



JONES-BOWMAN

LEADERSHIP AWARD PROGRAM NEWSLETTER

Siyo and welcome to the first edition of the Jones-Bowman Leadership Award Program newsletter. In future installments, fellows will share their experiences, goals, achievements, and photos. We will also be sharing information on any events that are produced by the Ray Kinsland Leadership Institute or the Jones-Bowman LAP.

The Fellows

Our Fellows are enrolled members of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians and come from varying backgrounds. Most of the Fellows are taking traditional in-person courses and one is taking online courses. Their goals range from community outreach to cultural knowledge-building. The Leadership Award Program size can vary but has a 12-Fellow maximum.

Our Fellows are also paired with a Mentor to guide them and advise them on cultural and professional opportunities. The Mentors in this program year range from professionals in the medical field to those with experience in law and administration



Nolan Blake
Arkansas



Zoie
Lambert



Colby
Taylor



Kevonna
Tushka



Levi
West



Juanita Paz-
Chalacha



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Who are they and what are they studying?

Nolan Blake Arkansas is studying American studies at Yale. Zoie Lambert is studying biology at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville. The University of North Carolina hosts two of our Fellows, Juanita Paz-Chalacha studying anthropology and American studies and Colby Taylor studying political science. Kevonna Tushka is at South College in Asheville studying physical therapy. Finally, Levi West is nearing completion of his classes through Arizona State University and is studying social work. Levi will graduate this December.

The Leadership

My name is Christopher Reed and I have been the Jones-Bowman Leadership Specialist since January of 2020. I graduated from Cherokee High School in 2007 and earned the Principal Chief's Award. I also graduated from UNC Greensboro in 2016 with a bachelor's degree in hospitality and tourism management.

I was recently a Tribal Council candidate in the 2021 Primary Elections, hoping to represent the Yellow Hill community.

Running is my primary means of exercise. I have held my certifications as a running coach in the Road Runners Club of America and USA Track and Field. Long-distance running is my favorite – half-marathon up to ultra-distances.

I hope to continue my work building the Jones-Bowman program to something more publicly recognized and commended, as well as providing our future leaders a quality role model and resource.





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Learning to Adapt

When you speak to people these days, you hear similar stories about the disruption of normal life when the pandemic first occurred. Our Fellows (most of whom were in their first year of higher education) experienced the added stress of entering a new program year. As schools began switching to virtual learning full time, it was a challenge for some of our Fellows and for the staff of the Ray Kinsland Leadership Institute.

Today, our Fellows have become well-versed in videoconferencing and networking. The staff of RKLI have also become more comfortable with online services and resources. On March 27, 2021, the J-B program had its virtual mid-year retreat, a full-day online meeting. It featured presentations by Tara Reed and Russ Seagle.

Since that time, we have hosted several departmental in-person meetings including the summer retreat for our 2021-2022 program Fellows and Mentors.

Still, the program and department continue to monitor CDC guidelines. Our department staff are completely vaccinated and encourages its participants to get vaccinated as well. We continue to encourage mask-wearing for those who are unvaccinated, those who are in close quarters meetings or during travel.





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Upcoming and Current Events:

- Jones-Bowman Alumni Bowling, September 18, 2021
- Totsawa Walk & Read at Kituwah Mound, December 19th-26th, 2021
- Fellows Mid-Year Retreat, January 5th & 6th, 2022
- New Application period opens February 21st, 2022

New Program Year begins on June 1, 2022

The Jones-Bowman Leadership Award Program falls under the Ray Kinsland Leadership Institute and is a department of the Cherokee Boys Club. The Jones-Bowman Leadership Award Program and the Ray Kinsland Leadership Institute are financially supported by grants made possible through the Cherokee Preservation Foundation.

