IMPACT STORY: South Salt Lake City, Utah USA

Pathways Coordinator Receives Mayor's Social Impact Champion Award

Mickaela Aliifua

In March this year, Mickaela Aliifua, the Promise Pathways Coordinator, received a Social Impact Champion Award from the South Salt Lake City Mayor's Office.

This award is presented to an individual in recognition of exemplary efforts in advocacy, leadership, and community impact through demonstrating passionate pursuit of creating a fair and just community where everyone is truly welcome and valued. Bonnie Owens, Deputy Director at South Salt Lake City, had this to say:

> *"I was fortunate to be able to present the award to Mickaela at the mayor's **State of the City Address**. I wanted to share a great shout out to her!"*

Mickaela has shown unwavering dedication to advancing the '100% Graduation' initiative at Cottonwood High. Mickaela recognized that Native American students are often disproportionately represented in the group of students at risk for not graduating, and she made it her mission to help address this gap. She worked closely with the school to establish a new **Native Student Club**, creating a space where students feel seen, supported, and empowered.

Her work is not just about increasing graduation rates—it's about ensuring every student knows they have the tools they need to succeed. Through activities based in art, cultural awareness, and a shared vision for their futures, Mickaela connects with Native youth in a way that is both meaningful and transformative.

Her dedication goes beyond academic support—she fosters a sense of belonging, encourages career exploration, and organizes college field trips that expand students' aspirations.

Thanks to her leadership and passion, more Native youth are engaged, inspired, and on a path to success. More from Bonnie Owens:

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"Our community is stronger because of Mickaela's commitment, and we are incredibly fortunate to have her advocating for our youth."

Check out the press coverage! Here is a link to this month's South Salt Lake Journal: flip to pages 16-17.

From the Journal: *"South Salt Lake is a City of Kindness. This message resounded loudly during the annual State of the City Ceremony on March 17. While there was much to celebrate over the last year, we have to acknowledge that many in our community are feeling the uncertainty of these turbulent times. While it's important to celebrate our victories and innovation in providing city services, Mayor Wood pledged to continue focusing on stabilizing our neighborhoods for all residents, and ensure South Salt Lake is a place of safety; a community of solutions; a city of kindness. During the awards presentation, Mayor Wood presented 16 awards to recognize the people and businesses that embody the spirit of our City on the Move, and display true dedication to South Salt Lake."*

Watch a recording of the full address and read the bios of the 2025 award winners here: sslc.gov

For more information about the Promise Center in South Salt Lake City, please visit https://theclubhousenetwork.org/locations/promise/

If you are interested in making a contribution toward youth development programs in your local area or around the world, please visit The Clubhouse Network's **DONATE** page: https://www.theclubhousenetwork.org/donate

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