

Nizhoni Tallas

Advocates for fellow Native American students to seek global opportunities

Switzerland, 2019



“My experience abroad changed the way I see other cultures and the natural systems that exist.”

Nizhoni studied in Switzerland during the summer of 2019 as part of the Virginia Tech Honors College Presidential Global Scholars Program. She credits her time abroad with strengthening her critical-thinking and problem-solving skills. Traveling through new areas and using Italian to communicate, she learned to solve problems quickly and effectively.

After returning from abroad, for five weeks, Nizhoni traveled to Montana, where she built relationships with the Blackfeet people and advocated for Native students in higher education. She is very passionate about encouraging more Native students to attend college and seek study or intern abroad opportunities.

- ★ Is an Indigenous Navajo and grew up on the Navajo Reservation
- ★ Promotes and advocates for study abroad and the Gilman Scholarship for Navajo students
- ★ Studies environmental sciences (natural resources and conservation)
- ★ Received prestigious Udall Foundation scholarship

 Gilman Scholarship[★]

