

Jade Begay

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Objective: I am a climate and environmental justice organizer aiming to build a just and renewable economy that is no longer dependent on extractive industry.

Experience:

NDN Collective

Climate Justice Campaign Director

[June 2019 - Present]

NDN Collective is an Indigenous-led organization dedicated to building Indigenous power. Through organizing, activism, philanthropy, grantmaking, capacity-building and narrative change, we are creating sustainable solutions on Indigenous terms. Together, we decolonize and transform systems while providing tools and strategies for Indigenous self-determination and movement-building.

As the Climate Justice Director I lead our work to build power throughout Indigenous communities in order to tackle the climate crisis. Our team runs and supports campaigns aimed at ending extraction, contamination and violence in our territories. We advance policy changes, coalition building, and advocacy, while supporting the solutions-based work happening across our nations that utilize traditional ecological knowledge in order to develop climate adaptive solutions that reflect our value of living with respect for all sources of life.

Indigenous Environmental Network / Indigenous Rising Media

Communications and Digital Director

[December 2015 – 2018]

IEN was formed by grassroots Indigenous groups and individuals to address environmental and economic justice issues in Indian country. IEN's activities include building the capacity of Indigenous communities and tribal governments to

develop mechanisms to protect sacred sites, land, water, air, and natural resources.

My work with IEN began in November 2015, when founder and executive director Tom Goldtooth, asked me to be the coordinator for the IEN media team during COP21 in Paris. During this time we produced and amplified original content across the world. During this time our platforms became the go-to source for Indigenous news and updates during the climate negotiations and we were able to surpass mainstream and progressive media in our coverage and content creation. Since 2015, I've been working with IEN to document the stories of Indigenous Peoples across the world, who are building solutions and leading resistance to forces that threaten their ancestral homelands and traditional ways of life. One of our most proud moments in recent years, was building the Indigenous Rising Media (IRM) platform during the Standing Rock Movement. In just one month, IRM, a grassroots media project, was able to build a following of over 100,000 people and secured partnerships with platforms like Al Jazeera and the Center for Investigative Journalism. In addition to managing the Indigenous Rising Media platform, I have also managed IEN's communications and digital strategy to sharpen their message, pitch their stories to press and media, develop multicultural communications and help our staff and our network navigate the ever changing digital landscape.

350.org

Multi-Media Producer and NoDAPL Digital and Communications Coordinator

[May 2016 - February 2017]

350.org is an international environmental organization focused on building a global climate movement. By creating and amplifying climate-focused campaigns, projects, and actions led by people and grassroots, 350.org, aims to pressure world leaders and the fossil fuel industry to reduce carbon dioxide emissions and switch to 100% renewables.

During my time with 350.org, I worked with our campaign and project teams around the world to develop concepts, scripts, and messaging for strategic video projects. I managed contracted videographers, editors, photographers, and motion graphics artists to produce and execute original content. As needed, I produced and edited videos to serve 350.org's worldwide campaign priorities.

In November 2016, as the NoDAPL movement escalated in Standing Rock, ND, because of my relationships and experience in working with Indigenous communities, I began a new contract with 350.org as the NoDAPL Digital and Communications Coordinator. I worked in collaboration with the Indigenous Environmental Network to produce videos and multimedia that would amplify the frontline and grassroots voices. In addition, I wore a communications hat and coordinated interviews between press and organizers/leaders on the ground, organized press conferences, and wrote daily press releases for the grassroots groups leading the effort.

Resource Media

Sustainability and Justice Communications Fellow

[Fall 2014 - Summer 2016]

Resource Media is one of a kind: a nonprofit communications firm with a mission to drive social change. Resource Media offers communications services to anchor their partner's story in values, build bridges, mobilize supporters, and drive conversations in pursuit of sustainability, health, equity and justice.

In 2014 I began working with Resource Media as a part of my grad school capstone project. When I graduated, I became the inaugural "Sustainability and Justice Communications Fellow". During that time I assisted program directors in building communications plans for our clients on issues ranging from Health to Energy to Climate Change. I also produced and edited video content for our partners campaigns' and I managed the social platforms and wrote content for Women at the Center, a project of Resource Media and the United Nations Foundation Universal Access Project that explored the connections between women's rights, reproductive rights and climate change.

Internally, I helped Resource Media implement an equity and inclusion program and lead trainings on anti oppression and building allyship with Indigenous communities.

Education:

Naropa University [Fall 2013 - Spring 2015] MA in Environmental Leadership

Columbia College Chicago [Fall 2008 - Winter 2011] BA in Film and Video, focus in documentary and experimental filmmaking.

Additional roles:

- Member of the White House Environmental Justice Advisory Council, appointed by President Joe Biden.
- Board Member of Amazon Watch
- Board Member of The Native Conservancy