



Valerie Adams (Oglala Lakota)
co-founder/President

Valerie Adams is from Wanblee, South Dakota located on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. The Pine Ridge Indian Reservation is the home of the Oglala Lakota Sioux Nation where Valerie is an enrolled member.

Valerie attended the University of South Dakota as a double major in Criminal Justice and Sociology and also attended Auburn University Montgomery majoring in Elementary Education and Special Education. Valerie has lived and worked over 20 years in Alabama for various corporations as a multi-media consultant before becoming President of the Alabama Indigenous Coalition in 2020. Valerie is an active member in the Montgomery community and

advocates for youth, education, social justice and Indigenous issues. She is a mother of 4 children: Robert, Rosetta, Arianna and Jasmine.

The Alabama Indigenous Coalition was created to address a need in Montgomery and the surrounding areas regarding lack of knowledge regarding contemporary indigenous issues. It is a new native-led non profit organization working towards a future where all Native people and indigenous communities are visible, respected and treated equally in Alabama and across the Nation.

In 2019, the Alabama Indigenous Coalition was instrumental in securing an official proclamation from the City of Tuskegee (AL) renaming Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples Day in Tuskegee, Alabama. In 2020, they partnered with the City of Montgomery to have Indigenous Peoples day formally recognized. The Alabama Indigenous Coalition has facilitated several events virtually and in person regarding increasing awareness on Indigenous issues as well as several partnerships and has been featured in many articles:

City of Montgomery Proclamation:

<https://www.montgomeryal.gov/Home/Components/News/News/4005/193>

Montgomery Advertiser:

<https://www.montgomeryadvertiser.com/story/news/2019/09/04/montgomery-residents-push-rename-columbus-day-indigenous-peoples-day/2199770001/>

<https://www.montgomeryadvertiser.com/story/news/2020/10/09/montgomery-alabama-observes-indigenous-peoples-day-first-time/5921475002/>

Gumtown Magazine:

<https://gumtownmag.com/city-of-montgomery-to-recognize-indigenous-peoples-day/>

AL.com

<https://www.al.com/tylt/2019/10/abolish-columbus-day.html>

<https://www.al.com/news/2020/10/montgomery-begins-annual-commemoration-of-indigenous-peoples-day.html>

USNews:

<https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/alabama/articles/2020-10-12/alabamas-capital-city-observes-indigenous-peoples-day>

APNews:

<https://apnews.com/article/alabama-montgomery-archive-native-americans-f0b9d8b1e1510cf346e3be60a0fe11c>

USAToday:

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2020/10/12/columbus-day-indigenous-peoples-day-facts-2020-holiday-trump/5952881002/>

Washington Times:

<https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2020/oct/12/alabamas-capital-city-observes-indigenous-peoples-day/>

Miami Herald:

<https://www.miamiherald.com/news/politics-government/national-politics/article246398635.html>

MSN.com:

<https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/us/city-honors-native-american-history-as-montgomery-observes-1st-indigenous-peoples-day/ar-BB19Skgu>