

Materials for House Interior Appropriations Committee
Hearing date November 20, 2024 10am

Bio for Maulian Bryant, Penobscot Nation

Maulian Bryant was appointed to serve as the first Tribal Ambassador by Penobscot Nation Chief Kirk Francis in September 2017. As Ambassador, Ms. Bryant was responsible to act as a representative of the Penobscot Nation and to serve as a liaison for the Nation at the local, state and federal levels of government in order to educate and advocate for policy and laws that impact and protect the Penobscot Nation's sovereignty, culture, natural resources and the general welfare of the Penobscot people. She has since accepted the position of Executive Director the Wabanaki Alliance, a non profit advocacy group focusing on advancing issues of tribal sovereignty and self determination as well as educating and building relationships. She now advocates on behalf of all the Wabanaki Tribal Nations; the Penobscot, Passamaquoddy, Mi'kmaq, and Maliseet.

Prior to serving as Ambassador, Ms. Bryant served as an elected member of the Penobscot Nation Tribal Council. She grew up on Indian Island within the Penobscot Nation's Reservation and is the daughter of former Penobscot Nation Chief Barry Dana, who served from 2000-2004. Ms. Bryant graduated from the University of Maine in Orono with a degree in political science. In 2022 Colby College presented her with an honorary doctorate for her work on equity issues and policy. Prior to being elected to Tribal Council, she was the Human Resources Director for the Penobscot Indian Nation Enterprises (PINE). Before that, she worked at the Penobscot Nation Cultural & Historic Preservation Department and as a substitute school teacher at the Nation's school.

Ms. Bryant is an outspoken advocate on the issue of derogatory mascots and imagery. Her advocacy resulted in the State of Maine recently enacting a law to change the annual Columbus Day in October to Indigenous Peoples Day, and prohibit public schools from using derogatory mascots. In the years leading up to the Maine Legislature taking action, she represented the Penobscot Nation in the effort to have the Skowhegan High School drop their "Indian" mascot. Her other passion is finding ways to strengthen and expand programs that help to preserve and teach the customs and traditions of the Penobscot people. She is a loving mother to three daughters and centers them in much of her work making the state and country a safer and more equitable place for her children and all tribal people.