

# National Indian Health Board Health Policy Fellowship



## **Danielle Antelope**

Eastern Shoshone Tribe

2018-19 National Indian Health Board  
Health Policy Fellow

**Okii Nistoo Nitaniiko (Hello my name is) Danielle Antelope.** I am Amskapi Piikuni (Blackfeet) and a citizen of the Eastern Shoshone Tribe. I was born and raised in Browning Montana. This past May I graduated with my Health Science A.S. and my Math & Science A.S. from Blackfeet Community College.

**We recently moved to Bozeman,** so I could transfer to Montana State University. I am pursuing double majors in Sustainable Food & Bioenergy Systems B.S. and Food and Nutrition B.S. I'm dedicated to using my education to make the change that I want to see in my community.

**I decided the best way to make change is to get involved.** I'm Co-Chair of a nonprofit called Food Access Sustainability Team (FAST) Blackfeet, which is a group of community members working on grants based around food access and sustainability. I am also an intern for Saokio Heritage, which is a community-based organization focused on revitalizing traditional ecological knowledge. I'm passionate about food sovereignty, food access, nutrition, traditional ecological knowledge, community wellness, and culture.

**Being involved in my community is what motivated me to apply to be an NIHB Health Policy Fellow.** My community is rooting for me, so I try to be the leader they need me to be. In this Fellowship I hope to be guided and mentored on how to advocate for change for Native Nations at the national level.

**I am a student, an advocate and a mother.** My son Jase is my greatest motivation. He will turn 3 years old in August. Every decision I make has his future in mind. I often get told to move off Rez if I want to give him the best life. But instead of leaving my people, I choose to help my people. I watched my mother raise 4 children on her own so I know that we can raise our son to be a good person and have opportunities from the Rez.

**I truly believe that my ancestors prayed for me to be strong enough to lead.** My short term goal is to graduate with my two bachelors by 2021. I'm very interested in graduate school, but I would also like to move back home as soon as I graduate. My long term goal is to be in my hometown juggling community grants and taking the position of Chair for FAST Blackfeet. I have family back home that I would like to enjoy life with, so I don't plan on being away from home too long.

**For the younger generation I encourage you to start thinking about the generations before you and the generations after you.** I encourage you to be courageous enough to be a voice for those who survived in order for you to be here. If you are interested in working to improve the health of your people, please get involved. The best way to keep yourself motivated is to find others with that same passion for change.