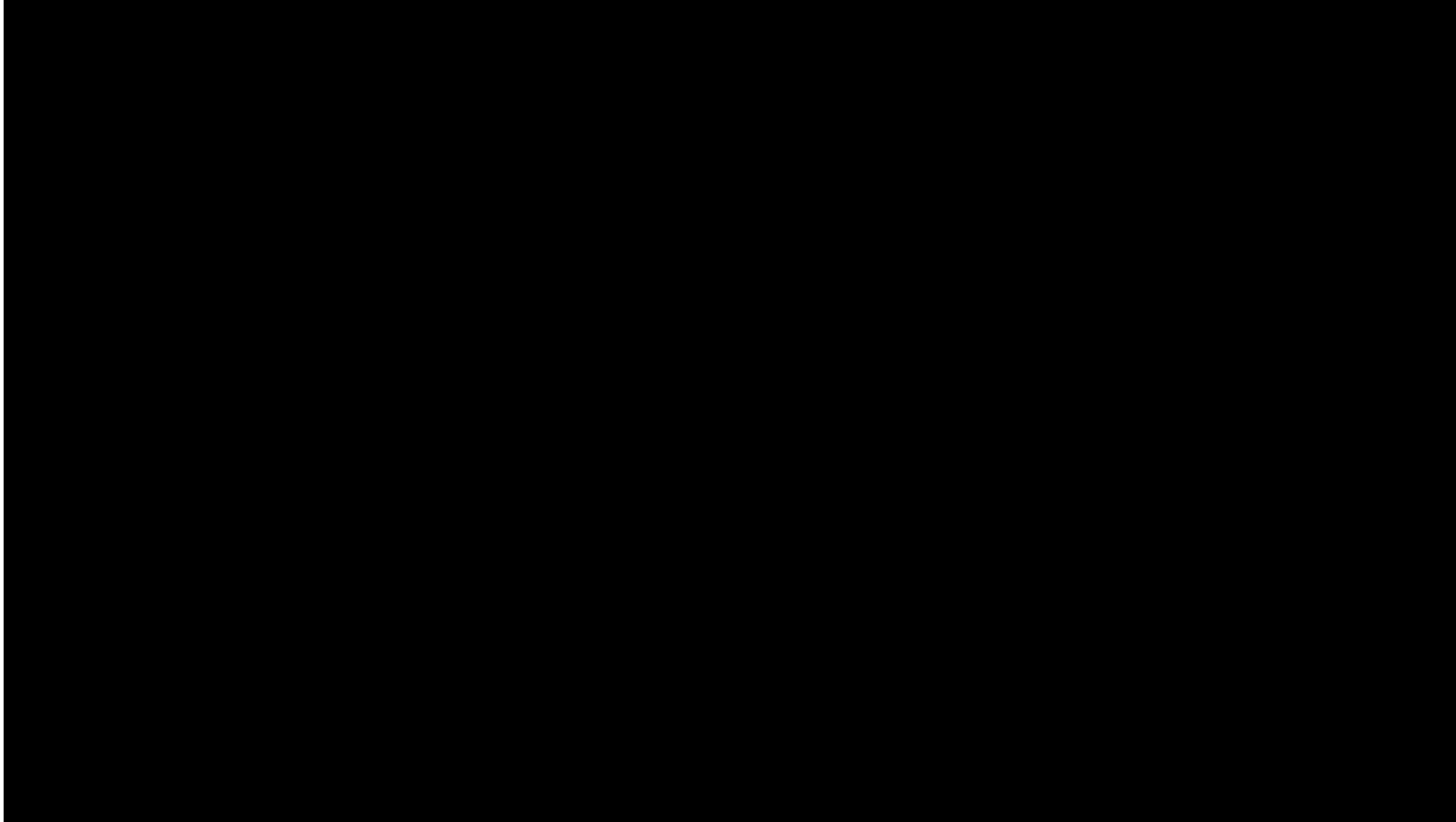


WHO ARE WE

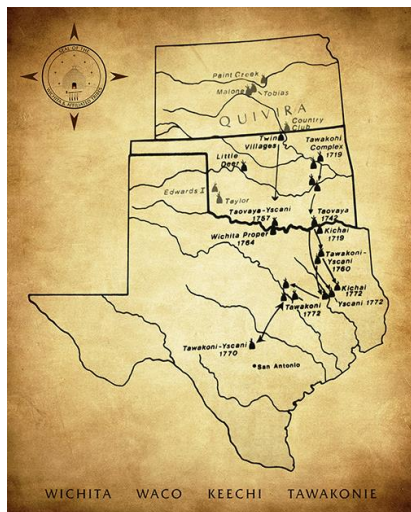
- Shace Duncan / Anagali Dvgi
Stilwell, OK (Adair County)
Keetoowah, Muskogee Creek, Seneca
- Kaitlin Martinez
Gila River Indian Community Akimel O’odham & Dine
Born for the ban (coyote) clan
- Bella Fridia / Hanhe Wi Iyoyanpa Wi
Denver, Colorado
Wichita (Waco), Kiowa, Caddo, hunka Lakota
- Sam Schimmel
Kenai, AK
Siberian Yupik



▶ SAM SCHIMMEL'S INTRODUCTION



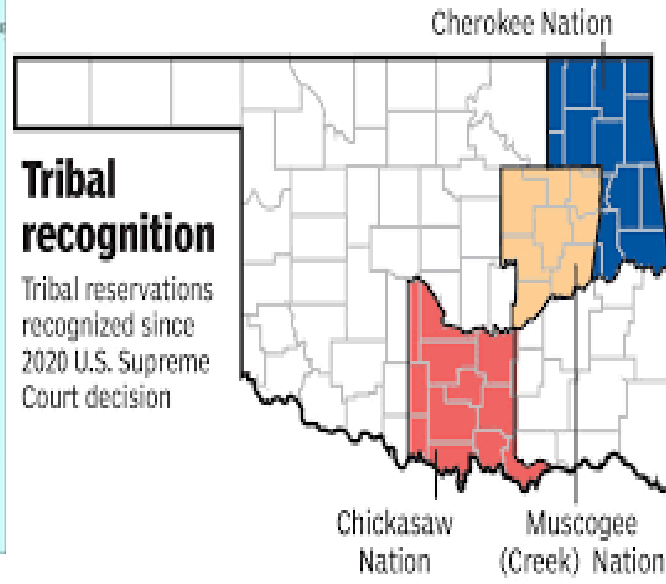
▶ THE LAND WE COME FROM

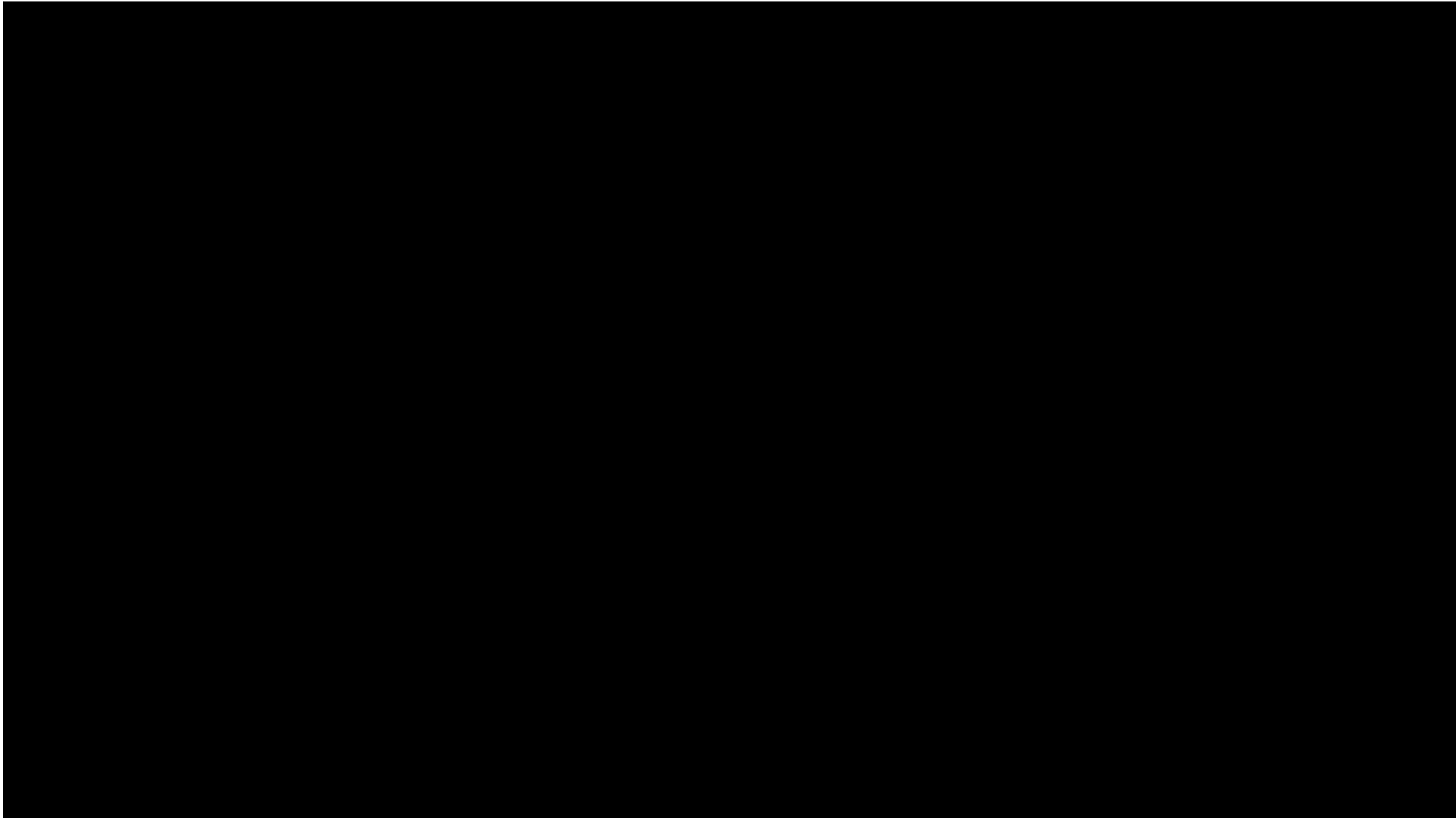


Ancestral Homelands



Reservation today





▶ WE ARE ONE WITH THE LAND

- We use land as a form of healing
 - Going to water
- Our traditional foods stem from centuries of knowing the lands
- Our medicines are regional and are what we use to heal
 - Physically
 - Mentally
- Our ceremonies are directly related to the change in the land and plants



▶ CLIMATE CHANGE AND MENTAL HEALTH/WELLBEING

- A changing climate is disrupting these connections and threatening social networks and knowledge-sharing. This can increase the risk of mental health impacts.
- Cause and Affect
 - Food sources
 - Respiratory
 - Water related illness
 - Mental health effects



▶ THE (ATTEMPTED) DISCONNECTION



Attempted Genocide – intentional destruction of a people

Removal – The Indian Removal Act was signed into law by President Andrew Jackson on May 28, 1830

Assimilation – a series of efforts by the United States to assimilate Native Americans into mainstream European–American culture



Settler Colonialism – a type of colonialism in which the Indigenous peoples of a colonized region are displaced by settlers who permanently form a society there

▶ SETTLER COLONIALISM

- **Definition** - a system of oppression based on genocide and colonialism, that aims to displace a population of a nation (oftentimes Indigenous people) and replace it with a new settler population.
- **Manifest Destiny** - a phrase coined in 1845, which is the idea that the United States is destined—by God, its advocates believed—to expand its dominion and spread democracy and capitalism across the entire North American continent.



▶ THE NEW AGE

- Global capitalist economies are a root cause for increased greenhouse gas emissions, leading to **rising global temperatures and sea levels.**
- Capitalism results in the increased extortion of land and animal products to keep up with the high demands.



▶ WHEN YOU POISON THE LAND IT WILL POISON YOU

- Enbridge Pipelines running through Anishinaabe land
- Thirty Meter Telescope In Hawaii polluting the waterways
- Tyson Chicken Company polluting water on Oklahoma Tribal land
- The Church Rock uranium mill spill
- Lead mining pollutes tar creek in northeast Oklahoma
- Radiation affecting the pollinators and food systems



▶ CLIMATE CHANGE IS CREATING CULTURAL EROSION

- Climate change is poisoning us and is affecting our ways of living our traditional ways.
 - Poisoning water
 - Poisoning Air
 - Changing our traditional foods
 - Changing of animal habits
 - The destruction of our sacred sites



DIASPORA OF DISCONNECTION IN EFFECT

- Definition: Losing a sense of what your culture feels like in a tangible way.
- Native students have a high school graduation rate of **49.3%** nationally, compared to their white peers with 76.2%.
- These technologies and systems of Indigenous erasure cause us to question our roots.



▶ WHAT WE ARE DOING

- Indigenous people make up the smallest ethnic group in the world and we continue to protect this land by protecting 80% of the world's biodiversity.
- Native people possess the knowledge regarding climate sustainability. How do we make sure that our voices are heard?
- Learning to heal with our traumas is the next step into reclaiming our connection to land and our connection to ourselves.



HOW ADVOCACY CONTRIBUTES TO INCREASED RESILIENCY



- Listening to youth
- Harnessing the Healing Power of Culture
- Knowing Who They Are and Where They Belong
- Moving Into the Future

▶ IMPORTANCE OF YOUTH PROGRAMS

- Tribal Youth programs create an outlet for Native youth to express their concerns of belonging
- They create a secure environment that we need to heal
- By creating these programs, it combats many challenges that we have talked about today and results in the needed reconnection to LAND and COMMUNITY



HOW PROGRAMS CAN SUPPORT ADVOCACY FOR NATIVE YOUTH



- Create safe spaces
- Healthy learning environments
- Make it welcoming to ask questions
- Unlearning the hierarchy of western mindsets/ ideology
- We have things to teach

ORGANIZATIONS THAT ARE ADDRESSING ISSUES RELATED TO YOUTH AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Native Youth Climate Adaptation Leadership Congress (NYCALC) - NYCALC's mission is to develop future conservation leaders with the skills, knowledge, and tools to address environmental change and conservation challenges to better serve their schools and home communities.

SoulFire Farm - We use Afro-Indigenous agroforestry, silvopasture, wild crafting, polyculture, and spiritual farming practices to regenerate 80 acres of mountainside land, producing fruits, plant medicine, pasture-raised livestock, honey, mushrooms, vegetables, and preserves for community provisioning, with the majority of the harvest provided to people living under food apartheid and targeted by state violence.






**TRIBAL YOUTH
RESOURCE CENTER**

www.TribalYouth.org

QUESTIONS?



TRIBAL YOUTH RESOURCE CENTER

 www.TribalYouth.org



Envisioning a future where Indigenous youth thrive through traditional lifeways.

This project was supported by Grant 15PJDP-21-GK-04048-MUMU awarded by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this publication/program/exhibition are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect those of the Department of Justice.





**TRIBAL YOUTH
RESOURCE CENTER**

www.TribalYouth.org

**GV!!!
THANK YOU**

