



Arizona American Indian Excellence in Leadership Past Awardees

2022 Awardees

Phyllis J. Bigpond Lifetime Achievement
Linda Salabiye-Yazzie
Navajo Nation



Kent C. Ware Lifetime Achievement
Al Pooley
Hopi/Navajo Nation

Man of the Year
Allen King
Zuni Pueblo/Navajo Nation



Woman of the Year
Pilar Thomas
Pascua Yaqui

Volunteer of the Year
Glory Ann Lewis-Garcia
Yavapai Apache



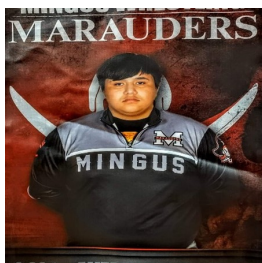
Friend of the Community
Alberto Esparza
Rise Foundation

College Student of the Year
Cante Zephier
Yankton Sioux/Navajo/Spirit Lake Dakota



Business of the Year Award
Native Art Market

Avery Hines
Yavapai Apache



Sumaya Quitugua
Acoma Pueblo



Spirit of the Heard
Jones Benally
Navajo Nation

2021 Awardees

Kent C. Ware Lifetime Achievement Award
Dr. James RidingIn
Pawnee Tribe



Phyllis J. Bigpond Lifetime Achievement
Barbara Pooley
Laguna/Hopi

Woman of the Year
Ethel Branch
Navajo Nation



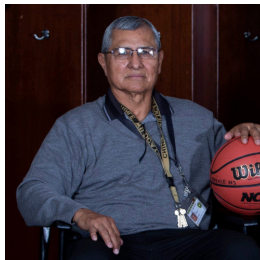
Man of the Year
Christopher Sharp
Colorado River Indian Tribes/Mohave

Volunteer of the Year
Medicine Wheel Riders & the Rez Riders



Business of the Year Award
Titan Facility Services, LLC
David Beaver
Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska

Friend of the Community Award
Raul Mendoza
Tohono O'odham



College Student of the Year
Trinity Manuelito
Navajo

High School Student of the Year
Angel Polk
San Carlos Apache



College Student Award
Shay Allison
Navajo

High School Student of the Year
Stephen Louis
Navajo Nation



Spirit of the Heard
Frances Stout
Tohono O'odham

2019 Awardees

Kent C. Ware Lifetime Achievement Award
Rick Baker.
Hopi Tribe



Phyllis J. Bigpond Lifetime Achievement Award
Tia Bruised Head
Walla Walla/Yakama/Navajo

Spirit of the Heard Award
Baje Whitethorne, Sr.
Navajo Nation



Outstanding Man of the Year
Honorable Stephen Roe Lewis
Gila River Indian Community

Outstanding Woman of the Year Award
Honorable Jennifer Jermaine
White Earth Ojibwe



Outstanding Woman of the Year Award
Wenona Benally
Navajo Nation

Friend of the Community Award
Tony Davis



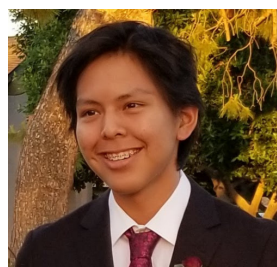
Business of the Year Award
Indian Country Today

Volunteer of the Year Award
Sheila Lopez
Navajo Nation



Outstanding College Student Award
Delvan Gonzales
Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian Community

Outstanding College Student Award
Shailene Edwards
San Carlos Apache Tribe



Outstanding College Student Award
Tristan Craig
Navajo/White Mountain Apache

2018 Awardees



Outstanding High School Student Award
Candice Joe
Navajo Nation

Kent C. Ware Lifetime Achievement Award
Baje Whitethorne, Sr.
Navajo Nation



Phyllis J. Bigpond Lifetime Achievement Award
Delia Carlyle
Ak-Chin Indian Community

Spirit of the Heard Award
LuAnne Leonard
Hopi Tribe



Outstanding Man of the Year
Gabriel Ayala
Yaqui

Outstanding Woman of the Year Award
Dawn Melvin
Navajo/Hopi



Business of the Year Award
KUYI Hopi Radio

Friend of the Community Award
Eve's Fund for Native American Health
Initiatives



Volunteer of the Year Award
Phoenix Indian Medical Center Auxiliary

Outstanding College Student Award
Lyndon Guy
White Mountain Apache



Outstanding College Student Award
Jennifer Jones
Navajo Nation

Outstanding High School Student Award
Adam Cardona
Gila River Akimel O'odtham



Outstanding High School Student Award
Jowun Ben
Navajo Nation

2017 Awardees



Outstanding High School Student Award
Netawn Marsoobian
Navajo Nation



Kent C. Ware Lifetime Achievement Award
Michael Allison.
Navajo Nation



Phyllis J. Bigpond Lifetime Achievement Award
Yvonne Fortier
Pascua Yaqui



Spirit of the Heard Award
Arlene Joyce Hughes
Akimel O'odham



Outstanding Man of the Year
Jacob Bernal
Colorado River Indian Tribes



Outstanding Woman of the Year Award
Treena Parvello
Tohono O'odham



Business of the Year Award
Salt River Materials Group



Friend of the Community Award
City of Phoenix
Greg Stanton, Mayors



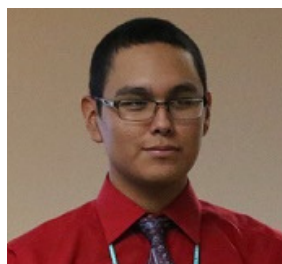
Volunteer of the Year Award
Wells Fargo Native Peoples Team
Member Network



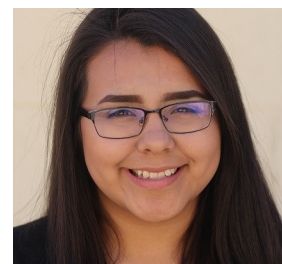
Outstanding College Student Award
MacGregor Gordon
Hualapai



Outstanding College Student Award
Yvette Ventura
Tohono O'odham



Outstanding High School Student Award
Shiloh Hayes-Begaye
Navajo Nation



Outstanding High School Student Award
Valeria Salcido
Tohono O'odham

2016 Awardees

Kent C. Ware Lifetime Achievement Award
Urban Giff
Pima, Gila River Indian Community



Phyllis J. Bigpond Lifetime Achievement Award
Dr. Alberta Arviso
Navajo Nation

Spirit of the Heard Award
Roxanne Swentzells
Santa Clara Pueblo



Outstanding Man of the Year
Jacob Moore
Tohono O'odham

Outstanding Woman of the Year Award
Dr. Karletta Chief
Navajo Nation



Business of the Year Award
Native Innovation Inc.

Friend of the Community Award
Susan Levy
Native Health



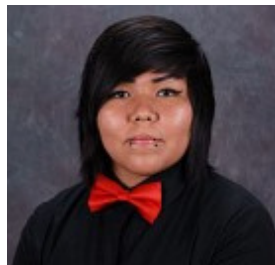
Volunteer of the Year Award
Rosetta Walker
Rosebud Sioux

Outstanding College Student Award
Gene Little
San Carlos Apache



Outstanding College Student Award
Michelle Powskey
Hualapai Tribe

Outstanding High School Student Award
Jarren Barlow
Navajo Nation



Outstanding High School Student Award
Kera Benally
Navajo Nation

Outstanding Jr. High School Student Award
Kylie Hunts-In-Winter
Standing Rock Sioux



2015 Awardees

Kent C. Ware Lifetime Achievement Award
Rodney Lewis.
Gila River Indian Community



Phyllis J. Bigpond Lifetime Achievement Award
Lucille Watahomigie
Hualapai Tribe

Spirit of the Heard Award
Herman Honanie
Hopi Tribe



Outstanding Man of the Year
Dr. Manley Begay
Navajo Nation

Outstanding Woman of the Year Award
Patty Ferguson-Bohnee
Pointe-au-Chien Indian Tribe



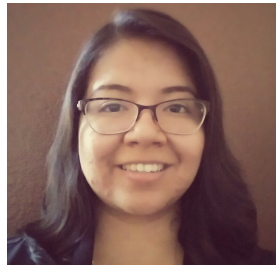
Business of the Year Award
Yellow Bird Productions

Friend of the Community Award
Canyon Records
Robert Doyle, Owner



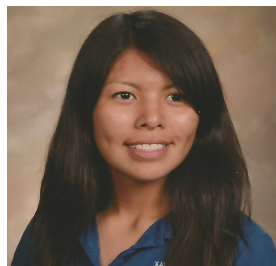
Volunteer of the Year Award
Robert Johnston
Muscogee Creek and Choctaw

Outstanding College Student Award
Waylon Phillips
San Carlos Apache



Outstanding College Student Award
Maria Bartlett
Pascua Yaqui Tribe

Outstanding High School Student Award
Izaiah Lopez
Tohono O'odham



Outstanding High School Student Award
Kristiann Ferreira
San Carlos Apache

2014 Awardees

Kent C. Ware Lifetime Achievement Award
Steve Stallings
Rincon Band of Luiseno Indians



Phyllis J. Bigpond Lifetime Achievement Award
Karen A. Thorne
Gila River Indian Community

Spirit of the Heard Award
Ernest Siva
Morongo Band of Mission Indians



Outstanding Man of the Year
Robert Roessel
Navajo Nation

Outstanding Woman of the Year Award
Theresa Price
Hopi and Navajo Nation



Business of the Year Award
Sunrise Ski Resort

Friend of the Community Award
Drumbeat Indian Arts, Owner
Robert Doyle, Owner



Outstanding College Student Award
Hannah Allen
Dine and Cherokee

Outstanding High Student Award
Justin Tyler Susan
White Mountain Apache



Outstanding High Student Award
Amanda Delphy
Pueblo of Acoma

Outstanding Jr. High School Student Award
Ryan Tiger Stiffarm
San Carlos Apache, Gros Ventre, and
Acoma Pueblo



Outstanding Jr. High School Student Award
Kiarra Spottsville
Navajo Nation

2013 Awardees

Kent C. Ware Lifetime Achievement Award
John R. Lewis
Mojave, Pima, and Tohono O'odham



Phyllis J. Bigpond Lifetime Achievement Award
LuAnn Leonard
Hopi and Tohono O'odham

Outstanding Man of the Year Award
Randy Kemp
Euclidean, Muscogee, and Choctaw



Outstanding Woman of the Year
Mary Kim Titla
San Carlos Apache

Friend of the Community Award
Arizona Science Center



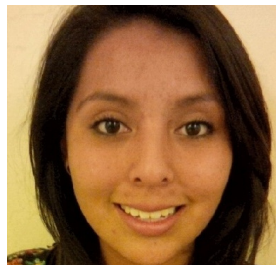
Business of the Year Award
Arizona Indian Gaming Association

Outstanding College Student Award
Quentin Begay
Navajo Nation



Outstanding College Student Award
Ruby Steele
Hualapai

Outstanding High Student Award
Kailey LaRue Toney
Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian Community



Outstanding High Student Award
Nicole Lucero
Navajo Nation

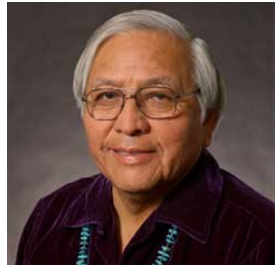
Outstanding Jr. High School Student Award
Nadira Sage Mitchell
Navajo Nation



Outstanding Jr. High School Student Award
Taishiana Tsosie
Navajo Nation

2012 Awardees

Kent C. Ware Lifetime Achievement Award
Dr. Peterson Zah
Navajo Nation



Phyllis J. Bigpond Lifetime Achievement Award
Octaviana Trujillo
Yaqui



Outstanding Man of the Year Award
Dr. John Molina
Yaqui



Outstanding Woman of the Year Award
Linda Benally
Navajo Nation



Outstanding Woman of the Year Award
Vice President Bernadine Burnette
Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation



Business of the Year Award
Navajo Times

Friend of the Community Award
Steve Saffron



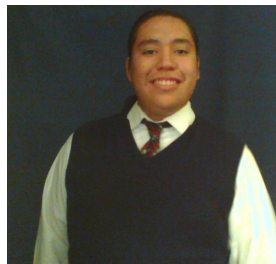
Outstanding College Student Award
Trudie Jackson
Navajo Nation



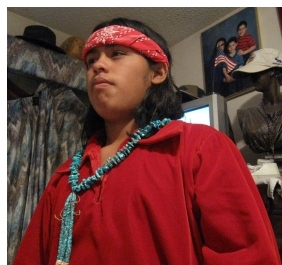
Outstanding College Student Award
Josefina Blas
Navajo Nation



Outstanding High Student Award
Zachary Cooper
Navajo Nation



Outstanding High School Student Award
Blackhawk Dodge
Navajo Nation



2011 Awardees

Kent C. Ware Lifetime Achievement Award
Dr. Eddie Brown
Tohono O'odham and Pascua Yaqui



Phyllis J. Bigpond Lifetime Achievement Award
Alberta Tippeconnic
Navajo Nation

Outstanding Man of the Year Award
Jason Coochwytewa
Isleta Pueblo and Hopi



Outstanding Woman of the Year
Loretta Damon
Navajo Nation

Friend of the Community Award
Captain Catherine Witte



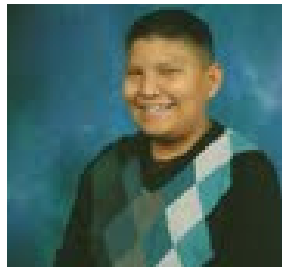
Business of the Year Award
Au Authum Ki
Margaret Rodriguez, Owner
Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian Community

Outstanding College Student Award
Cher Thomas
Gila River Indian Community



Outstanding High School Student Award
Dillon Dayea
Navajo Nation

Outstanding Jr. High Student Award
Anthony McCabe
Navajo Nation



Outstanding Jr. High Student Award
Arianna Taru Anderson
Turtle Mountain & White Earth Tribes

2010 Awardees

Kent C. Ware Lifetime Achievement Award
Dr. Edwin Gonzalez-Santin
Taino/Yaruba/Spanish/French



Phyllis J. Bigpond Lifetime Achievement Award
Denise Homer
Colorado River Indian Tribes



Outstanding Man of the Year Award
Chris Deschene
Navajo Nation



Outstanding Woman of the Year
Joan Timeche
Hopi Tribe



Friend of the Community Award
Paula Hale



Business of the Year Award
PACE Pacific Corporation
Gloria Lowrie, Owner
Millie Lacs Band of Chippewa Indians



Outstanding High Student Award
Kendrick Freeland
Navajo Nation



Outstanding High School Student Award
Kahara Hodges
Navajo Nation



Outstanding High Student Award
Jonathan Hernandez
San Carlos Apache



Outstanding Jr. High Student Award
Mateo TreeTop
Lakota and Hidatsa



2009 Awardees

Kent C. Ware Lifetime Achievement Award
Joe Hosteen Kellwood
Navajo Nation



Phyllis J. Bigpond Lifetime Achievement Award
Delia Carlyle
Ak-Chin Indian Community



Outstanding Man of the Year Award
Robin Forenkam
Gila River Indian Community



Outstanding Woman of the Year
Jolyana Begay
Navajo Nation



Friend of the Community Award
Miguel Bravo



Business of the Year Award
NABI Foundation



Outstanding College Student Award
Jason Francisco
Tohono O'odham

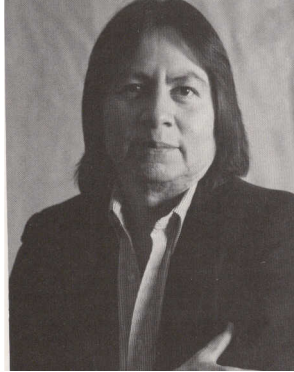


Outstanding High School Student Award
Taylor Susan
White Mountain Apache/Walker River
Paiute



2008 Awardees

Kent C. Ware Lifetime Achievement Award
Dennis Numkena
Hopi Tribe



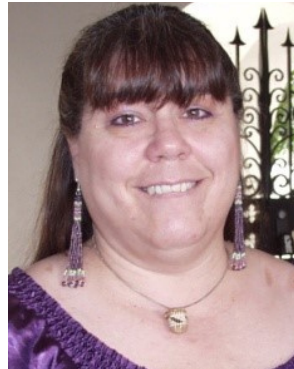
Phyllis J. Bigpond Lifetime Achievement Award
Bev Warne
Lakota



Outstanding Man of the Year Award
Loren Tapahe
Navajo Nation



Outstanding Woman of the Year
Deb Krol
Salinan



Outstanding High School Student Award
Sam Burris
Hopi Tribe



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Outstanding High School Student Award
Brandon Clark
Navajo Nation

2007 Awardees

Kent C. Ware Lifetime Achievement Award
Cecilia & Joedd Miller
Navajo Nation



Outstanding Man of the Year Award
Freddie Johnson
Gila River Indian Community



Outstanding Man of the Year
Marc Harrison
Navajo Nation



Outstanding Woman of the Year Award
Patty Dimitriou
Navajo Nation



Outstanding Woman of the Year Award
Patti Hibbeler
Salish and Kootenai Tribes



Outstanding Service to the American Indian
Community Award
Dr. George BlueSpruce



Outstanding Service to the American
Indian Community Award
Rev Larry Norris



Do you see someone missing from our list or have you, yourself received an award? Please email us at leadershipawards@phxindcenter.org and let us know the person's name, award category and year. Thank you for helping us update our records!