

The person who sent this nomination wishes to remain anonymous

I would like to nominate Summer Wesley for the Norman Human Rights Award. She has spent her entire adult life fighting to make the world a better place. She began working for human rights causes, particularly those that affect Native communities, as a teenage undergrad student at OU, in the late 90s. Since that time, she has dedicated her life to improving the human condition, dedicating more time to supporting such causes, than most people do to their full time jobs.

Summer has committed countless hours to providing comprehensive social services to those in need, serving as a mentor through both in-person and virtual platforms, providing pro bono consultation to help attorneys understand Indian law in order to better serve clients, and driving thousands of miles per year to provide public education on issues ranging from preventing domestic violence and sexual assault, to tribal sovereignty; in the past year, alone, she has providing her voice for events at the University of Oklahoma, the National Convention of the Federation of Democratic Women, Oklahoma Policy Institute's Summer Policy Institute, and the Muscogee Nation of Oklahoma, among others. Most often, though, Summer works behind the scenes, assisting various groups in their efforts, taking no credit for herself, because the success of the efforts is what matters to her.

Summer is a founding member and sits on the Board of Director of LiveIndigenousOK, which works to address all manner of social justice issues in Indian Country through direct assistance, as well as policy change. She also dedicates her time to provide mentorship to others through Matriarch, a social welfare organization that focuses on empowering and improving the lives of Native women. Despite being in its first year, Matriarch was selected as a finalist for The Journal Record's Programs Making a Difference.

Summer also commits time and resources to other human rights issues that range from gender issues, environmental protection, LGBT+ issues, adoption reform, strengthening ICWA, anti-discrimination, ending human trafficking, and many others that I probably am not even aware of. Like many community advocates, Summer faces much resistance and threats. However, each time someone cautions her, she politely replies that it is her obligation to leave the world a better place for the next generation. Summer is an inspiration and no one is more deserving of this honor.