



2025 EMPOWERING SCHOLARS SUMMIT

June 13 – June 15
Gonzaga University | Spokane, Washington

About the Summit

The Empowering Scholars Summit is a free three-day, in-person event designed to elevate professional skills, expand networks, enhance personal branding, and develop executive presence. Selected participants will have airfare, lodging, and meals covered by Native Forward.

Two Opportunities to Apply:



Apply as a **Summit Scholar**

Focus on personal and professional development through immersive workshops, sessions, and networking activities.

Summit Scholar Eligibility:

- Must be current Native Forward scholarship recipient for the 2024–2025 academic year.
- Priority for the 2025 summit will be given to scholars located in the Pacific, Mountain, and Central time zones during the summer of 2025.



Apply as a **Summit Team Lead**

Provide leadership, guidance, and mentorship to Summit Scholars while co-facilitating summit events and activities. Present at least one summit session & attend all other sessions to assist staff in ensuring participants are fully engaged in required activities.

Team Lead Eligibility:

- Must be a Native Forward alumnus or current Native Forward graduate student.
- Priority for the 2025 summit will be given to scholars located in the Pacific, Mountain, and Central time zones during the summer of 2025.

Visit www.smr.to/p100713 to apply

Application Deadline: March 2nd at 11:59 pm Mountain Time



2025 EMPOWERING SCHOLARS SUMMIT

Application Checklist

Summit Scholar Application

- Transcript *optional*
- Resume or CV
- Short Bio *250 words limit*
- Three essay responses
 - Native Forward is driven by our core values of excellence, impact, respect, empowerment, and it's personal. In less than 300 words, please describe which of these values you connect with the most. Provide specific examples as to how your daily actions embody this value.
 - Tell us what you hope to gain from the Empowering Scholars Summit and how you will apply or share what you learn upon your return home or to campus. 300 words or less
 - Reciprocity is an important aspect of leadership. What are you most passionate about in terms of service to your Native community? 300 words or less

Team Lead Application

- Transcript *optional*
- Resume or CV
- Short Bio *250 word limit*
- Session Proposal Details:
 - Format Type: Hands-on/interactive, lecture, sharing circle
 - Target Audience: Undergraduate, Graduate or Both
 - Session Proposal: Purpose, importance of topic, how it will be addressed. 300 words or less.
 - Session Topic

Session Topics Key Areas of Focus:

Below are examples of topics we're looking for. These reflect key skills and major themes to inspire and empower participants.

Communication: PowerPoint Best Practices, Active Listening, Public Speaking

Self-Care: Wellness Strategies, Self-Advocacy, Boundaries, Motivation

Networking: Crafting Introductions, Building Confidence, Small Talk, Professional Etiquette

Managing Responsibilities: Project & Time Management, Problem-Solving

Financial Literacy: Budgeting, Credit, Debt Management, Investing

Leadership: Identifying Leadership Style, Indigenous Leadership, Conflict Resolution, Motivating Teams, Student Organization Success

Grad School Prep: Interviewing Skills, Program Selection, Scholarships, Career Alignment

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