



**CENTER FOR NATIVE  
AMERICAN YOUTH**  

---

**AT THE ASPEN INSTITUTE**

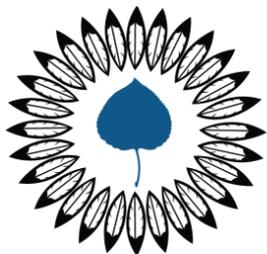
August 2015

# Generation Indigenous (Gen-I)



# National Native Youth Network

- **Network Goals:**
  - Engage
  - Elevate youth voices
  - Provide expanded opportunities for Native youth
- **Inclusion:**
  - We want to hear your ideas and invite youth join the Gen-I effort.



**CENTER FOR NATIVE  
AMERICAN YOUTH**  
AT THE ASPEN INSTITUTE

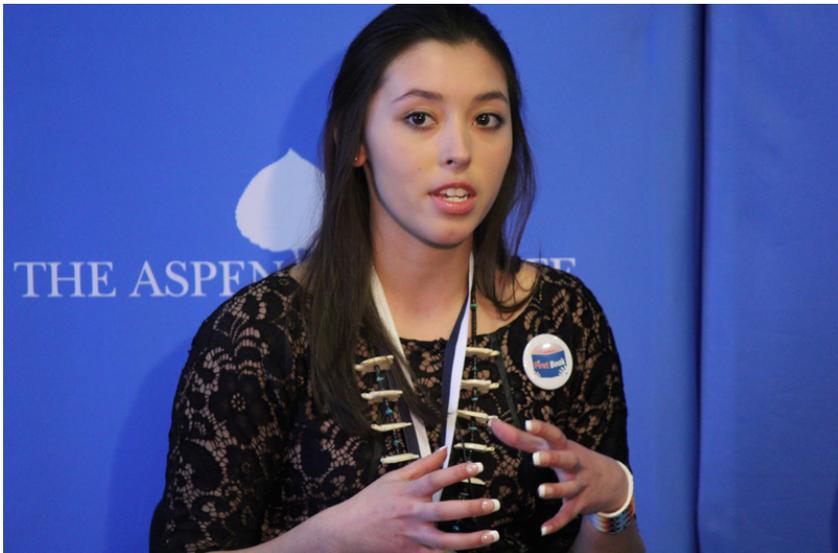
# Network Components

- Web-portal
- Outreach
- Youth Ambassadors
- Program and Youth Map



# Network Focus Areas

- Support for attainment of higher education;
- Entrepreneurship training;
- Mentoring; and
- Creating a platform to integrate Native youth voices into the national dialogue.



# Gen-I Youth Challenge

- What is it?
  - A call to action to engage a broad network of stakeholders on issues facing Native American youth
- Who?
  - Youth, orgs, businesses and schools
- How?
  - Youth, orgs, business and schools:  
[www.cnay.org/Challenge.html](http://www.cnay.org/Challenge.html)
  - Tribal leaders:  
<http://genindigenous.com/tribal-leaders-challenge/>



# Take the Challenge

- Follow four steps:
  - **Step 1: ACT**
    - Within 30 days, work with youth and community members to do something positive in your community
  - **Step 2: CAPTURE**
    - Document efforts and projects through a short summary with photos and video
  - **Step 3: SHARE**
    - Share stories on social media using #GenI and send directly to CNAV
  - **Step 4: PARTICIPATE**
    - Actively participate in Gen-I calls, chats and meetings for chance to attend White House Tribal Youth Gathering



# Challenge Examples!

- 1,400 Submissions from across Indian Country
- Challenge topic areas:
  - Health (physical activity and nutrition)
  - Wellbeing (mental health and substance-free lifestyles)
  - Culture (promoting traditional ways and language)
  - Education (peer-to-peer tutoring and higher education promotion)
  - Many more!



# Dallas – Yakama

- Created a language video project as an introduction series about the basic knowledge of his language, tribe, culture, and history.
- “I am working with various elders and language speakers from my tribe and pushing initiative to our native youth.”



"The Way We Speak" - Promo Video - "Yakama Nation Language"

# Kelsey – Inupiaq Eskimo

- Created a financial literacy curriculum for Native youth.
- “The curriculum is unique in the fact that it enables community members to realize traditional values by learning financial skills that will help each person make informed financial decisions for themselves, their family, and their community.”



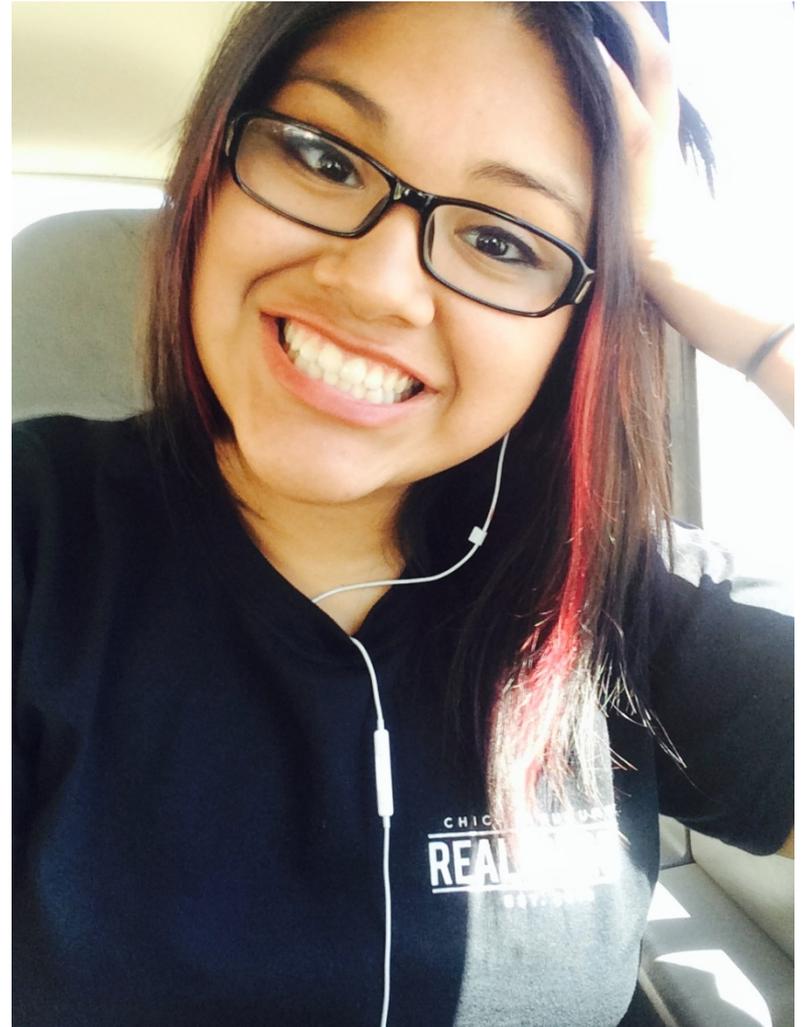
# Summer – Oglala Lakota Sioux

- Engaged 100 people in creating community gardens and distributing them to community members with the goal of raising awareness for child hunger and to promote healthy lifestyles and eating for the youth.
- “Eating healthy is the first step to a healthy mind and body.”



# Brandi – Tohono O’odham

- Raising awareness with the Tohono O'odham Youth Council about suicide through the “Your Life Matters” event.



# Warm Springs Youth

- Creating a Youth Council which will have bylaws, rules, and a mission statement and become affiliated with UNITY.
- “This will give youth a chance to be positive and build leadership skills.”



# Network Engagement

- Monthly Engagement Calls
- Bi-Weekly Engagement Online Chats
- Community Meetings



# Youth Ambassadors

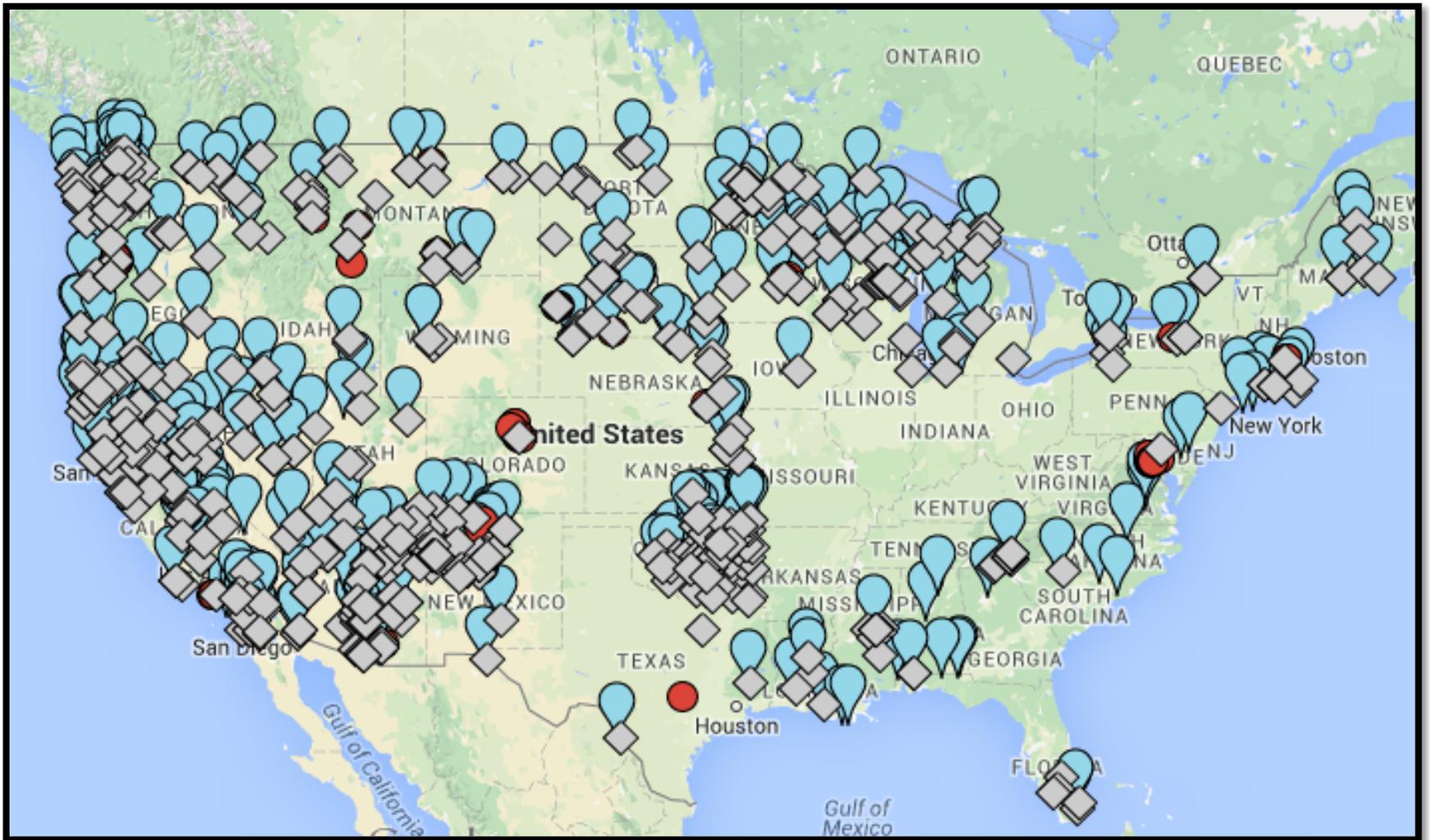
- What is an Ambassador?
- Roles and Responsibilities
- Opportunities and Resources

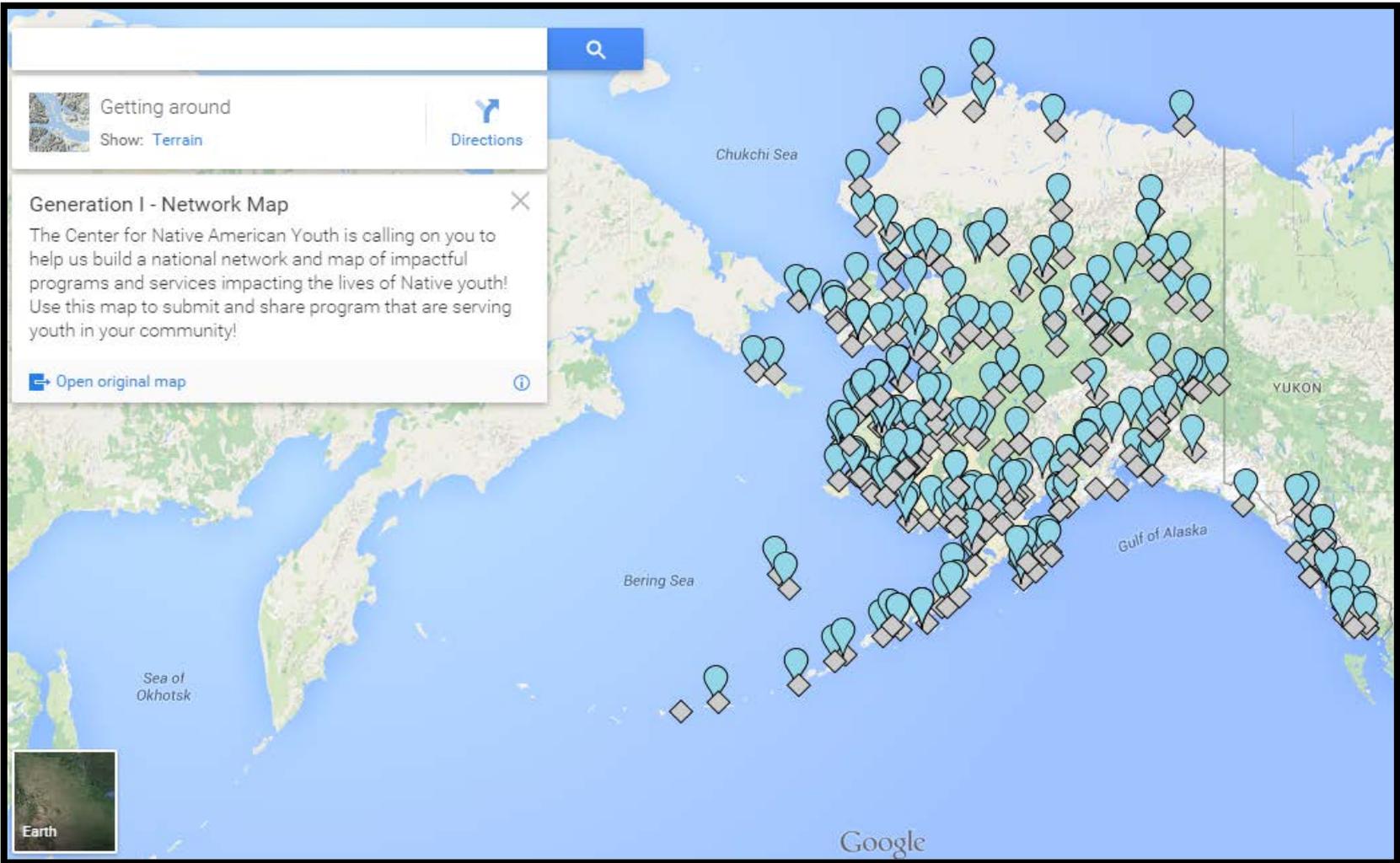


# Network Map

- Opportunity to hear from youth and communities about who is making a difference!
- Invite youth and tribal / urban Indian communities to join a map of the programs and services that are changing the lives.
- Youth councils, local organizations, youth led volunteer project, or a tutoring programs.







# Network Communications

- **Website**
  - [www.genindigenous.com](http://www.genindigenous.com)
  - Updates on Gen I activities and events
- **Gen-I NOW**
  - Resources for Native youth
- **Facebook Group**
  - [Facebook.com/GenIndigenous](https://www.facebook.com/GenIndigenous)
- **Twitter**
  - [@Gen\\_Indigenous](https://twitter.com/Gen_Indigenous)



# Be a part of the Gen-I Network!

- Join the engagement chats and calls
- Engage on social media
- Help build a Network Map
- Take the Challenge
- Reach out if you have ideas or want to know more about specific Gen-I components





# Gen-I Network Contact at CNAY

Ryan Ward

Senior Program Associate

Center for Native American Youth

The Aspen Institute

[ryan.ward@aspeninst.org](mailto:ryan.ward@aspeninst.org)