



Yellowbird Fellowship

Celebrating the Yellowbird Fellows: Growth, Connection, and Achievement

From Coursework to Celebration: Yellowbird Fellowship Program Highlights

The Yellowbird Fellowship pilot program has officially concluded, with all 9 fellows successfully completing the program. Each Fellow completed coursework and requirements to earn badges and a micro credential in Native CDFI Lending. Fellows finished their coursework in May and most were able to attend Oweesta's Capital Access Convening, where they shared about the impacts of the fellowship during a breakout session. The group also gathered for a celebratory luncheon where Fellows received certificates of achievement and honored their instructors.



Angie Main of NACDC Financial Services, Inc. sets the stage, sharing the story and purpose of the Yellowbird Fellowship with attendees.



Yellowbird Fellowship Participants preparing to present.
L-R: Shayla Jackson (NACDCFS), Shila Aragon (WRDF), Kylie Coby (MNGF), and Genevieve Simermeyer (MPCDC)

Impacts & Opportunities



YB Pilot Cohort: Findings

- *100% of attendees agreed that convenings provided meaningful opportunities to better understand course content.*
- *100% believed convenings helped fellows feel more connected to a supportive Native CDFI network*
- *In-person convenings provided space to build relationships and foster peer-to-peer learning around course content.*



Impacts

- *Most Fellows felt confident they could perform the responsibilities of their current position, while fewer felt confident to guide a client all the way through the lending process, and still fewer felt confident in underwriting loans*
- *100% strongly agreed that the fellowship was helping them grow as a professional.*
- *Most Fellows had an increase in confidence with Public Speaking*
- *Two Fellows received promotions and three Fellows accepted new positions within the Native CDFI Industry*



Presentations & Panels

- *March 2026 Mountain | Plains Regional Native CDFI Coalition Partners Call*
 - *May 2026 NCN Northern Plains Event*
 - *2025 & 2026 Oweesta Capital Access Convening*
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Thank you, Instructors!

Special thanks to our instructors Lanalle Smith (Blacksheep Insight Consulting and Coaching) & Tommy Robinson (Four Bands), and Ben Sanders (NADC). We appreciate your support and commitment to the Yellowbird Fellowship!

