

# 5 Navajo among 2018 Phoenix Indian Center Leadership award honorees

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PHOENIX – The Phoenix Indian Center announced the recipients of its 2018 Arizona American Indian Excellence in Leadership Awards.

Patricia Hibbeler, Phoenix Indian Center's chief executive officer, said in a news release that the Leadership Awards have recognized individuals, companies, and organizations for their excellence in work, innovation in approach, and impact in the American Indian community for 36 years.

"The honorees represent outstanding leadership in Arizona and across the nation," Hibbeler said. "Each of these individuals are exemplary advocates who are dedicated to the advancement and wellness

of Indian country through their unique expertise. It is my honor to congratulate and recognize them for their contributions."

## Awards & honorees

The 2018 awards and honorees are:

- Kent C. Ware, Lifetime Achievement to Bajé Whitethorne, Sr, renowned Navajo artist.
- Phyllis J Bigpond, Lifetime Achievement to Delia Carlyle, Ak-Chin Indian Community Tribal Council member and former chairwoman.
- Man of the Year to Gabriel Ayala, a classical guitarist from the Yaqui Tribe.
- Woman of the Year to Dawn Melvin, a Navajo and Hopi, who is the Arizona Office of Tourism tribal tourism

relations manager.

- Business of the Year to KUYI Hopi Radio.
- Volunteer of the Year to Phoenix Indian Medical Center Auxiliary.
- Friend of the Community to Barbara Crowell Roy, president of Eve's Fund for Native American Health Initiatives.
- Female College Student of the Year to Jennifer Jones, a Navajo citizen, who is an Arizona State University senior.
- Male College Student of the Year to Lyndon Guy, a White Mountain Apache citizen, who is a University of Arizona junior.
- Male High School Student of the Year to Adam Cardona, Jr., a Gila River Akimel O'odham citizen, who is a Cesar Chavez High School senior.
- Female High School Student of the Year to Jowun Ben, a Navajo citizen, who is a Camelback High School senior.
- KJ Bowen Scholarship Award to Netawn Marsoobian, a Navajo citizen, who is a Chandler High School senior.

The Arizona American Indian Excellence in Leadership Awards dinner will be held at the Hilton Scottsdale Resort & Villas, Scottsdale, Arizona, beginning at 6 p.m. Nov. 14.

Hibbeler said the Phoenix Indian Center, which was founded in 1947, is widely recognized as a leader in the American Indian community and is the oldest American Indian non-profit organization in the United States.

She said the center provides direct services to more than 7,000 individuals annually, and related outreach services to more than 20,000 individuals.

The services offered by the Phoenix Indian Center include job readiness, cultural enrichment, youth services, and prevention programs.

For information regarding Leadership Awards tickets and sponsorships, please visit [www.phxindcenter.org](http://www.phxindcenter.org). And for information about the Phoenix Indian Center, please go to [www.phxindcenter.org](http://www.phxindcenter.org)

### Happy Birthday in Heaven

celebrating you down here  
We're As they must be above  
We truly hope your special day  
Is filled with peace and love  
This day was always special  
As we gathered around you here  
We'd sing, laugh and celebrate  
Your day with so much cheer.  
We miss those special moments  
That we shared throughout the years  
It's hard to find that on this day  
Our eyes now fill with tears  
We're trying hard to smile for you  
We turn around and find ourselves  
Still shocked that you're not here.  
For there was no good bye, when you left  
And still hasn't been one yet  
We're thinking of you everyday  
This day is special though because it's your birthday!

*Happy Birthday  
Todd Chavez!*

Nov 8, 1976

**Love Mom,  
Michelle, Lenas,**