

**INDIANTIME NEWSLETTER
SUMMER EDITION
AUGUST 2020
FINAL**

Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women - Issued by Governor Roy Cooper on May 5, 2020.

The NC Commission of Indian Affairs was established in 1971, by the NC General Assembly. In accordance with NCGS 143B-405:

The purposes of the Commission shall be as follows:

- (1) To deal fairly and effectively with Indian affairs.
- (2) To bring local, State, and federal resources into focus for the implementation or continuation of meaningful programs for Indian citizens of the State of North Carolina.
- (3) To provide aid and protection for Indians as needs are demonstrated; to prevent undue hardships.
- (4) To hold land in trust for the benefit of State-recognized Indian tribes. This subdivision shall not apply to federally recognized Indian tribes.
- (5) To assist Indian communities in social and economic development.
- (6) To promote recognition of and the right of Indians to pursue cultural and religious traditions considered by them to be sacred and meaningful.

Executive Director Appointed to the Andrea Harris Social, Economic, Environmental and Health Equity Task Force on August 5, 2020.

Greg Richardson, Executive Director of the Commission of Indian Affairs, was appointed to the **Andrea Harris Social, Economic, Environmental and Health Equity [Task Force](#)** by Governor Roy Cooper. The Task Force was established in honor of the late Andrea Harris, who passed away in May 2020. Ms. Harris was a strong advocate for the underserved population, serving as a civil rights advocate as well as leader strong supporter of Historically Underutilized Businesses.

The Task Force was established under [Executive Order 143](#), and is comprised of five subcommittees: Access to Healthcare, Patient Engagement, Economic Opportunity and Business Development, Environmental Justice, and Education.

The inaugural Task Force meeting was held on August 5, 2020.

Impact of COVID-19 on Commission Operations

COVID-19 has made a significant impact on the daily operations of the NC Commission of Indian Affairs and its activities. All Commission meetings, including committee convenings, have been held by conference call since the March Quarterly meeting. This practice will be continued until further notice.

All Commission programs and services are currently being administered through a teleworking process. The Commission will continue following the recommendations outlined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, NC Department of Health and Human Services and the Governor for the safety and health of staff and residents. North Carolina is currently under a [Safer At Home, Phase 2](#) order based on current data, trends and testing. The state will remain in Phase 2 until at least September 11, 2020.

Tribal Leaders Listening Session - With Tribal Chief's, Chairpersons and Urban Indian Organization Representatives on COVID-19

A listening session was held on Thursday, April 30th to hear feedback from tribal leaders regarding the impact of COVID-19 on Indian communities in the state of North Carolina. All the tribes were invited to make presentations during the listening session. The following state and federal officials participated and provided information about resources available to Indian tribes and communities to keep families and individuals safe during the present pandemic: Quinn Godwin, Governor's Public Engagement Office; Betty Marrow-Taylor, NC Department of Administration Deputy Secretary of Advocacy Programs; Benjamin Money, NC Department of Health and Human Services Deputy Secretary for Health Services; Mary White, Lead Grants Manager with the HUD Eastern Woodlands Office in Chicago; and Kevin Allis, Chief Executive Officer with the National Congress of American Indian.

2020 Census Push

As of August 11, over 40%, or 1.6 million, North Carolina households have not responded to the 2020 census. This translates to **over 4 million residents not yet counted**, putting **at risk more than \$7.4 billion annually for a decade** in census-driven funding. With the shortening of the Census response deadline to September 30, there's no time to waste. We need everyone's help to raise awareness, inform

and education the public and promote North Carolina's participation in the 2020 Census. The NC Census Team has created the *Final Push NC Census 2020 Toolkit* with the most critical items to help drive participation before the September 30th deadline. The toolkit includes new or updated resources to reflect current information and the heightened sense of urgency:

- **Talking Points Round Up**
- **Social Media Posts**
- **Targeted Graphics & Images (English & Spanish)**
- **Speech Drops & Remarks (English & Spanish)**
- **Data Visualizations & Response Maps**

The toolkit will be available soon at census.nc.gov and immediately by email request through census2020@nc.gov.

If you have questions, please send an email to census2020@nc.gov. Thank you for your support and let's #MakeNCCount!

Tuscarora Nation of North Carolina Petition for State Recognition Rejected

The Commission declined to grant state recognition to Tuscarora, therefore, the Tuscarora filed a petition for contested case with the Office of Administrative Hearing (OAH). The NC Department of Justice continued to lead the process of responding to the filing and preparing the necessary documents for the contested case hearing. The hearing was scheduled for March 21, 2020. However, the Commission was advised by an attorney representing the Tuscarora Nation that the case would be withdrawn. This summer the case was officially withdrawn. The Tuscarora Nation will have up to one year to refile.

June 30 Expiring Terms of Commission Members:

Tribal Members:

Marvel Welch - Eastern Band of Cherokee
Dorothy Stewart Yates- Sappony
Larece Hunt – Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina
Tony Hayes – Occaneechi Band of the Saponi Nation
Elton Ray Jacobs – Waccamaw-Siouan Indian Tribe

Association Member:

Jennifer Revels-Baxter – Guilford Native American Association
Jesse Jacobs-Metrolina Native American Association

Legislative Member:

Wanda Burns – Ramsey - Speaker of the House Appointee

Youth Members (Adhoc)

Zianne Richardson – NC Native American youth Organization NCNAYO

Joshua Lamar Richardson – NC Native American Organization on Higher Education (NCHACOHE)

New Commission Program**Strengthening Climate Resilience in Coastal Region Tribal Communities**

The North Carolina Commission of Indian Affairs and the Albemarle-Pamlico National Estuary Partnership have recently joined forces with NC State University and the Virginia Coastal Policy Center to support tribal communities in considering environmental justice issues and coastal resilience opportunities during community planning. This emerging project will increase engagement among tribal communities, government agencies, and universities, as well as knowledge and cultural perspectives of these communities surrounding natural resources and climate change. Funding from the Environmental Protection Agency granted to the NC Commission of Indian Affairs will be used to develop a strategy for incorporating resilience into tribal planning processes. During these initial phases, Dr. Ryan Emmanuel (Lumbee) and Jocelyn Painter, a graduate student (Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska), will conduct an analysis of engagement processes while Beth Roach (Nottoway Tribe of Virginia) will coordinate steering committee discussions as well as outreach activities that will lead to implementing practices throughout tribal communities in North Carolina and Virginia.

Beth Roach, Program Director

Tribal Resilience Program

Beth.roach@doa.nc.gov

Phone: 757-876-7597

DEQ Press Release, 6/29/20

<https://deq.nc.gov/news/press-releases/2020/06/29/albemarle-pamlico-national-estuary-partnership-partners-nc-commission>

Craig M. Goodman

<https://ncadmin.nc.gov/about-doa/divisions/commission-of-indian-affairs>

North Carolina Commission of Indian Affairs (NCCIA) Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Program

The WIOA Section 166 program is a federal grant dedicated to serving the employment needs of Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian individuals.

To meet the needs of North Carolina's American Indian population the WIOA program serves 63 counties associated with the eight state/federal recognized tribes in North Carolina's American Indian communities. The goals of the NCCIA's WIOA program are to:

- Increase academic, occupational, and literacy skills among the American Indian population.
- Increase American Indian workers' abilities to be competitive in the workforce, thus helping them to achieve personal and economic self-sufficiency.

NCCIA's WIOA program has grown tremendously this fiscal year. There are currently 72 participants in the program. This is a first for the Commission. The WIOA director as well as the three program coordinators have worked diligently this year to promote the program's services such as assistance with tuition, books/fees, career counseling, job searches, resume building, etc. Staff have attended many community events which has led to its growth from 24 participants to 72 participants.

The 2019-2020 funding amount for the WIOA program is \$339,742. This amount is being used to assist American Indian students ages 18 and up with employment and training needs. Throughout this fiscal year the WIOA program had 13 Work Experience and two On-the Job Training (OJT) participants. This is the first time that the WIOA program has participated in the OJT portion of the grant and it has proven to be beneficial and successful to employment outcomes not only to the employer but also the participant.

For the current program year so far, we have awarded \$416,606 in funding. The funds, once released by the United States Department of Labor, will greatly assist us with the employment and training needs of American Indian communities that have been hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic. During the pandemic, the program coordinators have been able to assist 17+ American Indian with employment as Contact Tracers with the Community Cares North Carolina agency. The

Workforce Development staff has referred over 75+ people to Community Cares NC and have received confirmation that 8 Waccamaw Siouan, 3 Coharie, 1 Eastern Band of Cherokee, and 6 Lumbee American Indians have been employed through staff referrals.

The WIOA Program Director as well as the WIOA Program Coordinators have performed exemplary work in terms of assisting the number of American Indian's to gain employment during the COVID-19 pandemic. The staff has successfully assisted 230+ individuals with their unemployment claims since March 2020 and have continued to assist new individuals with their initial unemployment claims due to businesses shutting down and cutting back during this time.

WIOA participants have learned how to practice distant learning with their college classes and courses. The WIOA program coordinators have been instrumental in helping with technology needs and tutorials on navigating through the virtual classroom instruction and submitting work properly. COVID-19 has highlighted student technology/broadband needs in the American Indian communities.

The WIOA program is currently unable to accept new applicants, as they have reached maximum capacity. Each program coordinator has a waiting list they are compiling for the next grant cycle. It is the WIOA programs desire to reach and serve as many American Indian participants as possible and this year it has.

If one is interested in the NCCIA's WIOA program and would like to get on the waiting list, they should contact a program coordinator in their residential area.

- Sue Faircloth-Program Coordinator (Sampson and surrounding counties)
910-564-6726 (O) | sue.faircloth@doa.nc.gov
- Carolyn Crocker-Program Coordinator (Columbus and surrounding counties)
910-655-8708 (O) | carolyn.crocker@doa.nc.gov
- Maria Richardson-Program Coordinator (Halifax and surrounding counties)
919-807-4449 (O) | maria.richardson@doa.nc.gov
- Candace Lowry-Director (Raleigh area)
919-807-4444 (O) | candace.lowry@doa.nc.gov

WIOA Spring 2020 Graduates

Craig M. Goodman



Craig was born in Ft Bragg, North Carolina. His father was in the military and Craig lived in Oklahoma until about 2 two years ago when he decided to return to North Carolina to complete his associate degree in nursing from Sampson Community College. “After 2 years of blood, sweat and tears, I am happy to say I have graduated,” Craig said. He has accepted a position with Sampson Regional Medical Center in Clinton, North Carolina in the Emergency Department. “It has been my pleasure working with Craig. I have not had anyone more excited about his educational and career goals.

Congratulations, I know you will go far,” said
Sue Faircloth, WIOA Program Coordinator at the Sampson County Office.

Alexxis Hawley



Alexxis completed her associate degree in nursing at Sampson Community College, in Clinton, North Carolina. She has accepted a position at Wayne Memorial Hospital in Goldsboro, North Carolina in the Post-Operative /Neuro Department. “I am thankful for the opportunities and confidence the ADN program has brought me. I have formed new friendships that I will cherish forever. Forever grateful and look forward to what this new journey will bring,” Alexxis said. “I have enjoyed seeing Alexxis grow and reach her goals. Congratulations, you are a special

young lady,” said Sue Faircloth, WIOA Program Coordinator at the Sampson County Office.

Madeline Victory Patrick

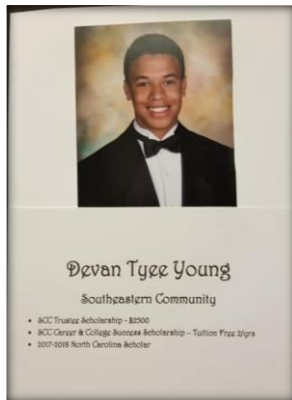


- Madeline is the daughter of Dee and Steve Patrick of the Buckhead community.
- She graduated from Bladen Community College in May 2020 in Dublin, North Carolina. She graduated with an associate degree in science. While receiving her degree, she also worked as a Peer Counselor.
- Madeline battled with Neurofibromatosis most of her life. During her senior year of high school she faced another battle. Madeline was diagnosed with a tumor which was found on her spine. She was told by most doctors that while the tumor was inoperable it was not life threatening. After traveling to Wilmington, Chapel Hill, Florida, and Washington DC for additional medical opinions, Madeline and family were told by one of the doctors that the procedure could be performed. One morning they received a call from a doctor they visited while in Florida, and they were told that the doctor would attempt to do her surgery. The family traveled to Florida with a lot of prayers from East Columbus High and many others. They had told her she would not cheer her Senior year. Madeline was captain of the team. Madeline was very concerned. She was called a hero by her peers at a Friday night football game. A hero is anyone who can show courage, strength and bravery when faced with adversity.

Madeline plans to attend University of North Carolina at Pembroke and major in social work.

- Carolyn Crocker, WIOA Program Coordinator,
Waccamaw Siouan Tribal Office

Devan Young



- Devan graduated from Southeastern Community College in May 2020, with an associate degree in science. Devan completed his degree in two years!
- Devan is the son of Shawn and Radene Caison. He is a graduate of East Columbus High School. While attending East Columbus, Devan had a host of several accomplishments, both academically and athletically. He was a member of the school's marching band, men's soccer team, bowling team, and men's tennis team. During his senior year, he was co-captain of the soccer team and captain of the bowling and men's tennis teams. Devan was a member of the National Beta Club, a Junior Marshall and graduated in the top ten of his class. As a member of the North Carolina Commission of Indian Affairs Educational Talent Search Program, he participated in the North Carolina Youth Legislative Assembly for two years. He was The Male Scholar Athlete of the Year in 2017- 2018 and Male Athlete of the Week.
- A 2017 North Carolina Youth Leader, Devan applied and was selected to participate in the North Carolina Community Development Initiative Youth Leadership Program. This program selects the best of the best among North Carolina's rising seniors to groom them as North Carolina's leaders of tomorrow by providing them with internships at local non-profits. Devan completed his internship at the Columbus County DREAM Center in Whiteville, North Carolina. He was the only student selected from Columbus County. He will be attending the University of North Carolina at Pembroke in the fall to pursue his bachelor of science in information technology, cyber security track.

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Candace Lowry, Program Director
Workforce Innovations act Program

Candace.lowry@doa.nc.gov

<https://ncadmin.nc.gov/about-doa/divisions/commission-of-indian-affairs>

Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program

The North Carolina Commission of Indian Affairs Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program

provides affordable, decent, safe and sanitary housing through rental assistance. The program currently operates on an annual budget of \$5,100,065.00 awarded by the Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The agency is approved to administer:

- 941 housing choice vouchers in Columbus, Granville, Halifax, Hoke, Person, Sampson and Warren counties
- 5 HUD VASH vouchers in Granville and Person counties
- 30 HUD 811 Mainstream vouchers.

The program is not accepting new individuals to the rental assistance waiting list. However, the program anticipates re-opening the waiting list by the end of the year.

As a safety precaution due to COVID-19, no in-home inspections are being conducted at this time.

COVID-19 Waivers have been submitted to the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to amend the current operating procedures, which include delaying annual recertifications, inspections, Section 8 Management Assessment program (SEMAP) scoring and submission of the agency's 5-year plan.

CARES Act funding has been provided to the department to complete activities to prevent and combat the coronavirus, promote social distancing, and implement plans for teleworking. Activities include procuring and obtaining personal protective equipment (PPE), sanitation and disinfectant products and upgrading the information technology system.

Steve Maynor, Director

Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program Director

steve.maynor@doa.nc.gov

<https://ncadmin.nc.gov/about-doa/divisions/commission-of-indian-affairs>

Economic Development Program and Supporting Undergraduate Native Students (SUNS) Program

The Supporting Undergraduate Native Students Program, also known as SUNS, is designed to provide financial assistance to income-eligible American Indian students enrolled full-time in an accredited North Carolina based community college or university and assist them in pursuit of their educational goals. During the fall and spring semesters, the SUNS Program provides scholarships, incentive payments and supportive services to eligible students.

The SUNS Program is made possible through a small grant from the NC Department of Health & Human Services (NCDHHS) – Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO). These federal funds are part of the Community Services Block Grant funding received by the OEO as authorized by the governor to administer these block grant funds. The grant to the Commission for fiscal year 2020-2021 is \$55,280 and these funds must be expended by June 30, 2021, the end of the state fiscal year.

The SUNS Program is currently accepting applications for the 2020-2021 academic year.

Kimberly Hammonds, Director
kimberly.hammonds@doa.nc.gov
984-236-0160

<https://ncadmin.nc.gov/about-doa/divisions/commission-of-indian-affairs>

Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Program

The Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault (DV/SA) Program is funded through the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) by the Governor's Crime Commission and the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA) through the NC Council for Women and Youth Involvement. VOCA funds the program for 21 months, offering training opportunities for advocates and workshops as well as materials for community education. The program employs advocates in the following American Indian communities: Waccamaw-Siouan, Sappony and Haliwa-Saponi. Plans are underway to add more advocate positions in the coming months. The VOCA grant is continued through September of 2021. The FVPSA grant is funded at \$10,000 over a two-year period. This grant allows the program to sponsor 25 students each year, giving them the opportunity to attend the NC Native American Youth Conference.

In May 2020, we received an extra \$100,000 in funding from VOCA to support the program. In February, a grant proposal was prepared and if funded, the extra monies will be used to provide additional services. Funding was authorized in March. The DV/SA program currently has a total of \$328,000 in funding for two years.

The program has submitted two grants for funding consideration. The Commission and the NC Council for Women and Youth Involvement's Human Trafficking program worked jointly to apply for a Human Trafficking grant in June. This is a \$500,000 grant and will cover a period of three years. In June, the program also applied for a sexual assault grant in the amount of \$24,000. This funding will enable the program to provide essential sexual assault services to tribal communities. The DV/SA program is awaiting a response to these applications.

In August, the DV/SA program launched the “**Advocacy for American Indians: A Summer Webinar Series.**” The series will begin August 27th and will continue for 4 weeks every Thursday. The series will provide topics that are imperative to advocating for American Indians. Topics covered include: Historical trauma, domestic violence/sexual assault, human trafficking/missing and murdered Indigenous women (MMIW) and housing and employment advocacy.

Tenley Locklear, Program Director
Domestic Violence and Assault Program

Tenley.locklear@doa.nc.gov

<https://ncadmin.nc.gov/about-doa/divisions/commission-of-indian-affairs>

For more information contact

North Carolina Commission of Indian Affairs

1317 Mail Service Center

Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-1317

Phone: (984) 236-0180 (**New Phone Number**)

Fax: (984) 236-0185

Web: <https://ncadmin.nc.gov/about-doa/divisions/commission-of-indian-affairs>