



Department of Justice

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SAINT REGIS MOHAWK TRIBE STUDENTS PICKED TO ATTEND NATIONAL INTERTRIBAL YOUTH SUMMIT

*Week-Long Leadership Conference in Santa Fe, N.M., Provides Opportunity for
Obama Administration Officials to Hear Directly from Youth*

WASHINGTON – Four students from the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe have been selected to join 150 young men and women from across the country for the week-long **2011 National Intertribal Youth Summit in Santa Fe, N.M., from July 24-28, 2011**, featuring administration officials from the White House and the Departments of Justice, Interior, Health and Human Services and Education.

U.S. Attorney Richard S. Hartunian announced today that the students chosen from the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe include **Cody Jock, Tyler Laffin, Sarah Tarbell and Sidney Thompson**. During the leadership conference, the students will have the opportunity to engage with other American Indian and Alaska Native youth through special sessions targeting leadership development and critical youth issues such as healthy relationships and lifestyles, education, substance and alcohol abuse, cultural preservation, community development and protecting the environment. “We are proud of the Mohawks selected for this program and congratulate them,” remarked St. Regis Mohawk Tribal Chief Mark Garrow. “We encourage educational achievement for our youth and are honored to support these future leaders. Our Tribe is extremely proud of their accomplishments. “

The summit also provides an opportunity for Obama administration officials to hear directly from youth in Indian Country. The administration and federal agencies have made a commitment to building healthier and safer communities through strengthened coordination and collaboration with tribal governments and partners.

“We applaud all the students joining this summit for their commitment to improving their communities,” said Attorney General Holder. “Tribal governments face unique challenges, and the importance of getting our youth involved in securing a bright future for themselves, their friends, families, and neighbors can’t be overstated.”

In his work with tribal leaders, United States Attorney Hartunian understands that the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe greatly values their youth and the opportunities this summit will

bring to their government and community. “Hardworking, dedicated young people represent the future of our tribal communities. I congratulate these students on their many accomplishments and commend them for their hard work and dedication to their communities. They are truly tomorrow’s leaders,” said U.S. Attorney Hartunian.

Chaske Spencer, star of the Twilight movie series, and pro-golfer Notah Begay also plan to make appearances at the summit, which is focused on youth voices. During the week-long session, participants will have the opportunity to create a Public Service Announcement (PSA) to run in their communities. In a special session called *Voices of Youth*, participants will share thoughts, concerns and recommendations on ways to address public safety and positively impact the lives of youth across Indian Country—providing a platform for honest dialogue with federal officials. Additional workshops will provide tribal youth with knowledge and skills in leadership development and strategies for achieving academic and career success.

Youth were nominated for the 2011 Summit by their tribal youth program coordinators and submitted an application to attend. The Department of Justice’s Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Programs (OJJDP) and the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) made the final participant selections.

For a full schedule of events, visit: <http://www.tribaljusticeandsafety.gov/2011youthsummit.html>.

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