

Tribal Youth Attend White House Tribal Nations Conference



**Contributed by Morgan Gaines, Communications Specialist
Photograph courtesy of Joe Barton and Nicole Romine**

Tribal youth Dylan Brainard, Nicole Romine, and Joe Barton just recently returned from a trip September 25th-28th from the White House Tribal Youth Gathering 2016 in Washington D.C. They attended as representative from the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua & Siuslaw Indians Tribal Youth Council. These youth were able to attend to gain knowledge and begin networking to aid them with their startup of the CTCLUSI Youth Council. The Tribal Youth Gathering was an opportunity for Tribal leaders to gather, discuss, and address the issues that we all face within our various Tribal communities. Some of the break-out sessions that they were able to attend were regarding issues on Environmental and Climate Change, a panel discussing youth opportunities, health and wellness, and a civic engagement panel on the importance of

using our voice as Tribal people. They met and spoke with the Presidential Cabinet Secretaries about their work in Indian Country.

One additional highlight from their trip was meeting one of the conference guest speakers. William “Billy” Mills, of the Oglala Lakota Tribe, and the second Native American to win an Olympic gold medal when he accomplished the feat of the 10,000 meter run in the 1964 Tokyo Olympics. Joe Barton shared that “it was incredible to meet a Tribal member who had accomplished so much, it really helps bring recognition to all Tribal members, and shows us that anything is possible.”

Nicole Romine also shared that “this is the second opportunity that I’ve had as a youth delegate through the Tribal Youth Council to visit Washington D.C. In the two years that I have attended conferences there I have made many connections throughout Indian Country and together we have brainstormed solutions for major problems that Tribal youth face, such as suicide rates, teen pregnancy, and drug use and addiction. In fact I still keep in touch with these contacts through various means of social media.”

If you are interested in participating in the CTCLUSI Youth Council please contact Joe Barton by e-mailing joebarton@ctclusi.org. Be sure to check out the Tribal website www.ctclusi.org and future editions of The Voice of CLUSI newsletter for more information and upcoming event announcements.