



## Native Student in Focus: Chalana Brewer (Lumbee)

NATIONAL  
NATIVE  
AMERICAN  
HERITAGE MONTH

*"My goal is to hopefully graduate from sandhills in two years with my associates in science so that I may transfer to either Pembroke University or Eastern Carolina to pursue a further education in physical therapy."*

**What makes Sandhills special to you?**

Sandhills is special to me because it is hopefully a steppingstone to my physical therapy career that I am pursuing. It is also special because my mother attend sandhills and became a Registered nurse.

**Do you have a favorite class or instructor?**

This is my first semester at the college, so everything is still very new to me. I do appreciate the help and support that comes from administration and the instructors

**How do you celebrate Native American Heritage Month?**

I feel like this is terrible to say but we just found out all Native American Heritage Month earlier last year, so we really have not celebrated it. We have not celebrated it yet, but I hope we can celebrate it in the future.

**When I was younger, around 6 or seven, I would dance with my mom in the powwows we attended. My dad would do bead work and dreamcatchers to sale at the stands.**

**Does your community celebrate Native American Heritage Month?**

In all my years of living in Moore county, Carthage, I have not seen or heard of any Native American contributions or celebrations.

**What do you do for fun?**

Whenever I get some free time to myself which is not that often considering that I have two younger brother and a sister who is a senior in high on top of a full semester, I just like to relax and think about what I have to do next on my schedule. When I am not just relaxing, I like to go out and ride my bike, enjoy the peaceful chirping of the birds and moving of the trees.

**I wish that the general public were more informed about the heart breaking but resilient history of natives coming up in America. I also wish that people know the meaning of native traditions such as their dances and songs.**

**Learn from your mistakes too, they will help you succeed in the future.**

### **What advice do you give current students?**

Some advice that I would have for upcoming or current students is to stay hopefully for the future. I know that things look bleak because of everything going on in our country, but this is not the end. You just need to keep your mind in the right place and work your hardest, even if its not the best in the class, still try your best in everything you do. Learn for your mistakes too, they will help you succeed in the future.