

Cheyenne Antonio is from Eastern Navajo territory and the Program Assistant for the Coalition to Stop Violence against Native Women. She is a senior at the University of New Mexico, a member and former president of KiVA Club, a member of NaNeelzhiin Youth Council and active within the community about fracking production in Eastern Navajo. One of her many proud accomplishments she's had thus far was donating time and monetary support, in part of Kiva Club, for outreach efforts at Whitehorse High School to support their student council. "It was an amazing and heartfelt experience to spend time with the brilliant leaders of Kiva Club and the student/community leaders of Aneth, Utah" stated Cheyenne. Her role at the Coalition varies from being a researcher, leading different communal projects to suggesting ideas for future events. She went on to say "working at CSVANW has been an amazing work experience of understanding and having a tremendous amount of support from the staff and board of directors. I've honestly never been in a work environment of Native women and men constantly checking and caring about your well-being and professional development". What she enjoys most about being a part of the Coalition team is having trainings or board meetings, which is attended by many community leaders from across the state to share knowledge and stories about the challenges they face and their motivation to continue their work. Their examples reassure her of how important it is for the Native voice, vote, and efforts to always be in the room. Cheyenne is very excited to learn more about the work the Coalition has to offer and how she could improve as an advocate for the Native people in New Mexico. She wishes everyone a wonderful 2016 in good health and prayer. ♥