



Department of Justice

*United States Attorney William J. Hochul, Jr.
Western District of New York*

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www.usdoj.gov/usao/nyw

CONTACT: BARBARA BURNS
PHONE: (716) 843-5817
FAX: (716) 551-3051

TWO SENECA NATION OF INDIANS STUDENTS SELECTED 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 – Two students from the Seneca Nation of Indians in the Western District of New York are taking part, along with 150 young men and women from across the country, in a week-long **2011 National Intertribal Youth Summit in Santa Fe, N.M.**, featuring administration officials from the White House and the Departments of Justice, Interior, Health and Human Services, and Education.

U.S. Attorney William J. Hochul, Jr. announced today that the students chosen from the Seneca Nation of Indians include **Kristen Sedar** and **Cyrus Spruce**. 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.

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, U.S. Attorney Hochul understands that the Seneca Nation of Indians greatly value their youth and the opportunities this summit will bring to their government and community. “I am honored that Kristen and Cyrus are representing the Western District of New York at the Youth Summit this week,” said U.S. Attorney Hochul. “I look

forward to hearing from the students upon their return about their experiences and how they can take what they have learned and share it with other young people in the Seneca Nation. These young people today may be the leaders of the Seneca Nation tomorrow, and this program will help our students develop their leadership skills.”

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 on 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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