

## 2018 NINAETC/P.L. 102-477 AWARD RECIPIENTS



### WIOA SECTION 166 OUTSTANDING PARTICIPANTS

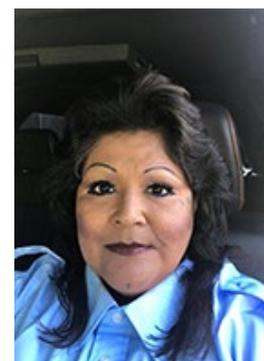
**Kacey Lyn Burgess**  
**Inter-Tribal Council of Louisiana, Inc.**



Kacey Burgess has worked very hard to stay employed while living a sober and clean life. She struggled to secure employment prior to her participation in the WIOA program due to having a felony on her record. She has become a role model to her community and the youth. The Trading Post Manager Catherine Chandler, has always had a positive report on Kacey and feels she is an asset to the company. Kacey states “if it were not for my Field Service Representative of the Inter-Tribal Council of Louisiana, Melina Butaud and the program, I would still be searching for employment that could allow me to take care of myself, my children and my home. Thank you for considering me for the Outstanding Participant Award.”

**Tessa Smith**  
**California Indian Manpower Consortium, Inc.**  
**(CIMC)**

I am from Pala Band of Mission Indians. I am also a proud mother of three beautiful children, Dominic, Rainy, and Charlie. I am a strong Indian woman who strives to always move forward. I have had my struggles; these struggles include alcohol addiction which resulted in having my children taken from me. I turned my life around and I am proud to say that I am clean and sober. I am happy to be regaining custody of my three wonderful children. CIMC has helped to contribute to my success in many ways, including locating and funding the program on my behalf. CIMC was also an integral part of helping me to obtain my trucking license through United Truck Driving School in San Diego. I graduated from United Truck Driving School with honors. During the program I earned my Commercial Driver’s License (CDL) with the passenger and air brake endorsements. I do not know what I would have done without Christina Arzate and CIMC’s help. Today, I work as a Coach Operator out of Escondido, CA. I have been driving for eight months and I love my job. I believe my purpose is to show younger generations that no matter what you do or how old you are; you can do anything if you put your mind to it. If you want something in life, go for it. I continue to work hard for what I want to accomplish. I am still working hard to become a school bus driver to help out our tribe and drive our students safely to and from school.



**2018 NINAETC/P.L. 102-477 AWARD RECIPIENTS CONT.****P.L. 102-477 OUTSTANDING PARTICIPANTS**

**Dora Luna**  
**Cherokee Nation**



I contacted Christy Stites with Cherokee Nation Career Services for assistance with a career path or employment referral as I was a single parent with three children under the age of twelve. I have a minimal work history and no post high school education. I found myself on public assistance struggling to support my family. I always wanted to get into the healthcare field or more specifically become Registered Nurse (RN) with the end dream job working for my tribe within a hospital or clinic. I enrolled with Northeast Technology Center (NTC) for my first class to earn my Certified Nurse Aide (CNA); I attained my Oklahoma state license on May 4, 2015. I began work as a Patient Care Assistant (PCA) in November 2015. I was accepted into the Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) program in November 2016. At this time Cherokee Nation was able to place me on the 477-Vocational program which helped with the cost of attendance. I attained my LPN certification from NTC in January 2018. I plan to take my state license certification exam within the month of March 2018. I look forward to potentially working for a Cherokee Nation clinic or possibly relocating to work at the new Hastings hospital in Tahlequah, OK as a LPN. It has been a long journey and I could not have accomplished it without the help of the Cherokee Nation.

**Charles Taos Barrone**  
**Osage Nation**

In 2014 I relapsed from sobriety. This landed me in the Osage County Jail for seven months. During this time, I was able to reflect on my past and the decisions I had made. I started working on my relationship with God and reading the Bible more. Once I was released from jail my family was ashamed of me and refused to support me. I was homeless, broke and now on the streets. I visited the Osage Nation Welcome Center. The Osage Nation Crisis program was able to establish housing arrangements. I was also placed on the Career Development Program. Through this program I was able to apply for the on the job training that got me a position with Osage Nation Tribal Works. During this time frame I attended several life skills trainings including cooking, CPR, First Aide, Financial Budgeting, and Basic Microsoft Computer classes. This was very encouraging as I saw a light at the end of a what was once a dark tunnel. A huge barrier that I was able to overcome through the career development program was getting my driver's license back. The position with Osage Nation Tribal Works started out through the program, but after eight months I was offered a full time employment position. This has changed my life, offering health insurance and 401K benefits.



## **2018 NINAETC/P.L. 102-477 AWARD RECIPIENTS** CONT.

### **ABOUT HOWARD YACKYTOOANIPAH**

Howard Yackytooanipah, an enrolled member of the Comanche Nation was born at the Fort Sill Indian Hospital in 1932 to Joe and Florence Yackytooanipah of Lawton, Oklahoma. Howard's family abbreviated their family name to "Yackus" for the benefit of the non-Comanches. Growing up, Howard loved to Powwow and fancy war danced at every opportunity. While in high school he and his brother Kenneth, his cousin Melvin Ahhaitty and friends would hitch-hike every weekend to various powwows and tribal celebrations all over Oklahoma.

After high school Howard enlisted into the United States Navy. Howard served our Nation proudly as a Corpsman. He was attached to a number of Marine Corps units and during his tours of duty, spending 11 months in Vietnam. He left the Navy in 1966 and was relocated to the Los Angeles area. While in Los Angeles, Mr. Yackus became active in the American Indian Community by tacking part in local Powwows and American Indian sports organizations with bowling being Howard's favorite past time.

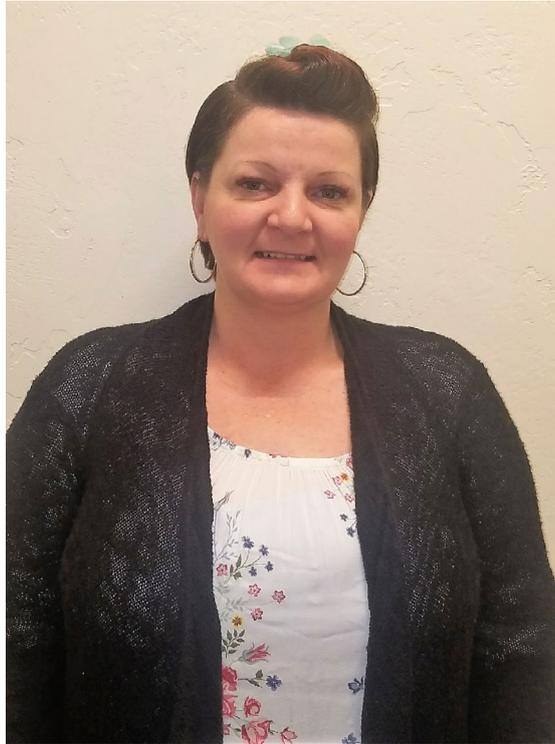
In 1972, Howard played a fundamental role in organizing the Golden State Gourd Dance Society and served numerous times as the organization's president. During this time, Howard put away this fancy war dance outfit and took up the "Straight Dance" and was a dance champion dancer. He was an active supporter in the early years of the Southern California Indian Center, Inc., then known as the Orange County Indian Center (OCIC). Howard was always there for fund raising events to support cultural activities like the Annual OCIC Powow.

After OCIC incorporated and captured its first Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA) grant. Mr. Yakus was tasked by the OCIC Board to manage the new grant and became the director of the ICIC Manpower Development Program.

Howard Yackus served his people all of his adult life in both work and play. He was a role model to many and mentored numerous young Indian people and remained active all his life. Howard left us too soon and tragically. On Sunday August 31st, 1986 while attending a Powwow at the Barona Indian Reservation, Howard returned home to Cerritos to golf with plans to return to the Powwow that evening. That day was the day that Howard and his new family were lost to us as an Aeromexico jet crashed into his home.

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### HOWARD YACKUS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP



**Christina Garber**  
**Citizen Potawatomi Nation**

I am currently a senior at East Central University (Ada, OK) and plan to graduate in December 2018. I am enrolled in 17 credit hours this semester with a 3.73 GPA. I work hard to keep my grades up and take this opportunity very seriously. Throughout my journey in college, this program has helped me succeed in reaching my goals of becoming a special education teacher. It had been 20 years since I had been in school and I was terrified that I would not succeed. I took that leap of faith and here I am in my senior year with a 3.73 GPA and have earned my Associates in Science. Without the help of this program, I would not have been able to have transportation back and forth to school or the required books needed for each class. I would also like to state that the staff working in this program has gone above and beyond in helping me personally. They are always available with advice or able to direct me to someone that can help with whatever my needs are. I am grateful for all the services that are provided to me in regards to furthering my education. I feel that this program and the personnel are as invested in my future as I am. They always encourage and support my advances in the education field which has helped me stay focused and motivated in reaching my goal of earning a Bachelor's Degree in Special Education and having the opportunity to gain employment in the education field. I also hope to one day obtain my Master's Degree in Psychology."



## **2018 NINAETC/P.L. 102-477 AWARD RECIPIENTS** CONT.

### **ABOUT ALICE BIGPOND ROACH**

Alice Bigpond Roach, from the Yuchi Tribe in Oklahoma, was born in Mounds, Oklahoma to Albert and Nellie Cooper Bigpond in 1928. She married Delius Roach in 1948 and they had three sons, Chuck, Damon, and Kevin. She was of Methodist Faith and a member of the Trinity Methodist Church in Lincoln. Alice was the Director of Employment and Training for the Lincoln Indian Center. She also served on their Board of Directors and was Executive Director of the Center from 1981-82. She was a member of the Private Industrial Council, Executive and Strategic Planning Committees for the Community Human Service Planning Council, Lincoln Action Program Board of Directors, Nebraska Job Training Council, Nebraska Commission for national and Community Service, and National Advisory Council for Native American Employment and Training. Alice served as co-chair of the National Indian Adult Education Association, and president of the Nebraska Indian Education Association.

Alice served as the Chairperson of the National Indian and Native American Employment and Training Conference (NINAETC) held in San Diego, California in 1992. The Participant Awards Luncheon exists today because of Alice's tenacity during a NINAETC Planning Committee meeting for the 1989 NINAETC in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Alice felt that our work in the Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration centered on building a strong Native American workforce and we should recognize the individuals in this program. After a healthy debate, the Committee agreed to incorporate the Participant Recognition.

If there was a definition in the dictionary for "Classy Lady," Alice Bigpond Roach would be listed. Alice also fulfilled a motherly role for a number of our Indian and Native American Grantee directors.

Alice Passed away on May 21, 1995 in her home surrounded by family and several close friends.

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### ALICE BIGPOND ROACH MEMORIAL AWARD



**Rodney John**

**Southern California Indian Center, Inc.**

Rodney was unemployed, recently released with drug felony and homeless at a residential program. Due to residential program rules, he was not allowed to seek outside employment until March, but he was able to volunteer as a food truck driver. He successfully completed truck driving school and obtained employment with the Goodwill of Southern California at \$14/hour in May of 2017. In December 2017, he applied and obtained another driving position that provided a brand new 2017 truck, pays \$60k/year and helped reunite him with his daughter when he drives to Arizona and visit his mom in Washoe County. Mr. John would like to share his story, to encourage and inspire others that they can succeed.”



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## 2018 NINAETC/P.L. 102-477 AWARD RECIPIENTS CONT.



### P.L. 102-477 OUTSTANDING EMPLOYER



#### Spirit Lake Casino and Resort Spirit Lake Tribe

The Spirit Lake Casino & Resort is a full service casino and lodge facility and currently employs 406 employees, and is the largest employer on the Spirit Lake Reservation. In the past year, the casino has employed 50 or our Spirit Lake Employment and Training Program participants. The casino also maintains an in-house training facility, which provides a regular promotional career path for individuals working in the facility. I am nominating the Spirit Lake Casino for their exemplary work recruiting, hiring, retaining and promoting our Spirit Lake workforce. The casino has provided work, provided income and given our participants a sense of purpose and a social network to grow and prosper!

