ACE Profile - Jolene Creely

The Aboriginal City Employees (ACE) group is a unique group dedicated to supporting Aboriginal employees and the organization in an effort to increase Aboriginal representation at the City of Regina to become more representative of the community that we serve. In 2015, ACE is providing quarterly articles profiling Aboriginal role models in our community. This is our fourth article in the series.

Jolene Creely is a proud young First Nations woman from Okanese First Nation located in Treaty 4 territory. She is of Plains Cree culture and Dakota Sioux descent. Jolene recently graduated from Balcarres Community School with thirty-two credits, her strongest subjects were Native Studies and Cree Language. She is currently enrolled in Indian Communication Arts at the First Nations University of Canada in Regina as a first year student. Jolene’s keen interest regarding issues that impact First Nations youth provide her with the opportunity to participate in and contribute to discussions in the Cree language and Indigenous Studies classes.

Jolene is a motivated and driven young woman who embodies culture, strength, and ambition. She is actively involved in the practices of her culture and balances her life with ceremony and education. She is an accomplished and self-taught powwow dancer who enjoys travelling to many powwows to express her love of culture. She has travelled to countless powwows from Montana, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and New Mexico. Jolene is also an accomplished Jingle Dress dancer. She has been engaged in her ceremonial cultural practices since grade two. It is Jolene’s strong belief that once being committed to such a path, good blessings will appear for oneself within the future.

Jolene has kept balanced between Euro-Canadian education and cultural education. In tenth grade she was the female youth ambassador for Okanese First Nation. She held this title for three consecutive years. In eleventh grade she was nominated as a role model, with the value of respect, at Balcarres Community School’s annual poster project. This project showcases only First Nation or Métis role models. Jolene received the title of Miss Teenage Eastern Saskatchewan 2014-2015. She was the first First Nation woman to win the title. With this title Jolene travelled to Toronto, Ontario to compete for Miss Teenage Canada 2014 where she was one of five First Nation girls to compete among sixty competitors from across Canada. In October of 2014, Jolene was crowned Miss Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations (FSIN) 2014-2015.

Jolene has recently completed her one year term as Miss FSIN. Jolene felt she had an amazing year representing the 74 nations of Saskatchewan. It was Jolene’s firm belief to represent not only the nations, but also to represent the First Nations youth of Saskatchewan. She demonstrated being a role model by embodying a positive lifestyle of living drug and alcohol free. She believes this will bring good things in life. Jolene has attended and spoken on behalf of youth at various community events encouraging young people to stay in school.

Jolene’s goal is to become a journalist and to help change the face of media by showcasing the struggles and intergenerational trauma Aboriginal people have experienced in Canada. Jolene understands the impacts of issues such as drugs and alcohol affecting First Nations communities. Jolene feels strongly about the impact of missing and murdered Indigenous women of Canada. She wants to bring awareness to this issue and to help keep all women safe.

Jolene demonstrates and has always felt that she had the responsibility to be a role model within her home reserve. Jolene is grateful to her parents who stopped the cycle of drugs and alcohol within her family.

ACE wishes Jolene all the best in her future endeavours as we watch this inspiring young woman become a leader within our community.