

## In Their Memory –

### OSCI Native Circle Creates Scholarship Fund Honoring Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women



Consistent with the theme for this year's event, the Oregon State Correctional Institution's Many Nations Culture Club (MNCC) unveiled its newly created Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women (MMIW) Memorial Scholarship Program during its July 19, 2025, pow wow celebration.

The National Crime Information Center reports there are close to 6,000 MMIW and girls in the United States. The MNCC was privileged to have as one of its honored guests a woman who was formerly a MMIW and one of the one percent (1%) that have been able to escape. The MMIW Native Women's report notes that, "Missing and murdered indigenous women have literally disappeared not once, but three times: in life, in the media, and in the data."

The club created the scholarship fund as a lasting way to honor and memorialize their murdered and vanished children and women. Having received a generous \$2,000 grant award from the Siletz Charitable Contribution Fund to support this year's pow wow event, the club allocated half of the award toward the scholarship. Additional personal contributions were made by members of the Circle and their families and friends, and the club plans to continue to fund the scholarship through donations and MNCC-approved fundraisers.



It is the MNCC's hope that being stewards of this scholarship will further instill personal accountability and proactive behavior by encouraging its indigenous members to become advocates and speak out against this tragedy. Eligible scholarship recipients include:

- Any student pursuing a law degree, and
- Students enrolled in a federally recognized Native American tribe obtaining their counseling credentials in substance abuse, mental and behavioral health, or social services.

Children and women are by far the most sacred as well as most vulnerable members of any community. The MNCC believes supporting students in these areas of study will help create more front-line defenders and advocates to address the underlying issues and help reduce the conditions and lifestyles that have historically created such extreme vulnerability.

