

Native Student Success Spotlight

Meet Caleb Sequoia Lee (Haida Tribe, Northern Arapaho)

About Caleb

- From: Tacoma, Washington
- High School: Tacoma Online High School, Valedictorian
- College: Tacoma Community College, General Associates through Running Start
- Unique Achievements:
 - FAA unmanned aircraft (drone) license
 - Internship with a local real estate developer
 - Volunteer at two totem pole raisings in Alaska
 - Financial literacy workshops for youth in California

Staying Grounded and Focused

Caleb credits his success to discipline, grit, and family support:

"Online school taught me my most important lesson—success comes with discipline. You are responsible for yourself."

Despite facing early challenges with an IEP, Caleb persevered:

"I knew that if I quit, I would be failing not only my tribe and my family, but most of all myself."

Culture, Identity, and Purpose

Caleb draws strength from his lineage and his grandfather's resilience:

"My grandfather never let disadvantages take down his spirit. Knowing I have that bloodline to uphold gave me the strength to keep trying my best."

"I hope to live up to my strong lineage as a Haida and be a role model to Native youth—to show we can accomplish great things, regardless of our circumstances."

Looking Ahead

Caleb plans to attend University of Washington Tacoma to study Business Administration and Marketing while earning his real estate license. His dream is to start a corporation focused on affordable housing and collaborate with tribes to build homes and opportunities for Native communities.

"I hope to create affordable living through apartment complexes and homes. I want to collaborate with Native tribes and communities to build on their land to support people struggling."



Beyond real estate, Caleb hopes to continue inspiring others through public speaking and mentorship:

"With a world full of constant negativity, I think speaking positivity can give people hope and a better sense of mind."

Why Representation Matters

Representation is powerful. Caleb's story is not just his own—it carries forward the visibility of Native students who are leading with strength, resilience, and purpose. By uplifting his journey, we affirm the values of respect, reciprocity, and responsibility that guide Indigenous education and leadership.

Closing

We are so proud to honor Caleb Sequoia Lee in our Native Student Success Spotlight. His vision, rooted in culture and community, shines a light on what is possible for Native youth across Washington and beyond.

We are cheering Caleb on as he begins his next chapter at UW Tacoma, and we look forward to seeing the incredible impact he will continue to make for his community and the world.