Indian Affairs - Office of Public Affairs

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Tomorrow, June 1, 2012 at 1:30 p.m. EDT, the White House will host a panel discussion of leaders who have contributed to the progress of the First Lady's Let's Move! in Indian Country initiative and whose work can be expanded across Indian Country. The discussion will be streamed online at www.WhiteHouse.gov/live. As a key component of the First Lady's Let's Move! initiative, Let's Move! in Indian Country focuses on four pillars that are essential to building a healthy future for American Indian and Alaska Native youth:

- Creating a Healthy start on Life,
- Creating Healthy Learning Communities,
- Fostering Healthy, Comprehensive Food Systems Policies, and
- Increasing Opportunities for Physical Activity

The featured panelists have demonstrated success in one or more of these pillars and are here to share their stories. They will be joined by the Secretary of Education Arne Duncan, Senior Policy Advisor for Healthy Food Initiatives and Assistant White House Chef Sam Kass, Acting Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs Del Laverdure, and White House Senior Policy Advisor for Native American Affairs Jodi Gillette. Following the discussion, two of our panelists, professional basketball players Ben Strong and Tahnee Robinson, will lead a group of Native American youth through a basketball clinic. The full agenda will include the following panelists:

Alvina Begay (Navajo) – Distance Runner and Olympic Hopeful

After a successful collegiate running career Alvina has finished in the top 10 in six U.S. road Championships, represented the U.S. internationally and finished 10th in the ING New York City Marathon. Alvina recently qualified for the Olympic Trials in the 10,000 meters.

Jack Burns – Nike N7

Jack is a member of the N7 Fund Board of Directors. Along with Sam McCracken, the General Manager of N7, he was one of many who helped develop the N7 program to bring sport and all of its benefits to Native American and Aboriginal communities in the U.S. and Canada.

Carl Butterfield (Red Cliff) – AmeriCorps Vista Garden Operations

Carl is an AmeriCorps VISTA leader for the Mino Bi Ma De Se Win (Return to the Good Life) Farm. The garden project works to ensure sustainability by encouraging tribal members to play an active role in the development, management, and production of a local food source.

Lise Erdrich (Turtle Mountain) – Circle of Nations Wahpeton Indian School

Gardening is a family tradition for Lise, who serves as the school health officer at Circle of Nations School in North Dakota. She works to encourage healthy choices through the school's "Green & Growing" local sustainable food project. She is also an accomplished author having written award-

winning books for young readers, including her acclaimed work, Sacagawea.

Sheena Kanott (Eastern Band of Cherokee) – Cherokee Choices

Cherokee Choices is a diabetes prevention program that confronts the factors which put Cherokee people at higher risk for diabetes. The program provides social support to increase physical activity and promote well-being to reduce the risk for obesity and diabetes.

Clifton Kenon Jr. – Rosebud Indian Health Service Hospital

As the Maternal Child Health consultant for the Aberdeen Area of the Indian Health Service (IHS), Clifton has worked to implement the 'Ten Steps to Successful Breastfeeding.' This initiative will lead to the full accreditation for the first IHS hospital (Rosebud) in July of 2012.

Leatrice Lewis (Zuni) – Zuni Youth Enrichment Project

Leatrice is a co-founder of the Zuni Wellness Center and worked as the Program Manager for fifteen years. Today, she continues her work in tribal wellness and serves as a wellness consultant to Indian tribes and other indigenous groups.

Ted Mala (Inupiat Eskimo) – Southcentral Foundation

Dr. Mala is an Alaska Native physician who comes from a family of traditional healers in Buckland, Alaska. Now as a director of Southcentral Foundation, he bridges traditional Native healing practices with Western medicine providing physical, mental and emotional healing.

Crispen McAllister (Karuk) – Karuk Tribal Council and Distance Runner

Since his retirement from the US Navy after deployment to Iraq, Crispen has been focused on improving the health and well-being of his community. He recently participated in a 230 mile run across the Karuk Ancestral territory to inspire Native Americans to make healthy choices.

Bruce Pecore (Menominee) – Menominee Tribal Council

Bruce helped introduce the Badges for Baseball program to the Menominee Tribe. Recently, he carried out an initiative to bring a grocery store to the reservation by opening the Keshena Save-A Lot which sells fresh produce and provides healthier dietary options to the Menominee people.

Tahnee Robinson (Northern Cheyenne) – Professional Basketball Player

After an outstanding college basketball career at the University of Nevada Reno, Tahnee became the first American Indian woman drafted by the WNBA. She has since played professional basketball in Israel and is contracted to play her next season in Bulgaria.

Valerie Segrest (Muckleshoot) – Muckleshoot Food Sovereignty Project

Valerie serves on the Muckleshoot Food Sovereignty Project and as a nutrition educator for the Northwest Indian College's Traditional Plants Program. She co-authored the book Feeding the People, Feeding the Spirit: Revitalizing Northwest Coastal Indian Food Culture.

Ben Strong, Professional Basketball Player

In college Ben was named the NCAA Division III National Basketball Player of the Year. He has played professionally in the Netherlands, Israel and last year with the Iowa Energy of the NBA Development League. For eight years he has run Big Ben's Basketball Camp in Red Lake, Minnesota and hopes that his next endeavor will be playing professionally in the NBA.

Please join these outstanding leaders along with Senior Officials in the Obama Administration tomorrow, June 1, 2012 at 1:30 p.m. EDT online at www.WhiteHouse.gov/live.

Charlie Galbraith is an Associate Director in the White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs.