

## Diversity Champion Spotlight: Raymond Redcorn, ABE

Raymond Redcorn is a doctoral student in the Agricultural and Biological Engineering (ABE) and Ecological Sciences and Engineering Interdisciplinary Program. He works with Dr. Abigail Engelberth on research focused on upcycling waste streams into value-added fuels and chemicals. In May 2014, Raymond completed his Master's degree in ABE at Purdue and continued his education into the Ph.D. program.



Raymond is a proud member of the Osage Nation and since his arrival at Purdue in 2012, he has been in the [Native American Educational and Cultural Center \(NAECC\)](#), as well as the Purdue Native community. He is considered one of the Center's student leaders and has held leadership roles with the American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES), the Native American Student Association (NASA) and with the ABE Graduate Student Association. Raymond is a Sloan Scholar through the Sloan Indigenous Graduate Partnership Program and has represented Purdue in poster competitions in numerous professional conferences, including the AISES National Conference.

Raymond freely shares knowledge about his tribe and the importance of maintaining his cultural connection. He has mentored many of our new Native American, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian students as they transition into living in West Lafayette. One of our Purdue alumni once shared her story of first coming to Purdue as a prospective student. Raymond took the time out of his schedule to meet with her, escort her around campus, and provide his personal story of selecting Purdue. After she graduated, she told me, "I wouldn't have come to Purdue had it not been for Raymond and other students. They made me feel part of the Native community here!"

Raymond Redcorn works tirelessly to build a diverse and inclusive community and improve the climate in the College of Agriculture.