



ASSOCIATION ON AMERICAN INDIAN AFFAIRS

Protecting Sovereignty ◦ Preserving Culture

Educating Youth ◦ Building Capacity

SINCE 1922

AAIA Welcomes Jessica Lee as its Cultural Sovereignty Fellow

WASHINGTON – The Association on American Indian Affairs, the oldest non-profit organization, advocating on behalf of Native Americans and Indian Tribes, has selected Jessica Lee to be the first ever Cultural Sovereignty Fellow. The Cultural Sovereignty Fellowship, a position created by recently appointed Executive Director Shannon Keller O’Loughlin, is a magnificent opportunity for new graduates to gain experience advocating for Native Americans at a national and grassroots level.

Lee, twenty-four years old, is a member of the Wichita and Affiliated Tribes and descendant of the Kickapoo Tribe of Oklahoma. She is a direct descendant of Okemah, a head man of the Mexican Kickapoo. A first-generation college graduate, Lee received her Bachelor of Arts in History from the University of Central Oklahoma in May 2018. Last month she was recognized as "college student of the year" at the Wichita and Affiliated Tribe’s Higher Education Banquet.

Recently, Lee was selected for an internship funded by the National Indigenous Elder Justice Initiative. The position allowed her to serve her Tribe by surveying Native American elders that utilize the Wichita’s Administration on Aging building and services. The surveys were used as part of an initiative to improve elder social programs within the Tribe. O’Loughlin stated, “Ms. Lee’s demonstrated dedication to Indian Country and impressive writing skills are exactly what we need to tackle our important history project for AAIA’s nearing 100-year anniversary.”

Lee will begin to write and compile AAIA’s history in preparation for the organization’s approaching centennial. Research into the organization’s involvement and achievements in Indian affairs will be conducted at Princeton University archives and the AAIA office in Rockville, MD. In addition, she will support the development of national policy in Indian affairs, provide research, analysis, and writing to support programs that include youth education, juvenile justice issues, sacred site protection, repatriation and protection of cultural heritage.

DONATE AT WWW.INDIAN-AFFAIRS.ORG

966 Hungerford Drive, Suite 30-A Rockville, MD 20850 (240) 314-7155 General.AAIA@Indian-Affairs.org