

Cholena Smith

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EDUCATION

Stony Brook University

8/2012-5/2014

- B.A. Degree Magna Cum Laude Double major in Sociology and Anthropology
- GPA 3.7
- Dean's List each semester
- Sigma Beta Honor Society
- Golden Key International Honor Society
- Stony Brook University Native American People scholarship
- Native American Student Organization President 2014

St. John's University

8/2010-5/2012

- Sociology Major
- GPA 3.9
- Dean's List each semester
- American Indian College Fund Scholarship Recipient
- Phi Eta Sigma Freshman Honor Society

EMPLOYMENT

The Childcare Center of the Hamptons - Assistant Teacher

2/2016 - Present

- Lead classroom activities including games and reading for toddlers and preschoolers;
- Incorporate Native American culture and dances into weekly lessons;
- Assist with managing day care operations including arts and crafts and helping children during snack time, with nap-time routines, and assist with potty training and other day care responsibilities.

Shinnecock Nation Cultural Center and Museum- Education Program Manager

1/2015-10/2015

- Developed programs including lectures, activities and workshops related to exhibitions and in response to particular themes;
- Delivered talks, workshops and activities in partnership with storytellers, craftspeople and artists;
- Managed programs and teams of volunteers;
- Developed and managed event budgets;
- Facilitated history-inspired activities in the local community in response to requests from schools and community groups and to promote special exhibitions;
- Worked with other museum staff to develop and market the museum and the events program and;
- Networked with other educational institutions.

Shinnecock Nation Cultural Center and Museum- Intern

6/2012-1/2014

- Wikun Living History Village Interpreter;
- Created Native American traditional clothing, crafts, and tools;
- Instructed and assisted community outreach programs and;
- Conducted research on Algonquian people of a specific time period.

Shinnecock Cultural Enrichment Program- Assistant

6/2010-8/2014

- Created games and lesson plans to be used in the Shinnecock Language Revitalization Program;
- Shinnecock language and data input on the Teaching, Restoration and Archiving of International/Indigenous Language Software (T.R.A.I.L.S.);
- Native American Dance Instructor;
- Native American Regalia Maker and Instructor;

- Conducted cultural resource research of tribal historic and cultural sensitive sites throughout Long Island and the northeast;
- Participated in training and planning for the Tribal Historic Preservation Office;
- Interviewed, photographed and filmed/and or recorded tribal elders and tradition bearers and;
- Filmed and photographed land, waterways, and flora and fauna in their natural habitat within the historical Shinnecock territory. Research conducted as to specie identification and use.

Shinnecock Cultural Camp- *Junior Counselor*

6/2011-8/2011

- Supervised camp activities;
- Developed recreational plans;
- Native American powwow dance Instruction and;
- Assisted in Shinnecock language and song teaching.

LECTURES

- Public Lecture, “Shinnecock Watautonqussonk: Telling Shinnecock’s Story on History and Contemporary Issues”, Global Justice Seminar Series, Swinburne University of Technology, Melbourne, November 10, 2015
- Guest Lecture, “Shinnecock: We are Still Here”, Indigenous Australian Experiences, INS10001, Swinburne University of Technology, Melbourne, October 24, 2015
- Guest Lecture, “Strengthening Shinnecock Identity”, Indigenous International Perspectives, INS20002, Swinburne University of Technology, Melbourne, October 23, 2015
- Guest Lecture, “Indigenous Experiences in Education”, Aboriginalities, MULT10001, University of Melbourne, October 23, 2015
- Guest Lecture, “Sustainability Through the Indigenous Perspective”, St. Joseph’s College New York, December 2014
- Public Talk on Shinnecock History and Culture, Undergraduate Anthropology Society at Stony Brook University, November 4, 2014.

VOLUNTEER WORK

- Shinnecock Environmental Program- Water quality testing, Environmental education
- Shinnecock Indian Education Program Tutor and Mediator grades K-12
- Shinnecock Nation community Event Planning and Volunteering such as community socials, dinners, and family day events.
- Native Voices- Epsilon Sigma Phi Sorority Inc. at Stony Brook University event volunteer and participant
- Stony Brook University Campus Clean-ups and Stony Brook University Fashion Show volunteer

ORGANIZATIONS

- Shinnecock Youth Council
- Shinnecock Women’s Helping Hands
- American Indian College Fund NY Gala Committee 2014
- Re-established Native American Student Organization at Stony Brook University

PROJECTS/EVENTS

- “Giving Thanks with Long Island’s First People” Free Open House and Family Day event at South Fork Natural History Museum and Nature Center, November 28, 2015
- Traditional Plant Garden Project development with ecological artist, Lillian Ball at Shinnecock Nation Cultural Center and Museum
- Shinnecock Mid-Winter Social 2015- Event Planner
- Shinnecock Museum Wampum Lecture Series April 12th, 19th, and 26th 2015- Project Manager

- Wikun Living History Village Repair Project at Shinnecock Museum- Volunteer Coordinator
- Shinnecock Cultural Resources Department ethnobotany project in collaboration with the Macaulay Honors College of City University of New York and the New York Botanical Gardens- Program development and grant research.

HOBBIES

- Native American craft making such as cornhusk dolls, story wheels, basketry, pottery, wood-burning, leatherwork, beading, and weaving.
- Designing and creating Native American clothing and jewelry.
- Participating in Native American intertribal powwows throughout the United States and Canada.
- Participating in Native American ceremonies such as Brush Dances in California, Sundance in South Dakota, and Midewin in the Great Lakes area and Canada.
- World travel – Kerala, India; Quito, Ecuador and Galapagos Islands, Zanzibar and Tanzania; Queensland, Victoria, and South Australia; Wellington, New Zealand.
- Interviewing Shinnecock elders about our history and culture.
- Tutoring and Mentoring.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Completed Ceremonial Stone Landscape Field Specialist Training September 24, 2015.
- Swinburne University of Technology, Melbourne Visiting Research Scholar October 19- November 11, 2015.
- 2014 American Indian College Fund Gala Student Ambassador.
- Champion powwow dancer throughout the North and Southeastern United States.
- Selected for Natural Helper Peer Mediation program and received Peer Mediation Certificate.
- Certificate of Appreciation from Shinnecock Indian Education Program.
- Certificate of Appreciation from Shinnecock Nation Cultural Center and Museum Internship Program.

HIGHLIGHTED SKILLS

Energetic, Creative, Hard Working, Organized, Compassionate, Excellent Writing and Communication, Exceptional Public Speaking, Event Planning and Managing skills, well developed interviewing and researching skills, and well versed in Microsoft Excel, PowerPoint, and Word.