

Journey to Opportunity

Discussion Guides

College Access Challenge Grant
Idaho State Board of Education
Idaho Public Television Endowment

Lapwai High School

**Student Interviews:
Ivory Miles-Williams
Tommy Miles-Williams**

Video time sequence: 2:56 – 5:56

Discussion Questions

1. How does the tribal family support Native American students dreams to attend college? What did Lapwai High School do to help them further their dreams of a college education? What qualities have assisted Tommy and Ivory in their educational pursuits?
2. What would be your motivation for attending college? What might be some of your challenges? How can you best prepare for this opportunity?
3. How can Dual Credit classes help you prepare for the college experience? What are the benefits of taking these classes? (reduced cost of college classes, rigor of Dual Credit high school classes, preparation for college).
4. Why are stereotypes a challenge for Native American students? What are some of the stereotypes that might be encountered? How can students best be prepared to handle these stereotypes? What types of stereotypes have you encountered?
5. What types of support systems might be helpful for Tommy and Ivory as they transition to a college campus? What support systems would be helpful for you?

**Lakeside High School
Coeur d' Alene Tribe**

**Student interview:
Rachel Arthur 5:59 -7:18
Tilly Torpey 7:19 - 8:53**

Discussion Questions

1. Identify the challenges that Native American communities face today? How might those challenges be addressed? What challenges do you face today?
2. What is Rachael's goal? What challenges has she had to overcome to make her future a possibility? Identify what you believe is driving Rachel to seek a college education?
3. Tilly is attending Washington State University, what are her beliefs about attending college? What decisions did she make for herself based on her family's challenges? What are your beliefs about attending college?
4. What misconception does Tilly think that Native American communities have about college? What are those misconceptions? Do you have misconceptions about college? What are your misconceptions?
5. Discuss the pressures and challenges that Rachel and Tilly face regarding the future of their tribes? What possible future roles might they play within their tribes? What does a "college educated" tribe mean for the tribe as a whole?

**Owyhee Combined School
Duck Valley**

**Student Interview:
Cydney Manning 8:56 -12:08**

Discussion Questions

1. What was happening in Cydney's life during her freshman year? Were her experiences negative or positive? What action did she take as a result of the experiences?
2. Identify ways that gossip and negativity from those around you might have influenced your decisions in the past. What types of decisions did you make as a result of those influences? How did Cydney use these challenges to turn things around for herself?
3. Who helped Cydney move forward with her college plans? How did they help her? Who would you turn to for advice about your college plans and future? Why?
4. Cydney stated, "You have to want to go and better yourself." What do believe Cydney was referring to when she made this statement? Has there been a time in your life when you have made a decision to "better yourself" in some way? Describe that situation and what was the result of that decision?
5. Discuss her goal to return to Owyhee, the small desert town to make a difference for her tribe. In what ways might she make a difference for her community in the future? What ways might you be able to make an impact in your community after receiving your college education?

Fort Hall Shoshone Bannock Junior Senior High

Student Interview:
Shayla Johnson 13:46 -15:42
Talon Saiz 15:49 - 17:08

Discussion Questions

1. Discuss the obstacles that may keep tribal students from high school graduation? How might these obstacles be removed for tribal students? Describe an obstacle you or someone you know has overcome regarding your/their education or future. What changed that obstacle?
2. Different people throughout our lives make an impact for one reason or another. What impact did coach Andrew Baldwin make for Shayla? How was that connection made? Where do you or other students go to gain support and information regarding college and your future?
3. How did the school counselor help Talon to prepare for graduation? What specific steps did he take? Identify other people that you might talk to about your college dreams. Who would you seek help from?
4. In what ways do parents/families/guardians play an important role for students as they prepare for the college journey? What role have they played for you? What messages or guidance have you been given?
5. Talon reported encountering negative comments from others about possibly not graduating. How did he change his outlook based on these comments? Describe Talon's plans for his future. Describe your hopes and dreams for your future.
6. In what ways might the lives of Shayla and Talon change upon graduating from college? In what ways might your life change upon graduating from college?