



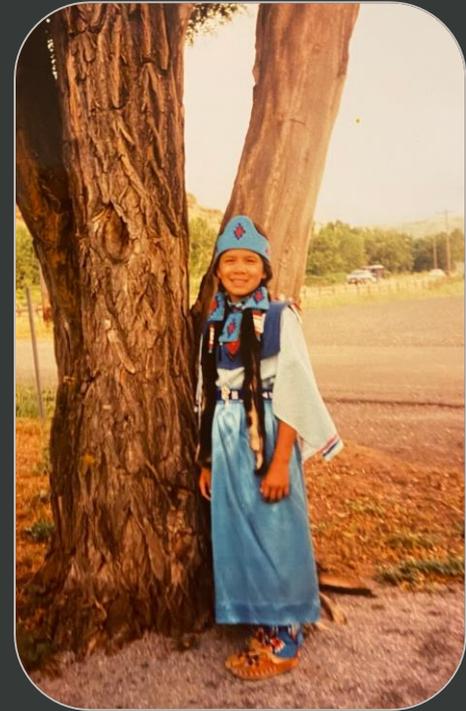
Jaci McCormack



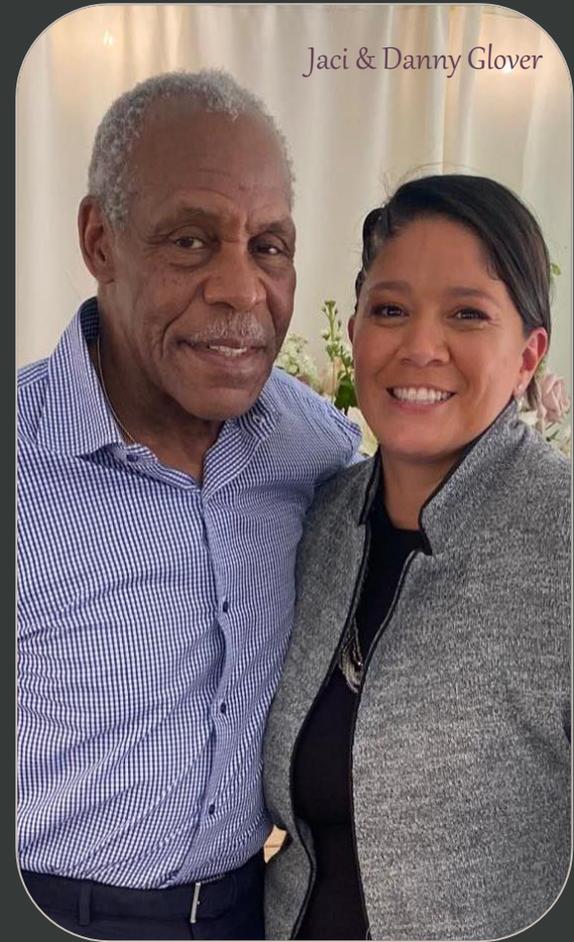
Jaci McCormack grew up on the Nez Perce Reservation outside of Lewiston, Idaho. She fell in love with basketball early on and earned a scholarship to play for Illinois State University, where her team competed in the 2005 NCAA Tournament. After her college career, Jaci was inspired to return home and give back to her community. She served as the Deputy Executive Director for the Nez Perce Tribe, as well as the Youth Prevention Director, building deep relationships with tribal and community partners.

In 2015, Jaci founded Rise Above, a non-profit organization that gives Native youth the skills and resilience to overcome their circumstances and write their own futures. As the President of Rise Above, Jaci leads the organization in its mission to empower youth through a variety of programs including sports, education, financial literacy, prevention skills and mentorship, using prevention strategies that will spark change in people's lives.

Beyond providing valuable programs to youth across the Northwest region, Rise Above is also in the process of building several youth centers, where tribal and prevention leaders can serve communities throughout Indian country and the organization can have a home base for their programs.



Rise Above also knows that representation matters, and that Native American success stories don't usually make it to the big screen or in media. That's why the organization is making a feature film called "Rise Above," telling Jaci McCormack's story of breaking barriers on and off the court. The film will inspire a generation of Native youth and create a long-term revenue source to sustain the organization's mission. The film's screenwriter is Erica Tremblay, a member of the Seneca-Cayuga Nation, whose short film "Little Chief" premiered at the 2020 Sundance Film Festival and was included on IndieWire's Top 10 must-see short films at the fest. Tremblay was a 2018 Sundance Native Film Lab Fellow and in 2021, she was awarded the Walter Bernstein Screenwriting Fellowship and the Maja Kristin Directing Fellowship. Jaci has attracted an incredible group of engaged and like-minded partners and donors across the country who believe in Rise Above's mission to empower Native youth, including over 30 tribes, investors, prevention advocates, sports legends and hall-of-famers, and Hollywood stars.



Rise Above works deeply with community organizations, tribes, investors, prevention advocates and community groups who share the organization's passion and vision for changing the lives of Native youth. Rise Above partners with community groups, tribal youth centers, local organizations, and over 30 tribes across the region because they know it takes powerful partnerships to make impacts in the communities you're serving. Rise Above works closely with the Kalispel Tribe of Indians, the Nez Perce Tribe and the Nisqually Tribe. The Kalispel Tribe in particular is a key partner in helping the organization build its first center in Eastern Washington.

Rise Above is serving more than 3,000 youth per year and is on track to triple that by 2025!



Native youth are the focus for Rise Above's programs. Since it began, Rise Above has impacted over 5,170 kids through 40 programs that include camps, sports clinics, programs and speaking engagements. The organization uses sports as the vehicle to drive their programs, since they know sports get youth in the door and get them involved. Once engaged, kids are exposed to valuable educational programs ranging from suicide, diabetes and obesity prevention; alcohol, tobacco and drug misuse; financial literacy; healthy relationships and bullying. Rise Above partners with behavioral health experts and leaders in higher education to inform and incorporate prevention programs into their clinics.



Illinois State
Speaker at Title IX Event



Jaci and the team at Rise Above firmly believe in the power of mentorship. If a child has just one positive role model they can count on, their life outcomes are dramatically improved. Rise Above's mentorship program aims to pair Native youth with tribal leaders throughout Indian country. Rise Above mentors are taken through a culturally informed program that teaches them about adolescent brain development and American Indian youth, led by Dr. Martina Whelshula, a member of the Arrow Lakes Nation of the Colville Confederated Tribes in Washington State and a descendent of the Coeur d'Alene Tribe of Idaho.

Rise Above also has a youth ambassador program that takes young graduates of Rise Above programs and turns them into mentors, ensuring the youth of today are invested in the wellbeing of the next generation.



Rise Above's greatest contributions to Indian country are the investments made in the lives of youth. Jaci and the team at Rise Above know that youth are the future. They also know the reality that Native American youth experience dramatic health and education disparities, affecting every aspect of life. By investing in prevention and intervention programs, Native youth can beat the odds and ignite ripple effects that change the course of history for their communities.

Rise Above cares deeply about changing the narratives that surround Native youth. With prevention at the forefront of their work, they know they can change the outcomes for Native youth.



Jaci, Coach Wilkins,
& Magic Johnson

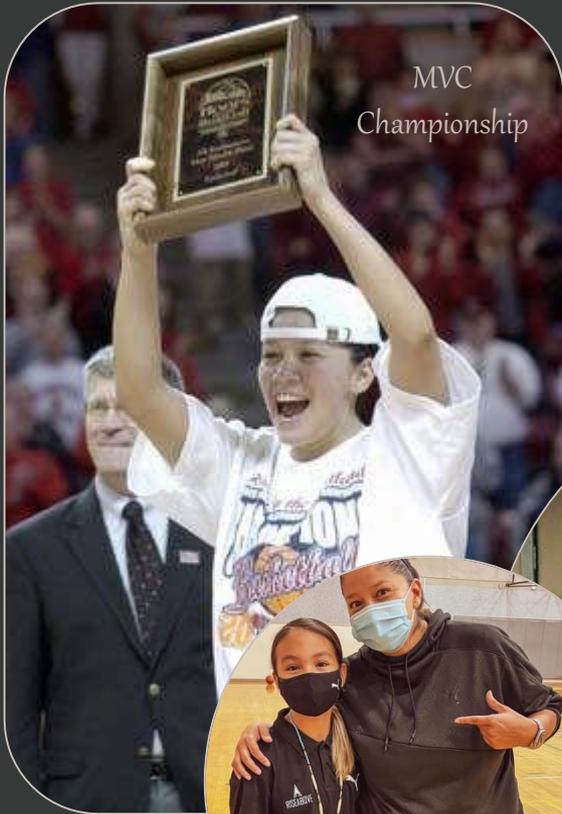
The funds generated by Rise Above's partners and donors add up to more than \$1 million as of this year, which is entirely invested back into Indian country through programs and activities.

One of Rise Above's core programs is financial literacy. This program, held in partnership with Coldstream Wealth Management Group, teaches youth how to spend, save and invest their money, and provides mentorship and resources to youth. Rise Above believes this program will contribute to changing a generation of Native youth



Rise Above is also building a series of youth centers that will serve as their program's brick-and-mortar homes, providing permanence to their community relationships with tribes and youth. The first Rise Above center will be built in Airway Heights, Washington, thanks to a partnership with the Kalispel Tribe. The center will have sports courts, classrooms for instruction, a physical therapy space and food services. Rise Above aims to work with tribes and other partners to build more centers throughout Indian country, to serve youth and communities for generations to come.

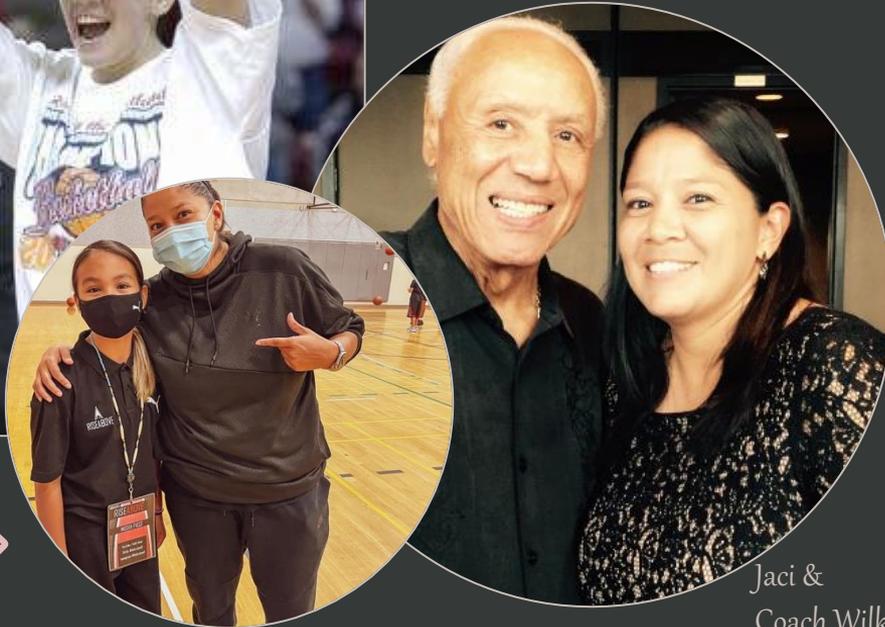
Jaci McCormack Honors



MVC
Championship



- Seattle Mariners, recognized in-game as a Hometown All-Star
- Seattle Kraken, recognized in-game as a Hero of The Deep - awarded \$32K
- Appointed by City of Seattle Mayor Bruce Harrell to be a member of the very first Indigenous Advisory Council
- Invited by President Biden and the White House to be a Presenting Speaker at the White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition and Health



Jaci &
Coach Wilkins

