

# Danielle Ta'Sheena Finn

Standing Rock Sioux ♦ Porcupine, North Dakota

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## Han Mitakiyapi, Hello my relatives!

Thank you for coming to the Gathering of Nations! My year as Miss Indian World was filled with so much fun, hard work, and good timing. My year would not have gone so extremely well if it was not for the help of many people! I would like to thank the Creator, my family, my friends/cheerleaders, and the Gathering of Nations family for all their support! Thank you to all who welcomed me into their homes and communities, thank you to those who took me under their wings, and thank you to those who took the time to come meet and talk with me.

I am very proud to say that I was recently hooded with a Juris Doctorate degree along with obtaining a Certificate in Global Arbitration and Practice all while earning High Pro Bono Distinction. I am the first Miss Indian World to have a doctorate degree while holding the title and the first from the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe to graduate from Arizona State University's College of Law. Among my degree I was awarded and recognized with several other accolades while being Miss Indian World including, but not limited to: the Heard Museum's "Outstanding Doctoral Student", Indian Country Today Media Network's "50 Faces of Indian Country" and one of the "40 Under 40" by the National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development.

As Miss Indian World I traveled to over 50 Tribal Nations and 5 countries. Some Nations have never had a Miss Indian World visit their homelands, like the Hualapai Tribe in Arizona or the Cree Nation of James Bay in Quebec, Canada, and to be the first was truly an honor. I danced my way across Abbey Road in London, England as well as at the Mall of America and on several fashion runways. Through my travels abroad, I visited the Choctaw Memorial Sculpture in Ireland and "Pocahontas" or more correctly known as Matoaka's Memorial and burial site in England.

Throughout my reign I spoke at conferences, community centers, and schools about the importance of my three platforms: higher education, suicide prevention, and language revitalization. I spoke to over 10,000 students ranging from college to Headstart throughout my year!

Lastly, being a citizen of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe I was involved with the ReZpect Our Water campaign and the #NODAPL Movement. From being at the camps to speaking at rallies, there was not a day that went by that I did not discuss what was happening on my home reservation. I believe that being Miss Indian World is both an honor and a responsibility—and it is a responsibility as a titleholder to be active in protecting our People and our future. After my reign, I will continue to be an advocate for our Indigenous People while utilizing my new legal education. It has truly been an honor to serve as this year's Miss Indian World.

## Wopila Tanka, Thank you very much,

Danielle Ta'Sheena Finn  
Miss Indian World 2016-2017

