INLP Student Employee Spotlight: Cheyenne A. Bates

INLP would like to introduce Cheyenne Bates as the newest Student Employee. Cheyenne is Navajo from the small community of Crownpoint, New Mexico. Cheyenne is currently studying BSED in Elementary Education with a minor in TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages). Her future profession is to be a teacher, to create lesson plans and track student progress.

Cheyenne's academic journey started in the Pediatric Nursing program. Cheyenne says, "I knew my passion was to work with children. At this time I was also shadowing a Nurse Practitioner at UNM Children’s Hospital. After a couple weeks with the program I knew I didn't want to see children in pain as most of the time I was working in the infusion unit with children who suffer from cancer. I wanted to help children but not in this way. That's when I decided I wanted to become a teacher to instead help children grow their minds and educate them."

Cheyenne would like to return home with her degree to help her community. She says, "As an Indigenous person I think it's important to get an education because our ancestors never had the opportunity of an education. Whereas now we have all these resources available to us, tribal scholarships etc. Why not take advantage of these great resources and better ourselves as Indigenous people?" This view is personal to her as she views the current state of Indigenous people today as always in a state of improvement.