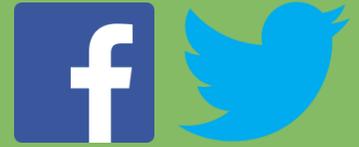


NAT\$VE in the BANK YOUTH SPOTLIGHT:



HARMANI WILSON

Harmani's "Selfie" With Her Banker!



Each week, the [National Congress of American Indians](#) and the [Native Financial Education Coalition](#) will cast a spotlight on a Native youth who has answered the [NAT\\$VE in the BANK](#) call. This week, we spotlight **Harmani Wilson**, a citizen of the Oglala Sioux Tribe and high school senior who lives in Henderson, Nevada.

Why did you decide to answer the NAT\$VE in the BANK call?

"I saw the ad for NAT\$VE in the BANK when my mom sent it to my Facebook wall and I said, 'Why not give it a try?' It was pretty easy to understand and do. I am happy I did it because I learned a lot from it. My mom talked about keeping our money secure and opened an account for me."

What was the most interesting/eye-opening part about opening an account?

"The most eye-opening experience thing about opening a bank account is how much easier I can control my money without losing it or it being stolen by my siblings! Ha ha! It was amazing how much money I was saving by putting it in the bank to because I was not spending like I would if I had cash in my pocket. It helped me budget better and I was able to save up for items I really wanted and learned that I can take my time and don't need to buy things immediately."

What are your financial goals in life and how do you plan to achieve them?

"One of my goals is to open a savings account and save enough money to get my own place when I am older. How I am going to get there is to deposit \$150 every month out of my paycheck. This is just a starting point while I am in high school. I know that things cost, and learning that I need to be responsible for how I spend my money in the end is my choice. I always hear people say, 'If only I had this much I could do this,' then they go out and eat an expensive dinner or go buy a Starbucks coffee. Sometimes I see them even buy things that they don't really need but just want. Eventually, I want to stay debt free and still be able to live the life I want through savings."

How are you going to get your friends to answer the NAT\$VE in the BANK call?

"I have been sharing that it was pretty easy and had fun learning modules. They were interesting and made me think about what I do with my own money. I think that most kids think it is not really important how they think about money so I am telling them to do it so we can get the shirts and maybe win an iPad or even the trip. My siblings are planning on doing it too soon. Maybe I could host a party or something with kids I know."

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