



City of Seattle Boards & Commissions Notice of Appointment

Appointee Name: *Jaci S. McCormack*

Board or Commission Name: *Indigenous Advisory Council*

Position Title: *Member*

☐ Appointment ☒ Reappointment

***Term of Position:** *8/1/2026 to 7/31/2028*

☐ *Serving partial term (eligible for full terms thereafter)*

Appointing Authority: ☐ City Council ☒ Mayor ☐ Other: *Insert Appointing Authority*

City Council Confirmation Required? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Residential Neighborhood: *N/A*

Appointee brief overview:

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 she earned her degree in Sociology. 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 CEO of Rise Above, Jaci leads the organization in its mission to empower youth through a variety of programs including sports, education, music, financial literacy, prevention skills and mentorship, using prevention strategies that will spark change in people's lives.

Appointing Authority Signature:

Date Signed: *6/12/26*

Appointing Authority Printed Name and Title:

Katie B. Wilson
Mayor of Seattle

Jaci S. McCormack



Personal

Enrolled member of the Nez Perce Tribe

Current Employment

Rise Above, Founder/President (August 2015 – Present) Develop and maintain a strong Board of Directors as well seek and build board involvement with strategic direction. Actively engage board members, staff and partnering organizations to ensure on-going local programmatic excellence, program evaluation, fundraising, communications. Lead, coach and development management team for effective systems to track progress and regularly evaluate program components. Develop and implement program budget and financial forecasting each fiscal year while monitoring expenditures and compliance.

Tulalip Tribes Office of the Reservation Attorney (September 2016 – July 2022)

Prosecutors Office, Victim Services Coordinator

Victim Services Coordinator for the Tulalip Tribes specializing in expanding and developing streamlined services for victims of crime. Help prepare contract agreements between the program and Victim Advocate Attorneys, provide emergency and on-going support to victims of crime. Increase awareness and education for services, resources and legal updates as necessary. Support prepared comments and testimony for Tribal Tribes Chairman and Representatives as it relates to federal legislation, specifically related to the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act and Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women.

Victim Assistance Coordinator. Develop and implement GPS tracking protocols and process for monitoring of domestic violence offenders, both native and non-native. Acted as a liaison between crime victims and criminal justice system, as well as other departments and services. Helped prepare and review legal pleadings, orders and other documents such as protection order petitions and restitution hearing packets and worked directly with the prosecutor to further develop, enhance and improve prosecution approach to exercise Special Domestic Violence Criminal Jurisdiction. Helped develop culturally appropriate services for victims and families to keep victims informed of court processes and probation supervision.

Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Investigator. Provide crisis intervention information and referral, support and advocacy to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. Worked directly with the prosecutor to create enhanced prosecution to offender accountability and victim safety and assisted with the development of policy and procedures to ensure victim safety and promote the well-being of women and their children. Worked closely with the Tulalip Tribal Police, Snohomish County Sheriff's Department, Tribal and State Courts and with other domestic violence and sexual assault programs. Engaged in social change to impact attitudes, values and behavior that contribute to DV/SA.

Past Employment

A PLUS Youth Program, Director of Institutional Giving (February 2015- July 2016) Develop a plan for increased corporate, foundation and government support and identify new ways to secure sponsorships through innovative packaging and creative marketing/advertising opportunities. Develop proposals, grant applications, reports and materials for corporate sponsorship and foundation giving and to ensure timely fulfillment of sponsorship benefits and recognition.

Nez Perce Tribe, Deputy Executive Director (January 2014 - February 2015) Provide intradepartmental, inter-tribal and interagency coordination for Natural Resources Programs. Delivering departmental supervision and oversight as well as policy recommendations to the Tribe in matters regarding tribal operations. Responsibilities also included strategic guidance and advancement of the department and tribe and ensuring personnel administration are implemented as designed.

Nez Perce Tribe, Youth Prevention Director (March 2010 – January 2014) Promote tribal policy and strategic planning to support health and education initiatives that support children, youth, families, communities and schools. Collaborate with community coalitions to advocate for social policy change and positive community norms. Implement, monitor and evaluate state and federal cooperative agreements through grants and contracts. Daily supervision of staff for program management, ensure compliance and maintain cultural competence in programming.

Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board & Northwest Tribal Epidemiology Center, Project Specialist (November 2006 - February 2010) Supply assistance with data collection and data analysis of barriers to implementation of public health intervention, for the forty-three tribes in the Northwest. Provide monthly and annual budget updates to federal partners and quarterly presentation to the NPAIHB Board of Directors focusing on health promotion and disease prevention.

Education

- Bachelor of Science, Illinois State University (May 2005)
- Certificate in Legal Advocacy, University of Wisconsin/Southwest Center for Law & Policy (June 2019)
- High School Diploma, Lake Oswego High School (June 2000)

Athletic Achievements

- McDonalds All-American Nominee (1997, 1998, 2000)
- Idaho State Player of The Year (1997, 1998)
- Idaho Athlete of The Year Nominee (1997, 1998)
- Oregon State Second Team (2000)
- Washington/Oregon All Star Game (2000)
- Junior USA Basketball Nominee (2000)
- Illinois State University Full Athletic Scholarship (2000-2005)
- Missouri Valley Conference Player of The Week (2000-2005)
- Missouri Valley Conference Tournament Most Valuable Player (2005)
- Inaugural NABI Leadership Award Presented by Sam McCracken (2005)
- Lake Oswego Hall of Fame (February 2018)
- Hoopfest/Nike N7 Featured Athlete (June 2019)

Presentations/Speaking Engagements

- TEDx Talk Belltown, Seattle, WA
- Title IX Conference Illinois State University, Normal, IL
- American Diabetes Association, Washington, D.C.
- Center for Disease Control and Prevention, Tribal Consultation Advisory Committee, Uncasville, CT
- Arizona Coordinated School Health Conference, Tucson, AZ
- Bureau of Indian Education Summer Learning Institute, Denver, CO
- United States Attorney's Office, Western District of Washington, Seattle, WA
- University of California Los Angeles, American Indian Student Association, Los Angeles, CA
- Community Health Suicide Prevention, Tulalip Tribes, WA
- Wapato High School, Native American Club, Wapato, WA

References

- Phil Haugen, COO of Kalispel Tribal Economic Authority (509) 481-2479
- Dr. Martina Whelshula, Owner, Swan Innovations (509) 998-3213
- Willie Frank III, Chairman, Nisqually Indian Tribe (360) 456-5221

Indigenous Advisory Council

9 Members: Pursuant to Ordinance 126512, all members subject to City Council confirmation, with 2 -year terms.

- 5 City Council-appointed
- 4 Mayor-appointed
- 0 Other Appointing Authority-appointed:

Roster as of [6/15/26]

Position Number	Position Title	Appointee Name	Term Begin Date	Term End Date	*Term Number	Appointed By
1	Tribal Member-WA	Donny Stevenson	8/1/25	7/31/27	3	City Council
2	Tribal Member-WA	Luther "Jay" Mills	8/1/26	7/31/28	3	City Council
3	Tribal Member-Any	Jeremy Takala	8/1/26	7/31/28	3	Mayor
4	Indigenous Youth	Tia Yazzie	8/1/25	7/31/27	1	Mayor
5	Indigenous Elder	Suzanne Sailto	8/1/25	7/31/27	2	City Council
6	Urban Native Org	Esther Lucero	8/1/25	7/31/27	3	City Council
7	Urban Native Org	Derrick Belgarde	8/1/26	7/31/28	3	City Council
8	Urban Native Org	Eddie Sherman	8/1/25	7/31/27	1	Mayor
9	Urban Native Org	Jaci S. McCormack	8/1/26	7/31/28	3	Mayor

Self-identified diversity chart

Appointing Authority	Male	Female	Transgender	Non-Binary	N/A	Asian	Black/African American	American Indian/Alaska Native	White/non-Hispanic	Hispanic/Latinx	Pacific Islander	Middle Eastern	Multiracial	N/A
Mayor	2	2						4						
Council	3	2						5						
Other														
Total	5	4						9						

City Council districts represented

Council District	District 1	District 2	District 3	District 4	District 5	District 6	District 7	N/A
Total								9

**For most boards and commissions, the term begin and end date is fixed and tied to the position and not the appointment date.*