

# RIVER RUN: NCAI EDITION

Young River People's Council



## THE NCAI YOUTH COMMISSION SECRETARY

Last month, I traveled to Washington, DC for the Executive Working Winter Session of the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI). On this trip, the youth commission was able to spend the week in collaboration with the Aspen Institute's class of 2020 Champions for Change. The week consisted of sharing and building ideas to strengthen our communities. As the secretary of the youth commission, I was able to go on Hill visits and learn of the issues Indian Country as a whole are facing today. Some topics that were spoken of throughout the conference were the civil rights broken promises report, climate change, missing and murdered indigenous women, and the recent federal recognition of the Little Shell Tribe. I am very grateful to have the opportunity to travel to DC, representing Salt River and being upfront in the decision making for our tribal communities. I have learned the importance of uniting our voices on issues in Indian Country. I hope if provided the opportunity, other youth will feel inclined to attend NCAI to have a say in the future of our people.

-Sapo, Marisela Villegas

For questions about joining the Young River People's Council please email Christine Porter at:  
Christine.porter@srmic-nsn.gov or call 480-362-7527



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