

ARIHWISAKS COLIN BENEDICT

41 Smiddy Road, Fort Covington NY 12937 | 518.521.9968 | colinbenedict08@gmail.com

EDUCATION

Graduation May 2026	McGILL UNIVERSITY Masters of Arts in Indigenous Language Revitalization	Montreal, QC
Graduated May 2024	ONKWAWENNA KENTYOHKWA Adult Mohawk Immersion Program, Advanced-Mid OPI Result	Ohsweken, ON
Graduated May 2024	SIX NATIONS POLYTECHNIC Bachelor of Arts in Ongwehoweh Languages, Mohawk Language Stream, 4.0 GPA	Ohsweken, ON
Graduated May 2021	CORNELL UNIVERSITY School of Industrial Labor Relations Bachelor of Science degree in Industrial Labor Relations, 3.4 GPA,, Dean's List Spring 2018, 2019, 2021	Ithaca, NY

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

6/2024-8/2024 **Ionkwahronkha' onhákíe'** Summer Student

- Transcribed interviews with first language Kanien'kéha speakers using ELAN and Audible software for the Family Dialect Project.
- Working to provide Kanien'kéha language immersion programming for the community including teach-ins, hikes, cooking classes, medicine walks, and various workshops.

5/2023-8/2023 **Akwesasne Mohawk Board of Education** Curriculum Development Support

- Assisted in Mohawk Language curriculum design and development for grades K-5
- Assisted with translating Mohawk stories from English to Mohawk for different reading levels
- Planned and executed summer programming targeted at language and culture revitalization for youth

4/2021-10/2023 **Planned Parenthood of Greater New York (PPGNY)** Organizer/Digital Organizing Manager

- Oversaw coalition building, field outreach, online organizing and activist recruitment efforts for PPGNY.
- Assisted in the development and implementation of advocacy campaigns to educate and engage PPGNY activists and advance a reproductive/gender justice rights legislative agenda.

6/2020-7/2020 **Native American Finance Officers Association (NAFOA)** Policy Intern

- Wrote Policy recommendations on how the US government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic in Indigenous communities could be improved; Recommendations were submitted to the US Commission on Civil Rights.
- Conducted research on NYS Department of Labor data collection processes and how they could be made more inclusive of Indigenous workers.

8/2020-12/2020 **Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC)** Student Intern

- Worked with a Field Investigator assisting with drafting charges and preparing case briefs.
- Performed interviews with Charging Parties and applied EEOC statutes and labor law to real-life situations.

6/2019-7/2019 **Senator Charles Schumer's Office** Legislative Intern

- Worked answered constituent phone calls, attended Congressional hearings, composed memos for specialists.
- Worked directly with Schumer's Legislative Specialist on Native American Policy, researching past initiatives pairing Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs) and Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs) with larger national research laboratories.

8/2019-6/2020 **Cornell Worker's Institute** Research Fellow

- Worked with a team of peer researchers to compile a research paper that achieved deliverable goals set by the supervising ILR Professor.

- Conducted research on the topic of Worker's Rights as Human Rights, specifically focusing on education and the workforce.

9/2017-5/2021 **American Indian and Indigenous Studies Program (AIISP)** *Administrative Assistant*

- Worked to increase the recruitment and retention rates of Indigenous students at Cornell University.
- Tasks included event planning, graphic design, newsletter editing, presentations, and prospective student outreach.

LEADERSHIP

9/2023-8/2024 **Six Nations Polytechnic Board of Directors** *Student Representative*

- Serving as a voting member of the SNP Board of Directors representing student concerns and issues

2/2019-9/2020 **Cornell University Student Assembly** *VP of Diversity and Inclusion*

- Ensured that legislative acts of the SA were culturally inclusive, and created presentations for administrators, students, and staff concerning diversity initiatives.

2017-05/21 **Native American and Indigenous Students At Cornell (NAISAC)** *Co-Chair, External Relations, Mentorship Chair*

- Presented to prospective Indigenous high school students for the purpose of increasing the recruitment rates of Indigenous students at Cornell.
- Instituted a mentorship program pairing Indigenous upperclassmen with incoming freshmen in order to create future leaders in the Cornell Indigenous community by instilling passion and drive, encouraging skills development, and sparking intellectual growth in new students.

PRESENTATIONS/LECTURES

10/2021 **Cornell University: AIIS 1100: Intro to Indigenous North America** *Indigenous Dispossession, Activism, and Redress*

AWARDS/HONORS

6/2024 **Vina Loft Mohawk Language Award:** Six Nations Polytechnic annually selects the student with the single highest grade in a Mohawk Language course and demonstrating a commitment to maintain and preserving the Mohawk language.

6/2024 **Harvey Longboat Sr. Memorial Award:** Six Nations Polytechnic annually selects one student who has achieved the highest overall average during the academic year.

6/2024 **Port Nelson Award:** Six Nations Polytechnic annually selects one student in recognition of a language learner's exemplary efforts in recovering an Indigenous Language.

5/2024 **David Kanatawakhon Maracle Yeká:rátóns (Storyteller) Award:** The Onkwawenna Kentyohkwa Adult Immersion Program in Six Nations Ontario selects one student from the first and second year classes annually for their exemplary storytelling and Mohawk Language abilities.

2019, 21 **Janine Jamieson-Huff Memorial Award:** This award recognizes involvement within the undergraduate organization Native American and Indigenous Students at Cornell (NAISAC), that has been above and beyond the call of duty. The criteria for this award includes dedication, initiative, leadership, and organization.

2019 **South Asian Council Allyship Award:** Awarded to an undergraduate student for exemplifying outstanding allyship to the South Asian community at Cornell.

2019 **Akwekon Student Leadership Award:** Recognizes students who through their leadership in the Akwe:kon Program House at Cornell encouraged multicultural learning, fostered the extended family concept, and promoted Native American awareness on behalf of all Native people.

SKILLS

Proficient in Mohawk Language, reading, writing, ELAN and Audible Software. Proficient at in-person and virtual recruiting. Accomplished at giving in-person and virtual presentations. Accomplished at large-scale event planning.