

TESIA MARIE ZIENTEK

EDUCATION **Stanford University Graduate School of Education, Stanford, CA, June 2013**
Master of Arts: Policy, Organization, and Leadership Studies

University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, IN, May 2009
Bachelor of Arts: English
Minor: Anthropology
Overall GPA: 3.9, Magna Cum Laude

University of Notre Dame London Program, London, England, Fall 2007
Study Abroad Program

EXPERIENCE *Education Director, Citizen Potawatomi Nation*
Shawnee, Oklahoma, **October 2015 – Present**

- Proposed, developed, and implemented the first Department of Education for the Citizen Potawatomi Nation
- Manage the affairs of the Department of Education, including four employees and a multi-million-dollar budget
- Provide an accessible entry point for college-bound Citizen Potawatomi Nation students in search of individualized college advice, scholarship help, or internship information, regardless of age or location
- Partner with local schools to support college access and completion
- Construct curriculum and culturally relevant programming for partnerships with local universities
- Develop helpful resources to prepare Citizen Potawatomi Nation students for success in college
- Track and analyze data to show student success and return on student investment
- Wrote, designed, and implemented grants from the U.S. Department of Education, Department of Justice, Administration for Native Americans, and Indian Health Service

Program Advisor, Potawatomi Leadership Program
Shawnee, Oklahoma, **June 2012 – Present**

- Proposed and implemented new curriculum for the Harvard Honoring Nations Award-winning program, which welcomes high-achieving tribal interns aged 18-20 on-site to be immersed in the Citizen Potawatomi Nation for six weeks
- Lead weekly discussion groups to consider issues of cultural identity, traditional knowledge, and future tribal involvement and leadership
- Create and grade reflection assignments
- Design, advise, and monitor capstone group projects

Adjunct Professor, St. Gregory's University
Shawnee, Oklahoma, **June 2016 – December 2017**

- Proposed and created courses for the Citizen Potawatomi Nation Core, a series of courses required for Potawatomi scholarship students at St. Gregory's University to promote connection and engagement with their tribal community
- Developed curriculum for two courses with Citizen Potawatomi culturally relevant curricula: Introduction to the Citizen Potawatomi Nation I and Introduction to the Citizen Potawatomi Nation II

Curriculum Development Specialist, Citizen Potawatomi Nation Cultural Mentorship Program
Shawnee, Oklahoma, **October 2013 – February 2016**

- Collaborated with staff to construct culturally relevant and site-appropriate curriculum
- Developed the Adult Mentor and Peer Mentor training curricula, which include manuals, slide presentations, and lesson activities
- Developed the Cultural Activities Curriculum materials to guide the mentors in teaching traditional Native American knowledge to youth in order to promote healthy and positive decision-making

Grants and Contracts Coordinator, Citizen Potawatomi Nation Office of Self-Governance
Shawnee, Oklahoma, **May 2013 – October 2015**

- Led grant proposal development teams to complete funding applications
- Wrote, reviewed, edited, and submitted grant proposals in accordance with funding announcement guidelines
- Developed project budgets
- Provided tribal-wide technical assistance and training to grant project directors
- Acted as a liaison between funding agencies and grant programs
- Assisted with self-governance management and advocacy
- Guided strategic planning efforts to ensure that all funding pursuits interact to best benefit Citizen Potawatomi Nation tribal members and other community members in our service area

Powwow Systems Manager, Stanford University Native American Cultural Center (NACC)
Stanford, California, **September 2012 – June 2013**

- Collected best practices from the 42-year history of the Stanford Powwow, the largest student-run powwow in the nation, to capture institutional memory of the event
- Led the NACC's transition to the online platform OrgSync
- Synthesized experience into a scalable model of the powwow for use in other Native American communities
- Served as liaison between students and NACC faculty to facilitate a smooth transition to OrgSync

Administrative Assistant, Citizen Potawatomi Nation Environmental Department
Shawnee, Oklahoma, **June 2011 – August 2012**

- Maintained records for ten government grants
- Tracked payment process of each purchase made with grant funds per line-item budget
- Acted as primary liaison between department and vendors or contractors
- Reduced waste and streamlined process by restructuring filing procedure from a paper to an online system

English as a Second Language Teacher, Colegio Maria Auxiliadora
Santurce, Puerto Rico, **October 2010 – August 2011**

- Made and executed daily lesson plans for six classes of 1st-3rd graders
- Created original worksheets, reviews, and tests to assess and monitor the students' progress
- Designed creative projects to make classroom material interesting and relevant to all 184 students

Teacher and Tutor, Puerto Rico Center for Social Concerns (PRCSC)
Orocovis, Puerto Rico, **August 2009 – July 2010**

- Made and executed daily lesson plans for K-3 English and science classes
- Planned and organized an afterschool program serving approximately thirty K-7th graders
- Coordinated the daily tutoring efforts for seven 5th graders
- Prepared and taught a daily English reinforcement class for approximately fifteen students

External Affairs Intern, Department of the Interior, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS)
Arlington, Virginia, **June 2008 – August 2008**

- Wrote and edited articles for *Fish and Wildlife News*
- Covered wildlife-related hearings for the branch of Congressional and Legislative Affairs
- Researched and helped construct a FWS strategy for minority employment outreach

Human Resources Intern, Citizen Potawatomi Nation Human Resources
Shawnee, Oklahoma, **Summer, Fall, and Spring Breaks, May 2005-August 2007**

- Restructured personnel filing system for over 2,000 Citizen Potawatomi Nation employees
- Assisted in the transition from paper employment applications to online employment applications

ACTIVITIES

- President, National Indian Education Association (NIEA)* October 2022 – Present
 - Protect the organization's mission to promote Indigenous educational sovereignty
 - Preside at all meetings of Board of Directors and general membership
- President, Oklahoma Council for Indian Education (OCIE)*, December 2020 – Present
 - Support statewide Indian education advocacy; plan and implement several Indian education activities
 - Chair the Oklahoma Indian Student Honor Society committee to honor over 1,000 Native students annually
- Vice President, Tribal Education Departments National Assembly (TEDNA)*, October 2017 – Present
 - Guide the national organization, which strives to represent tribal education department interests
- Treasurer, National Indian Education Association*, October 2020 – October 2022
 - Make organizational and fiscal decisions to promote Indigenous educational sovereignty
 - Chair the fiscal committee to ensure prudent spending of the nationally recognized nonprofit
- Member At-Large, American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Oklahoma*, October 2020 – Present
 - Support the defense and promotion of individual rights secured by the U.S. and Oklahoma constitutions
- Board, The Kwek Society*, June 2020 – Present
 - Support the eradication of period poverty by providing period supplies to Indigenous students nationwide
- Board, Community Renewal of Pottawatomie County*, March 2019 - Present
 - Guide the local organization, which helps neighbors restore community through intentional relationships
 - Chaired the fiscal committee from 2021-2022 and raised over \$50,000 in event revenue
- Board, Pioneer Library System (PLS) Foundation*, August 2020 – Present
 - Guide the organization's efforts to support literacy and a love of learning throughout PLS communities
 - Chair the Governance committee to safeguard the Foundation's compliance with the law and internal policies
- Reviewer, Cobell Scholarship*, 2021-2022
 - Review and score dozens of high-achieving Indigenous scholarship applications based on a rubric
- Member, Matriarch Aubrey Dameron MMIW Scholarship Committee*, August 2019 – Present
 - Develop application, award, and review process for scholarship honoring an Indigenous student

HONORS

- Native American 40 Under 40**, Selected in 2020
 - Recognized for outstanding leadership, initiative, dedication, and significant community contributions
- Shawnee Forward 15**, Selected in 2020
 - Selected to celebrate achievement and excellence in career
- ionOklahoma Magazine NextGen Under 30**, Selected in 2016
 - Selected from a pool of 700 nominations overall as part of the effort to recognize and encourage the next generation of innovative, creative, and inspiring individuals who push the boundaries of endeavor
- Leadership Shawnee**, Accepted in 2015
 - Local leadership program committed to educating a diverse group of businesspeople about the economy, resources, and challenges facing the greater Shawnee area
- Citizen Potawatomi Nation Noek Nmeshosek**, Accepted in 2014
 - Tribal employee program that fosters leadership skills and teaches tribal history and modern governance
- Howard Yackus Memorial Scholarship Award**, Selected in 2013
 - Nominated as an outstanding participant of the CPN Workforce and Social Services department
- Gates Millennium Scholar**, Received in 2005 - 2013
 - Scholarship awarded for academic achievement and leadership to support undergraduate and graduate studies
- Phi Beta Kappa Honors Society**, Inducted in 2009
 - A nationally renowned honors society pledged to the ideals of liberal learning and moral integrity
- Sigma Tau Delta**, Inducted in 2009
 - International English honor society
- Presidential Scholar**, Awarded in 2005
 - One of 20 students chosen out of a class of 2000 based on academic and extracurricular performance
- Citizen Potawatomi Nation Family Reunion Festival Head Dancer**, 2016 - Present
 - Nominated by tribal leadership to represent the Citizen Potawatomi Nation at the annual event

PRESENTATIONS

- *Community Conversation on Current Topics in Indigenous and Native Education*, May 13, 2022, Harvard Graduate School of Education
- *The History of Indian Education and Its Impact on Youth Development*, May 13, 2022, Tribal Youth Resource Center

- *Achieving Oklahoma's Postsecondary Attainment Goal, Oklahoma Legislators Retreat*, January 21, 2022, The Hunt Institute
- *Indigenizing Education: Local to National Panel*, November 30, 2021, Oklahoma City Metropolitan Library System
- *A Public Talk Celebrating Indigenous People Heritage Month*, November 12, 2021, Texas Tech University Honors College
- *Native American History Month Kick-Off Keynote*, November 3, 2021, University of Central Oklahoma Office of Diversity and Inclusion
- *Surveying TEDs Nationwide: Developing a 2021 TEDNA Report*, October 16, 2021, National Indian Education Association Annual Convention
- *Preparing for the Next Seven Generations: Indigenous Student Academic Success Strategies*, August 12, 2020, Northern Oklahoma College NASNTI Program
- *Native Mascots and How They Affect Native Identity*, November 19, 2019, University of Central Oklahoma Office of Diversity and Inclusion
- *Native Identity Panel*, November 13, 2019, Texas Tech University Student Intersectional Leadership Council and Raiderland Native American Student Association
- *Funding Opportunities for Native Students, Native American Attainment Convening*, February 27, 2019, Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education
- *Native Americans in the 21st Century: Nation Building*, January 16, 2019, Harvard Kennedy School of Government and the Harvard Graduate School of Education
- *Developing Future Leaders*, December 4, 2018, Oklahoma Council for Indian Education Annual Conference
- *Citizen Indigenous Panel Discussion*, March 19, 2018, Harvard University Native American Program and the Harvard Project on American Indian Economic Development's Honoring Nations Program

KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS

- High level of proficiency in Spanish, both verbal and written
- Superior verbal and written communication skills
- Excellent ability to problem-solve, make independent decisions, and recommend solutions
- Ability to manage unpredictable and voluminous workloads, demonstrating a high degree of flexibility
- Strong attention to detail
- Unwavering commitment to Indigenous perspectives and cultural growth