



Inspiring Pathways

IAC Western Region

Erin Eustace, an enrolled Hopi Tribal Member from Polacca, Arizona attended the 2017 Native Youth in Food and Agriculture Leadership National Summit in Arkansas. Her experience at the Summit very much inspired and created a change in her in a positive way. Erin began taking over the care of the family orchards, garden and livestock. She was so inspired that she wanted to host a Youth Ag Summit on Hopi. The IAC Western Region TA Specialist was at the time seeking a host Tribe for the 2018 Western Native Youth in Food and Ag Summit and through networking, was contacted by Erin's mother, Valerie Nuvayestewa about bringing a "mini" summit to Hopi and from that point on the wheels were set in motion. Erin held a lead role in planning the Western Regional Youth Summit with strong support of her mother, which turned out to be a success.



Erin presenting at the WNYFSS ,
Path to Hopi Terrace Gardens

Currently Erin is working with the Southwest Conservation Corp./ Hopi Division. Erin moved up through the ranks within the Southwest Conservation Corp. and is now leading and supervising her own crew. Her responsibilities include providing agriculture assistance throughout the villages and communities on the Hopi Reservation. She has also assisted with the Hopi Natwani for Youth Farming Curriculum. A curriculum designed to be used as a tool to teach Hopi youth of their roles in Hopi farming, preserving Hopi farming traditions and restoring the local food system and distribution.



Erin sharing her Conservation Plan
& her mother Valerie

Erin hopes that other youth will find inspiration to become involved in their own communities in creating sustainable agriculture and taking care of the environment.