

# *Native Student Success Spotlight*

## **DC Atkins | Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation Youth Council**

### **Nominated by Ashley Three Irons-Atkins, Grand Coulee Dam School District**

DC Atkins, a citizen of the Crow Tribe and Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, is already demonstrating what youth leadership and civic engagement can look like.

DC serves as President of the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation Youth Council and was re-elected by his peers to continue serving during the 2026–27 school year.

Among his recent accomplishments, DC helped organize the CCT Council Candidate Forum, where Tribal Council candidates participated in a structured question-and-answer forum led by youth. The event was also livestreamed, creating another way for community members to participate in the civic process.

DC's leadership reaches across many parts of his life. He is a member of the National Honor Society, a varsity basketball player, participates in rodeo, and remains active in his culture and traditions. He will enter his junior year during the 2026–27 school year.

His nominator, Ashley Three Irons-Atkins, shared that DC “represents the strength of youth leadership, community involvement, and positive representation for Native students.”

DC shows us what can happen when Native young people are not simply invited into conversations, but are trusted to lead them.

