

Together We Thrive

Keynote Spotlight



Making Connections Through the Generations: Adults Working with Native Youth

Jillene Joseph

Executive Director, Native Wellness Institute

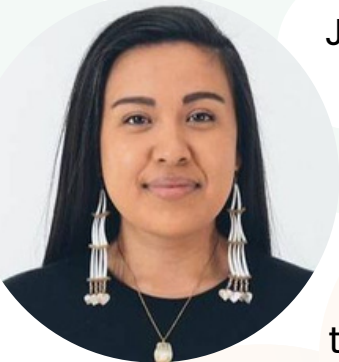
Jillene is an enrolled member of the Gros Ventre or Aaniiih people from Fort Belknap, Montana. She lives in Oregon with her life partner and children. She is the Executive Director of the Native Wellness Institute and helped to found the national non-profit organization in 2000. She has a Bachelors of Science degree in Community Health Education and has served Indian Country for 30 years providing training and technical assistance in a variety of areas. Jillene has traveled to hundreds of Native communities and interacted with and learned from thousands of people. Whether she is providing youth leadership training, assisting women heal from childhood trauma or helping to bring wellness to the workplace, Jillene shares her passion for being positive, productive and proactive. She enjoys beading, reading, pow wowing and spending time with family and friends.



Shalene Joseph

Program Director, Native Wellness Institute

Jillene will also be joined by her daughter, Shalene Joseph, who is from the Gros-Ventre or A'aniih people of Fort Belknap, Montana and Athabascan people of Tanana, Alaska. Shalene graduated with a bachelor's degree in Native American and Indigenous Studies from Fort Lewis College in Durango, Colorado and with her Master's degree in American Indian Studies from UCLA. While at UCLA she served as a Teaching Assistant and served as the vice-president of the American Indian Graduate Center. She received the American Indian Studies Community Service Award from UCLA for her outstanding work and service to the students and community. She has been mentored and molded into a leader since she was young through the Native Wellness Institute (NWI) and continues as a Project Coordinator and trainer. Shalene strives to see Indigenous people rise and become the healthy community members they were meant to be. And through positive thought and action, she keeps herself on a path of healing and wellness.



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