



TRIBAL
LEADERSHIP COUNCIL



TRIBAL LEADERSHIP COUNCIL
FOUNDATION



Annual Report

2025



President's Report



Dear Tribal Leadership
Council Community,

It is with great pride and gratitude that I present the 2025 Annual Report for the Tribal Leadership Council (TLC). This past year has been marked by significant growth, innovative programming, and strengthened partnerships that advance our mission of supporting Tribal leadership excellence across Indian Country.

Financial **Transparency** and **Accountability**

Our consolidated audited financial statements for calendar year 2025 are available on our website, reflecting our ongoing commitment to transparency and fiscal responsibility. As a nonprofit organization operating without membership dues, we rely entirely on event registration fees and the generous support of our sponsors to sustain our operations and expand our programs.

Expanding Our Impact

While our signature Annual Tribal Leadership Conference and golf events continued to serve as cornerstone gatherings for Tribal leaders and professionals, 2025 saw us broaden our reach through several exciting new initiatives.

In collaboration with the National Native American Human Resources Association and the National Native American Hall of Fame, we hosted our inaugural Denim, Diamonds & Turquoise Gala. This elegant evening brought together Tribal leaders, professionals, and supporters in celebration of excellence and achievement within our communities.

Professional **Development** Pathways

A transformative development this year was our partnership with KOSO Strategies to launch two groundbreaking professional certification programs. The Tribal Administration Certification, held in conjunction with our Tribal Leadership Conference, provides participants with essential skills and credentials for effective Tribal administration. Our Tribal Governance Professional Certification debuted at UNLV in December, equipping leaders with advanced governance frameworks and best practices. Due to strong demand, we are offering the next



President's Report



Tribal Governance Professional Certification in March at ilani, ensuring greater accessibility for Tribal professionals seeking to enhance their leadership capabilities.

Building Leadership for Tomorrow

Our inaugural Mentorship Program cohort concluded this year, creating meaningful connections between emerging and established Tribal leaders. The insights gained from this first cohort will inform refinements as we prepare to welcome our second cohort in the second quarter of 2026. This program represents our commitment to cultivating the next generation of Tribal leadership through intentional relationship-building and knowledge transfer.

Throughout the year, we maintained our webinar series in partnership with leading organizations, delivering educational content on a typically monthly basis. These sessions have become a valued resource for Tribal professionals seeking timely information and professional development opportunities.

Strengthening Our Foundation

We are honored to welcome Dr. Crystal Miller and Council Member James Craig, III to the Tribal Leadership Council Foundation. Their expertise and dedication will be invaluable as we continue building organizational capacity and expanding our impact.

Gratitude and Looking Ahead

None of this work would be possible without the participation and support of our community. To every attendee who joined us at our events, to every sponsor who invested in our mission, and to every partner who collaborated with us throughout the year—thank you. Your engagement and generosity are the foundation upon which TLC stands.

As we look to the year ahead, we invite you to join us at the Tribal Leadership Conference, June 1–4 at Gila River–Wild Horse Pass. This gathering promises to be our most impactful yet, bringing together Tribal leaders from across the nation to share knowledge, build relationships, and strengthen our collective capacity for excellence in Tribal governance.

Together, we are building stronger Tribal nations and empowering the leaders who serve them.

In Service,

Justin Barrett

President, Tribal Leadership Council



Board of Directors



Justin Barrett, TMP, TGP
President
Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma



James Siva
Vice President
Morongo Band of Mission Indians



Marcenella LaFerr, TGP
Treasurer
Kiowa Tribe



Steven Orihuela, MBA
Board Member
Bishop Paiute Tribe



Thomas Lozano
Board Member
*Estom Yumeka Maidu Tribe of
Enterprise Rancheria*



Mauricia J. Chavarria, MBA, TMP
Board Member
Santa Clara Pueblo



Presley Redeye
Board Member
Seneca Nation of Indians



Jesse Downs, MPA
Board Member
Shoalwater Bay Indian Tribe

2025 Financial Report

Marcenella LaFerr, TGP | Treasurer

Statement of Financial Position

December 31, 2025

Assets	
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$34,679
Accounts Receivable	\$143,619
Prepaid Expenses	\$35,461
Total Assets	\$213,759

Liabilities & Net Assets	
Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	\$15,000
Unearned Revenue	\$71,008
Total Liabilities	\$86,008
Net Assets	
Without Donor Restrictions	\$97,751
With Donor Restrictions	\$30,000
Total Net Assets	\$127,751
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	\$213,759

2025 Financial Report

Marcenella LaFerr, TGP | Treasurer

\$686,527

2025 Total Revenue

81.3% | \$558,190

Conference Fees and Sponsorships

11.2% | \$76,937

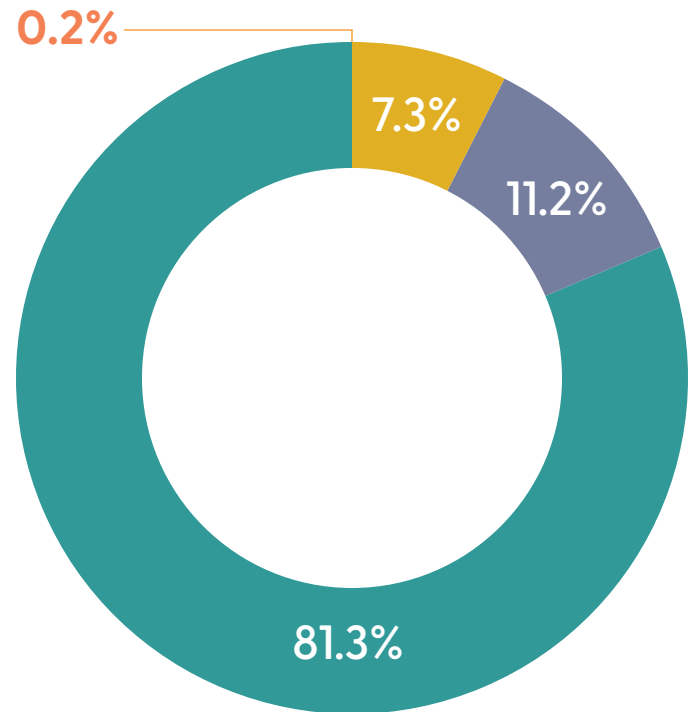
Other Income

7.3% | \$50,000

Donations—With Donor Restrictions

0.2% | \$1,400

Donations—Without Donor Restrictions



\$642,139

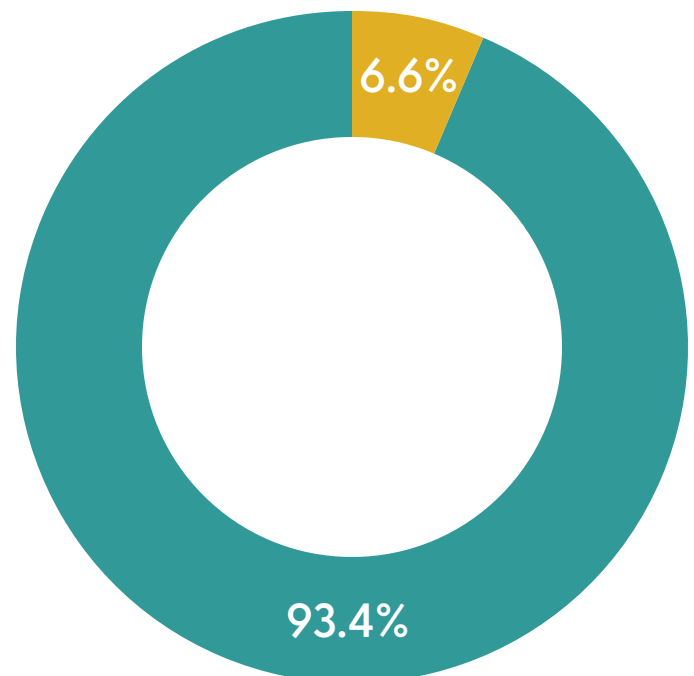
2025 Total Expenses

93.4% | \$599,534

Program Services

6.6% | \$42,605

Support Services



Revenue figures and expense figures are based on audited financial statements for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2025.

2025 **Foundation** Report

Dr. Crystal Miller | Foundation Chair

Committee Members



Dr. Crystal Miller
Foundation Chair
Walker River Paiute Tribe



Justin Barrett, TMP, TGP
Foundation Member
Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma

Fiscal Year 2025

The TLC Foundation continued its mission of investing in Tribal leadership development and educational advancement throughout 2025, despite facing financial constraints that required strategic prioritization of our grant-making activities.

2025 Accomplishments

During the fiscal year, the Foundation supported Tribal leaders and communities through targeted scholarship programs and strategic sponsorships. We awarded one academic scholarship to a deserving student pursuing higher education, enabling them to advance their studies. Additionally, we provided one Tribal Governance Professional Scholarship, supporting a leader's professional development in governance and administration.

Beyond individual scholarships, the Foundation maintained its commitment to broader community engagement through several sponsorships that aligned with our mission to strengthen leadership capacity and foster connections across Indian Country.

Financial Considerations

The Foundation experienced a reduction in available funding compared to previous years. This decrease resulted from increased operational expenses for the Tribal Leadership Conference, requiring us to carefully balance our commitment to the Foundation's mission with the operational needs of our parent organization. Despite these constraints, we remained focused on

2025 **Foundation** Report

Dr. Crystal Miller | Foundation Chair

Committee Members



James Craig III
Foundation Member
Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana

delivering meaningful support where it could make the greatest impact.

Looking Ahead to 2026

The Foundation enters 2026 with renewed momentum and an expanded scholarship portfolio. We have already awarded seven scholarships for leaders to attend the Reservation Economic Summit (RES), demonstrating our commitment to supporting economic development leadership in Indian Country.

Our 2026 plans include continuation of our Tribal Governance Professional scholarship program and expansion into Tribal Leadership Conference scholarships, ensuring that financial barriers do not prevent capable leaders from accessing critical professional development opportunities.

Conclusion

As we move into 2026, we are optimistic about our expanded scholarship offerings and new strategic partnerships, which position us to serve our communities with greater reach and impact in the year ahead.



2025 **Foundation** Report

Dr. Crystal Miller | Foundation Chair

2026 Scholarship Recipients

2026 Reservation Economic Summit (RES) Scholarship Recipients



In order of appearance from left to right: Mary Descheeny-Reyna, Megan Gourd, Tisha Gonzalez, Starr Chavez, Tasha Mousseau, and Rekisha Yazzie.

Mary Descheeny-Reyna

CEO & Founder
Indigenous Workplace Solutions

Megan Gourd

Council Member & Treasurer
Fort Bidwell Indian Community

Tisha Gonzalez

Chairwoman
*Manchester Point Arena Band
of Pomo Indians*

Starr Chavez

Secretary
Wichita and Affiliated Tribes

Tasha Mousseau

Vice President
Wichita and Affiliated Tribes

Rekisha Yazzie

Senior Economic Development Officer
The Navajo Nation

2025 **Foundation** Report

Dr. Crystal Miller | Foundation Chair

2025 Scholarship Recipients

2025 Tribal Governance
Professional (TGP)
Scholarship Recipient



Casandra Stouder

Academic
Scholarship Recipient



Adrian Lerma
Master of Organizational Leadership
Northern Arizona University

2025 Contributions

- **California Nations Indian Gaming Association (CNIGA)** for Western Indian Gaming Conference
- **Tribal Gaming Protection Network** for the Women in Tribal Gaming Symposium
- **Bishop Paiute Tribe** for their Pow Wow
- **National Native American Hall of Fame** for the Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony

2025 **Leadership** Awards



Lifetime Leadership Award

Rodney Youckton

The Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation

This award recognizes a Tribal leader who has served their membership through many phases over the years by continuously adapting their leadership to the ever-changing environment of their nation. Fostering relationships with other governments and advocating for their inherent rights, they are a leader that has left a remarkable imprint for the future generations.



Leader of Today Award

Lorilee Morsette

Council Member | Suquamish Tribe

The leader of today exemplifies passion, organization, and action. They are thought leaders taking action to maintain sovereignty while creating change for the preservation of their culture and sustainability of their membership.



Leader of Tomorrow Award

Dr. Crystal Miller

Walker River Paiute Tribe

This award recognizes the up-and-coming leaders. This leader has made an entrance to remember, and they have only begun their trail of servitude to create a better tomorrow.



2025 Leadership Awards



Leader in Economic Sovereignty

Tonto Apache Tribe

In Recognition of the Apache Corners Project

This award recognizes economic projects that are designed as a catalyst to change for Tribal communities. These projects are typically multi-year/multi-phased to generate new businesses outside of gaming to grow the Tribe's and surrounding communities' economy.



President's Community Impact Award

ROI Promotions | Presented to Liz Meyer

The recipient of this award is selected by the TLC President. They are selected for their support of Native-lead nonprofits and organizations for going above and beyond to advancing organizational priorities.



AT&T

Chairman's Circle of Impact Award

AT&T | Presented to Julio Figueroa

The recipient of this award is selected by the TLC Foundation Chairman for their ongoing support of broad tribal initiatives through Native-led non-profits, educational institutions, and Tribal governments.



We thank everyone who sponsored and supported us throughout 2025.



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