

# National Indigenous Youth Fashion Show

Presented by Ikidowin and Friends Council  
Return to First Medicines Gathering, July 28, 2023



## Amelia (Mills) Bailey

Amelia (Mills) Bailey (Meskwaki/Dakota) will be a 7<sup>th</sup> grader in the Fall and lives in Minneapolis, Mn. Mills wants to be in the WNBA when she grows up and a 911 dispatcher to save lives. Her favorite thing about school is English-Language Arts. In the summer, Mills likes to go to powwows and fancy dance when the basketball season is over.



## Ayden (Cepa) Bailey

Ayden (Cepa) Bailey (Meskwaki/Dakota) will be a 6<sup>th</sup> grader in the Fall and lives in Minneapolis, Mn. Cepa wants to be a basketball player when he grows up and hopes to play for the Lakers, Warriors, Mavericks, or the Suns. Cepa's favorite subject at school is social studies. Cepa loves hanging out with his basketball team.



## Jennifer Cortes

My name is Jennifer Cortes. I am 19, enrolled in Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe and I'm part Mexican. I have been in indigenous people task force since I was 12 years old. I'm a beader and sewer and make my very own creations from earrings to clothing and am starting a business for it! I love doing other forms of art such as writing, singing, spoken word, dance, theater, drawing, and so many other things!



## Aydrian James Day

Aydrian James Day is a 13 year old bead working artist and powwow dancer who dances both Grass Dance and Woodland styles. Aydrian is from the Ojibwe, Odawa, Potawatomi, Lakota and Ho Chunk Nations. Aydrian has been beading officially since we was about 4 years of age when he beaded his mom a dancing Barrett. Since then, Aydrian has enjoyed sharing at American Art Markets and powwows across Turtle Island. He enjoys traveling

and spending time with family as much as he can. He loves being involved with anything cultural or community.



## Brenna Depies

My name is Brenna Depies this is my 13<sup>th</sup> summer at Indigenous Peoples Task Force. Currently, I help coordinate and lead the Ikidowin Acting Ensemble and youth programs at IPTF. It is a true joy to be able to work with Native teens and watch them develop trust and teamwork with each other, see their artistic expression develop on stage and in poetry. I learn every day from the perspective of the teens and get inspired. I've worked with the IPTF Healing Circle Internship program for Native young adults, worked in the Ciggy Aint Jiggy e-cigg prevention program, Keep The Fire Alive suicide prevention program, Minneapolis Step-Up interns at IPTF, Native CHAT sexual health education program, and with nearly all of the Ikidowin Plays. I'm grateful for all of the cultural teachings I've learned at IPTF, its made my life much better. I'm a Mom to two young boys Arthur and Dean, Arthur was born in 2017 and got to be one of the first babies to sample Indigi-Baby baby food from IPTF's farm!



## Richard Gates

Hello my name is Richard Gates and i am 15 years old and I have been in Ikidowin for one year and my favorite thing about Ikidowin is that they let us speak our own opinion about things and don't let us hold back about our thoughts. I like the play that I did, "in my shoes" I was the Dad and it was fun becoming a real father. A goal I have for my future is to become an actor. That is the reason I came to join this program. I learned about tobacco ceremonies when I came here and I like that I can pray over my family members and get to pray on anyone I want.



## Joseph Greene

Hello my name is Joseph Greene, I try to come with good energy everyday. I am 13 years old I have been in Ikidowin for about 3 years a thing I really like about this group is the tobacco ceremony. It was my 1<sup>st</sup> time doing it here with Ikidowin. Something I've learned is more culture and how to write better. Knowing who I am, and where I come from makes

me feel better and more confident. I like being on stage because of the feeling of adrenaline, and afterwards knowing you accomplished the performance feels really good. A goal for my future is to go to college and play basketball or football.



## Sir Curtis Kirby III

More about Sir Curtis Kirby III, (Bois Forte Band of Ojibwe and African American descent), is enjoying his fifth year directing the Ikidowin Youth Theater Ensemble (IYT), a program for the Indigenous Peoples Task Force. He was honored to be selected as Emerging Artist for a TPT special, which aired in June 2019.

Kirby is mentored by Dipankar Mukherjee, Artistic Director of Pangea World Theater and has participated in the National Institute for Directing and Ensemble Creation the past two years.

He has been awarded a Fellowship with Pangea World Theater for Directing. He has worked with Bonnie Morris of Illusion Theater and Ty Defoe for a show at The Guthrie Theater. Kirby was the Assistant Director for Pangea World Theater's Five Weeks, Sabra Falling and Mother Courage.

IYT has been invited to perform at national conferences such as The National Boarding School Conference in Carlisle, PA, and the National Spit Tobacco Conference, where they premiered a new work, Beishigo Asemaa



## Kailani Lawrence

Hello I'm Kailani Lawrence, I'm 15 and I've been with Ikidowin for three years my first ever project was the play called in my shoes I was first the mom and an extra in a few scenes and then later I was Blake. My favorite memories with the group was when we went to Wisconsin Dells it was a really fun vacation and it was fun bonding with everyone that went. I'm not quite sure what I want to do in my future, but I know I want to go to college at the university of Minnesota.



## Simar Means

I'm Simar Means, I'm sixteen and I've been in Ikidowin for three years. The first ever project I did with the group was 'In My Shoes' by Payton Counts. I had played the role of Ellie/Eli. My favorite memories with the group are our trips to Ireland and Duluth. I loved our Ireland SOOO much, the people from the 'Making Relatives Collective' were nothing but kind to us. They treated us with the upmost respect and almost as if we were celebrities. I am just so thankful to have had that experience. Then I LOVED the Duluth trip because it was just so much fun for all of us. We had a water balloon fight, we played hide and seek, and Murder in the Cabin, but the best part was when in the middle of the night we left because we thought there was a ghost. Without Ikidowin I wouldn't be have had nearly as many experiences or as much confidence. Right now I am about to go into my Junior year, which means college applications soon. I want to go to college at Oxford University in the United Kingdom. In college I want to study psychology to help better the mental health of my people and remove the stigma around getting help for mental health.



## August Peltier

August Peltier is a member of the Turtle Mountain Band Of Chippewa. He is 15 and attends the North Woods School.



## Michael Perez

Hello my name is Michael I'm 12 from Leech Lake and Guatemala I have 5 siblings I'm 4'11. It's important to learn about my culture, because I want to keep it alive and it's fun and intriguing. What I like about Ikidowin is that we get to travel places and I learn more acting skills, a goal for my future is that I want to be a doctor, and rich and I want to have a lot of stamina.





## Jazzie

Hi I'm Jazzie. I like being outside and long car rides at night. I also really like swimming and music. I love sunsets and I like the night more than the day. I really like spending time with friends and family.



## Nalia Segura

Nalia Segura, is an Ojibwe-Latinx Actor. she has performed on many stages as an ensemble member of Ikidowin Youth Theater, including The Guthrie Theater for (Stories Of The Drum), Illusion Theater for (Everything is a circle) and The Pangea World Theater for (The Missouri River water walk). She is a dancer with Kalpulli Yaocenoxtli a Mexica dance group located in Saint Paul. She is also singer, she has sang/acted in a film directed by Jane Ramseyer Miller and was a part of the choir with Tanya Tagaq at The Ordway Concert Hall.



## Kaholo Toves

Kaholo Toves (Hidatsa/Assiniboine/Chamorro) is entering his Junior Year at Dickinson State University. He is majoring in Exercise Science. He runs Indoor and Outdoor Track for the Dickinson State University Blue Hawks. In his free time, he loves to go to the Wellness Center and lift weights.



## Kailayla Villaluz

Kailayla Villaluz (Hidatsa/Assiniboine/Chamorro/Filipina) is entering her Freshman Year in High School. She wants to be a Marine Biologist when she grows up. Her favorite subjects are science, history, and English. She is also an aspiring filmmaker. Her silent film boxes were selected to be screened at the Yellowstone Silent Film Festival.



## Kayeiko Villaluz

Kayeiko Villaluz (Hidatsa/Assiniboine/Chamorro/Filipino) is going to be in 7th grade. He wants to run track or play basketball professionally when he grows up. His favorite subject is math. He loves to hang out with his friends and ride his bike.