

## **Indian High School Student of the Year: Marita Growing Thunder**

Marita Growing Thunder is currently a high school senior at Polson High School and a member of the Fort Peck Assiniboine Sioux Tribe.

Marita is well known for her senior project to create awareness about the issues of missing and murdered Indigenous Women called Save Our Sisters: #MMIW Awareness. For Marita's senior year art-project, she sews ribbon dresses and skirts to wear each and every day of her senior year to honor the memories of Indigenous women who are missing or who have met violent ends and to raise awareness in the general public about this terrible issue.

Marita has been described by her nominators as a remarkably young woman who has committed her heart and soul to a worthwhile cause. Marita does not seek all of the personal attention she has received and constantly states that this is not about her - she sincerely only strives to raise awareness so that not another indigenous woman will be lost.

Her nominators also write, Marita is a young woman who is mature as she is brave, an exceptional student and superb human being. She is truly a shining star and deserves to be recognized for her efforts.