
MINNESOTA YOUTH SUCCESS STORY: VANESSA

WSA 6 – Southwest Minnesota Private Industry Council

VANESSA



Vanessa is a Native American female who learned of the PIC Youth Programs through Dakota Wichohan. Dakota Wichohan is an organization with a mission to build a strong Dakota language program that transmits the Dakota way of life. Entering a work experience at Dakota Wichohan, Vanessa has been responsible for peer leader activity development and presentation, which includes horse programs and taking care of the horses. She also cleans in the office and helps organize other events. Her involvement with the PIC youth programs helped her develop skills as noted by her statement; “I’ve gained skills that I couldn’t imagine.” Specific skills she has learned during her participation with the PIC Youth Programs have been communication skills, organization and responsibility. Vanessa plans to attend college and become a college professor. She stated, “This program helps out financially, emotionally and physically. I couldn’t do the good I do without the help from this program.”

Contact Information

Southwest Minnesota Private Industry Council
607 West Main Street
Marshall, Minnesota 56258
Telephone: (507) 537-6987

Juanita Lauritsen, Executive Director
jlauritsen@swmpic.org