



National Congress of American Indians *Youth Ambassadors*

Patricia Carter Nez Perce Tribe Female Ambassador 2006-2008

National Congress of American Indians

Hello, my name is Patricia Estelline Carter; I am Nimiipuu, one of 3,500 Nez Perce from Idaho. My mother is Gwendolyn B. Carter and I have four siblings, Howard Lewis, Deanna Bernadette, Joel Martin, and my younger brother Carter Jade. I am the grand-daughter of Cecil C. Carter and Estelline Norma Samuels-Carter. I am a Plateau Traditional Dancer, I enjoy horseback riding, participating in local winter sports, boating and swimming on the Snake and Clearwater Rivers, and re-introducing myself to my violin. I enjoy traveling and meeting new people of different cultures and also enjoy visiting museums, art galleries and attending different cultural and musical events.

I am a gatherer of our traditional foods, an art that has been passed down to me through many generations. I have spent practically every spring and summer of my life camping with my family in the mountains of eastern Washington, Oregon and Northern Idaho gathering our staple foods of roots, berries, mosses, and various other plants.

I have a love and interest in our community which began at an early age. I am proud to say I have dedicated my life to helping others, helping community organizations as well as national organizations. I am currently a house-parent for the Nez Perce Tribal Children's Home. I strive to make a difference when participating with programs and projects that serve Native youth and will continue to participate in the future.

I was honored to be a chosen Tribal delegate for the Presidential Inauguration of Bill Clinton in 1993, the 2004 Grand Opening of the Smithsonian Institutions' National Museum of the American Indian, and more recently selected as a spokesperson and model for our Gaming enterprises. I have also participated in several documentaries about the Nez Perce people. In assuming these different roles it is important to me to maintain a healthy lifestyle and disconnect myself from the elements that may compromise my dignity and representation of my People.

I am currently attending Northwest Indian College to learn more about our Native Cultures. I plan to pursue a Masters at the University of Washington in Seattle, Washington in Anthropology.

I am anxious to become a more responsible and accomplished contributing member to my community and am very honored to carry the title of a National Congress of American Indians' Ambassador. Qeci' Yew' Yew', Godki Pewuakunyu Hanka! (Thank you and may God be with you until we meet again!)