

On the evening of Saturday, April 30, 2022 before a sold-out crowd of 4,000+ attendees, Tashina Red Hawk, Sicangu Lakota, was crowned Miss Indian World 2022 at the Gathering of Nations Pow-Wow in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The last time Miss Indian World was crowned was in 2019, during the last in person Gathering of Nations Pow-Wow. A member of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe, Tashina Red Hawk was one of 23 contestants vying for the prestigious title. Miss Red Hawk, who hails from Rosebud, South Dakota impressed the judge's panel throughout the competition which spanned four days. In addition to winning Miss Indian World 2022, Miss Red Hawk also won the awards for Best Essay and Best Personal Interview. For her traditional talent, Miss Red Hawk showcased the "Lakota Way of Life" by singing a traditional Lakota song, discussing Lakota beadwork and horse culture, and a bow and arrow demonstration. Miss Red Hawk is 18 years old and is the daughter of Shane and Noella Red Hawk.

The Miss Indian World Pageant takes place annually at the world's largest Native American powwow, Gathering of Nations, in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The inaugural Miss Indian World pageant was held in 1984 and since its inception, young Native American women ages 18-25 have traveled from all regions of the continent to represent their tribes and compete for the coveted crown. Its purpose is to give young Native American women an opportunity to showcase their tribes and cultures; while serving as a cultural Ambassador of Native Americans by demonstrating the pride and continuance of the diverse cultures of Native people. This program is about Native American culture and positive imaging for the young ladies who compete for the title.

The Miss Indian World pageant has a reputation for crowning winners who display a profound knowledge of her tribe's traditions, history, ancestors and culture. Throughout the 4-day competition, contestants accumulate points based on strong showings in the areas of public speaking, traditional talent, interview, essay and dance. Qualifying contestants must be of native or indigenous American descent, single, with no kids, and have never been married. In addition to the title, contestants are able to win individual awards based on their scores. The following women were also recognized during the crowning ceremony.

1<sup>st</sup> Runner Up – Cordelia Falls Down, Crow Tribe/United Keetoowah Band, Crow Agency Band

2<sup>nd</sup> Runner Up- Chante Speidel, Swampy Cree/Hunkpapa Lakota, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan- Canada

Public Speaking Award- Autumn Dawn Mc Millan, Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, Philadelphia, Mississippi

Traditional Talent Award- Ontaria Ariwite, Shoshone-Bannock/Northern Ute/Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, Fort Hall, Idaho

Best Dancer Award- Chante Speidel, Swampy Cree/Hunkpapa Lakota, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan- Canada

Miss Congeniality- Ontaria Ariwite, Shoshone-Bannock/Northern Ute/Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, Fort Hall, Idaho

The Gathering of Nations Directors advised "The title of Miss Indian World is iconic and shall always be distinctly apart of the Gathering of Nations, Ltd. We thank Cheyenne Kippenberger for fulfilling the role of Miss Indian World 2019 and graciously again in 2020, when we could not hold the pageant. We are proud of all 23 contestants and look forward to working with Tashina Red Hawk this year as she travels Indian Country representing all Native women and the Gathering of Nations organization."