

MEET THE TEAM!

NYCP NEWSLETTER VOL 1 JANUARY 2023

WELCOME TO THE TRIBAL YOUTH ADVOCACY SPECIALISTS MONTHLY NEWSLETTER. EACH MONTH WE'LL BE SHARING TIPS AND TRICKS FOR SCHOOL, COLLEGE AND BEYOND AND CELEBRATING EACH OTHER.



COMMUNITY

MONICA DOWNARD

Hello, families! My name is Monica Downard and I have the pleasure of serving your students this year as a Tribal Youth Advocacy Specialist. I have been serving students within the Washoe County School District for 16 years now and have a passion for guiding the next generation to be kind, empathetic individuals with a love of learning. I am currently an education major with an emphasis in ELL support. My most recent position was as a Student Graduation Advocate with The Native American Culture and Education Program, where I served over 200 Native students in middle and high school at 12 schools. In this position, I have gained a love for mentoring, instilling in them a sense of empowerment, pride, and self-advocacy. I love building the students up, helping them achieve their goals, and watching them succeed throughout the year!

I was born in Stockton, California, but moved to Reno with my family as a child. I attended North Valleys High School, and later went on to attend TMCC and WGU, majoring in education. In my free time, I love to cook, bake, go for walks, catch up on my favorite Podcasts, or just watch the sunset with my husband! I love to travel and have been to Ghana, London, Cancun, Isla Mujeres, and all over California. I would love to see Seychelles and the Maldives one day!

I look forward to working with your students and family this year!

MONICA SERVES: GOLD SPRINGS, DESERT SKIES, HUG, NORTH VALLEYS, O'BRIEN, SWOPE, TRANER, AND RENO

EXPLORE

HEATHER EGTVEDT

Osiyo! That means hello in Cherokee. My name is Heather Egtvedt and I am very excited to be one of the new Native Tribal Youth Advocacy Specialists. I am coming to this new position from Reed High School where I was the College and Career Center Facilitator for several years. My favorite part of that position was working with students to set goals beyond high school and help them plan a path to make it happen. I am a graduate of both TMCC and UNR, with a degree in English and a minor in Museum Studies where I studied Native Americans based in the Great Basin. I am a member of the Cherokee Nation of Tahlequah, Oklahoma, and I feel passionate about giving back to the Native Community. This new position will allow me to share my knowledge about graduation requirements, college and career planning while also learning more about our rich culture and history.

My family and I moved to Reno in 2008. We followed my parents to Northern Nevada when they retired. I'm originally from Southern California and my husband is from Washington State. Northern Nevada has been the best move we've made as a family on many levels. My hobbies including quilting, sewing, and collecting and building LEGOs with my husband. Three out of our four children attended WCSD schools and were part of the Native American Cultural and Education Program. We have two grandchildren and a third on the way. My oldest son and my son-in-law are both in the Navy, one stationed in Goose Creek, SC with my oldest daughter and grandkids, and one in Lemoore, CA. My youngest son is an apprentice locally in the HVAC industry, and our youngest daughter is a freshman in high school this year. Having four children has taught me that each person is truly individual and that no two goals or dreams are the same. I'm excited to get to know the students and families in our program and supporting students with the goal of graduating from high school and carving their own path for a successful future.

FUN

HEATHER SERVES: DAMONTE RANCH, DEPOALI, DILWORTH, INCLINE MS/HS, NORTHSTAR, PINE, RISE, AND SPARKS MS/HS

NAOMI HANCZRIK

How u,

My name is Naomi Hanczrik, and I am excited to be one of the Tribal Youth Advocacy Specialists, for Family School Partnerships.

I have worked for The Reno-Sparks Indian Colony (RSIC) for the last 15 years in the Education Department as a RSIC Head Start teacher and a K-12 Education Advisor. My work with the Numu, Newe, Washeshu people(s) has provided me with experience helping students with their educational needs and has provided me the opportunity to learn about their culture. I am very passionate with helping students be their own educational advocates, and I am here to help guide them through the process. I am excited to be working with our tribal youth. I hope to help navigate their current school readiness, as well as their college and future careers.

Pesa,
Naomi (Omi) Hanczrik

NAOMI SERVES: SKY RANCH, SHAW, AND SPANISH SPRINGS

DLONRA PASAO

COLLEGE/
CAREER

Hi! I'm Dlonra Pasao, but I mostly go by DJ. I'm a 25-year-old mother of two girls who are ten and two years old. I started working with students when I was just a student myself. I started mentoring when I was a middle schooler and volunteered at a local elementary school after-school program. From then on, I knew that I had a passion for being someone that others can rely on for guidance and advice. I am currently halfway through my associate's degree and plan to transfer to UNR next year to get my bachelor's degree in social work. During my time as an SGA, I've mentored about 100 students and have built amazing relationships with each one of them. This job has only solidified that I want to continue my career in working with students and inspiring them to achieve all their hopes and dreams. I look forward to working with you and your student!

DJ SERVES: BILINGHURST, CLAYTON, MCQUEEN, VAUGHN AND WOOSTER

LAUREN WILSON

GOALS

Hello, I am Lauren Wilson, and I am so honored to start working with your child/children as a Tribal Youth Advocacy Specialist. I am a Reno native and graduated from Spanish Springs High School as the first graduating class of all four years. I continued my education at TMCC and UNR. I have a passion for supporting my community, professionally and personally. I worked for a local nonprofit supporting individuals with Intellectual Disabilities for nearly 15 years. In addition, I have been a District employee for the last four years, supporting students in various roles. I feel my life experiences, education, and professional knowledge will help allow me to empower and support your student/students.

My husband and I are very family oriented. We love family game nights, UNR sports, and enjoying good food. Most weekends, we spend our time back and forth from Reno and Fernley visiting family. I have four amazing siblings. Three of us are adopted, and two of my siblings are "homemade." We are all very close and are thankful to only be a car ride away from one another. I am grateful for this opportunity to share a little about myself, and I look forward to getting to know you and your student/students.

LAUREN SERVES: AACT, GALENA, HERZ, INNOVATIONS, MENDIVE, REED, TMCC, TURNING POINT AND WASHOE INSPIRE

GROWTH