

National Indian Health Board Health Policy Fellowship



Onaleece Colegrove

Hoopa Valley Tribe

2018-19 National Indian Health
Board Health Policy Fellow

Hometown: Hoopa, CA

Education: Hoopa Valley High School, Dartmouth College (Graduating class of 2020)

Double Major: Native American Studies, Neuroscience

I applied to be an NIHB Health Policy Fellow, because I want to learn how to be more effective in advocating for Indian Health. Additionally, I wanted to educate Congressmen and women on important health issues in my community and in Indian Country. I am thankful that NIHB has given me the opportunity to have a platform to achieve these goals.

While being a part of the fellowship, I hope to continue to develop my voice as a leader and as an advocate while representing the Hoopa Valley Tribe. I also hope to build my knowledge base on health policy as it pertains to Indian Country to better understand how policies made in Congress impact Tribal communities.

One obstacle I have faced has been staying motivated while attending college across the country. Higher education is challenging and being far from home makes it even more difficult. However, I have the privilege to attend college, and I recognize that many others do not have that luxury. My home will always be there, and at the end of the day I remember that I am gaining the tools to strengthen my home and Indian Country.

My advice to the younger generation who may be interested in working to improve the health of their people is to get involved: start asking questions and finding ways to actively gain experience that will help pave the way for more opportunities.