

NATIVE STUDENTS SPOTLIGHT



STEVIE LIZAMA - KALISPEL & SPOKANE SILAS HIGH SCHOOL - I1TH GRADE

I've been a competitive cheerleader for 12 years and have loved every single bit. I dance traditional and cultural Hawaiian Hula. I love fashion, and modeling when given the opportunity too - overall learning and enduring myself into the fashion world. One of my favorite fashionable hobbies is to bead - having learned from my grandma - I haven't been able to stop ever since.

Accomplishments:

- The first Native American cover girl to represent Varsity Spirit for 'Varsity Spirit's' 50th anniversary catalog.
- 2-time All-American cheerleader, having performed in 2 national parades (Pearl Harbor Memorial Parade in Honolulu, Hawai'i and Winter Spectacular in Disneyworld, Florida).
- An active student in school: secretary for Pasifika club and hopefully, future president and starter for a new Indigenous Student Club.
- A youth representative at the Asia Pacific Cultural Center in Tacoma, providing help services for the youth and elderly community.
- Have walked in over 10 runway shows at only the age of 17, along with worked with many popular brands like: DKNY, Champion, PONY, Varsity Spirit, and more.



In my world full of big dreams and goals, I plan to go to a 4-year college after high school, in hopes to participate in collegiate cheer and pursue a career in Fashion and marketing. In whichever specific job that may take me in this evolutionary industry, I strive to be myself and represent both my Pacific Islander and Native American heritages. If given the opportunity, a dream of mine has always been to join the hall of fame in the uplifting of First Indigenous Women to make a spotlight for themselves on the big screens. As a current junior in high school, with the shortest- yet lengthy countdown to graduation; I am open minded and preparing to walk into my senior year as successful and motivated as possible.

Representation has always been a huge part of who I am today. Being raised by two strong and independent women - my beautiful, Indigenous mom and Qene (grandma in Salish) - I have been blessed to be brought up with such influence and inspiration. To wear my Native American and Pacific Islander roots proudly is something I'll forever be grateful to do. Being taught to 'stay true to myself' and to 'never stop dreaming' has brought me to unimaginable, successful places I would have never expected to be at seventeen. With so much support and love from the peoples and communities around me, I hope to one day show all the possibilities this life has to offer- as just simply being, a native mixed island girl from the melting pot of Tacoma, who never stopped believing in herself. Thank you for choosing me to be a part of this special spotlight, I have tons of appreciation and gratitude for the Indian Education Program that TPS provides for us as the indigenous youth.