



Intertribal Agriculture Council
PO Box 958, Billings, MT 59103

Dear Academic Representative,

You are receiving this letter because one of your youth has been awarded with one of the most prestigious awards of Indian Agriculture. As a 2022 Intertribal Agriculture Council High School Essay Contest recipient, your student and their family have received the unique opportunity of an all-expense paid trip to the Intertribal Agriculture Council Annual Conference. This event is being coordinated by the Intertribal Agriculture Council and will take place December 5th-8th, 2022 in Las Vegas, Nevada.

This educational opportunity will double as a professional development experience for your student, as we will rely heavily on their outlook and the solutions identified in their essay submissions. In addition, your student will be able to represent their community and school district as they meet with leadership from across the country to discuss topics of natural resources, agriculture, indigenous food systems, tribal governance, national policy and more.

We take pride in our annual event being the largest gathering of American Indian Food Growers. We feel it is our goal to ensure a nurturing learning environment is created as youth are exposed to presentations addressing food as an economic development tool, gain an understanding of successful conservation programs from Tribes across the region, and gather knowledge of continuing education programs as well as potential career paths, all during this intense, one-of-a-kind leadership development event. This presents an opportunity for student exposure to intertribal agriculture which will help young leaders on their own journey toward Tribal food sovereignty.

We sincerely hope that you will not only excuse your student's absence from class during the dates outlined above, but you will commend them for the outstanding representation which they have displayed of your school district, faculty, staff, and student body.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter. Should there be questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Elaini Vargas
Youth Programs Director