

# Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Reservation Business Committee

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## High School Seniors from Fond du Lac Excel in Academics and Athletics

### Fond du Lac (FDL) Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, MN June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022 –

Students in general around the world have faced many challenges in the past few years from remote learning to not being able to see loved ones to cancelling high school sports and other activities. High school years can be tough on any student and the pandemic has further complicated everything in general. Despite it all, many Fond du Lac youth have demonstrated their ability to adapt to changing environments and remain resilient. This is true for several seniors, Jezlyn Abramowski, Connor Barney, Justice Paro, and Addison Thompson. These young leaders are a part of the FDL community who possess unique qualities that catapult them in academics and athletics.

Abramowski, earned a full ride scholarship to an Ivy League University through the QuestBridge program. This program seeks strong academic students who have demonstrated a high level of academic achievement that meet the admissions requirements of their college partners. Typically, these students are in the top 5%-10% of their class and achieve the highest marks in the most rigorous classes. In 2021, over 16,500 students applied and only 1,674 finalists were matched with the scholarship's college partners. Abramowski found out earlier this year she matched with Brown University and will be studying psychology.

Barney, surpassed major milestones and earned esteemed awards through basketball this year. He ended his high school basketball career with 2,188 points, earned the coveted title of the Border Battle's Most Valuable Player, plays on an elite AAU team, was named 1<sup>st</sup> team All-Lake Superior Conference, and has signed a letter of intent to attend Central Lakes College this fall to play basketball. Barney finished high school basketball in March and continues to make his community proud. He often states that he wants to improve himself but also share his love of basketball and positive actions with youth and others. Barney will be pursuing his Associates of Arts degree.

Paro, a two-sport athlete, will be going to Bethany College on a full ride scholarship, and will continue her athletic career. "It was one of the only colleges that gave me both options for basketball and softball and I could never really choose between the two sports," Paro said about choosing Bethany College. Paro will be majoring in Communications-Media arts.

Thompson, has earned a spot into the Bachelor of Arts/Medical Doctor Joint Admissions Scholars Program through the University of Minnesota and was accepted into the University of Minnesota's Native American Promise Tuition program. This promising young leader is a hard-working student involved in Link Crew, National Honor Society, Executive Board (a group that volunteers to help with senior projects and events), Student Council, tennis, and basketball. With such a busy schedule, Thompson works hard just to keep everything on schedule, but her hard work has paid off with being accepted into these two prestigious programs.

FDL congratulates all Graduates and looks forward to watching them thrive and take on new endeavors.

<Pictures attached, photo 1: left to right: Justice Paro, Addison Thompson, and Jezlyn Abramowski. Photo 2: Conner Barney>

### **About Fond du Lac Band Lake Superior Chippewa**

Nagaajiwanaang, "Where the Water Stops," is the name of the homelands of the Fond du Lac Band at the time of the 1854 Treaty. We retained this name in Ojibwemowin for the presentday Fond du lac Reservation that was established under the 1854 La Pointe Treaty. Nagaajiwanaang (Fond du Lac Band) is one of the six Bands of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe. There are three districts that make up the Fond du Lac Reservation: Bapashkominitigong (Cloquet), Gwaaba'iganing (Sawyer), and Ashkibwaakaaning (Brookston). Today, our Band includes over 4,200 members. We have always been, and continue to be, a proud sovereign Ojibwe nation. We uphold all of our rights retained and agreed to within the 1825, 1826, 1837, 1842, 1847, and 1854 Treaties

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