

Shayai Lucero

*Pueblo of Acoma/Pueblo of Laguna*



Shayai Lucero was born and raised on the reservations of the Pueblos of Acoma and Laguna. She is of the Roadrunner clan for her mother and a Turkey Child for her father. In 2008, Shayai graduated from the University of New Mexico with a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology and a minor in Chemistry. It took Shayai 16 years from her high school graduation to finish college, but during that time she was Miss Indian World (1997), worked for the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the All Indian Pueblo Council, and as the Tribal Liaison for Native Visions Arts and Communications. Upon graduating, Shayai became an entrepreneur with the purchase of a floral shop. She is the owner and an award winning floral designer at Earth & Sky Floral Designs and Gallery.

Shayai is a knowledge keeper of the traditional Pueblo healing methods. She began studying Pueblo traditional medicinal plants when she was 13 years old from her elders and relatives. She also published a book on medicinal plants in 1997. In 2005, she received a Certificate in Traditional Mexican Healing. The program was a joint certification with La Universidad Autonoma del Estado de Morelos, el Centro de Desarrollo Humano hacia la Comunidad, A.C. and the University of New Mexico. When asked to treat clients, Shayai has integrated Curanderismo Medicine with traditional Pueblo healing.

Shayai remains active in her community in the promotion of STEM and Woman/Native American Entrepreneurship and as an ally of the LGBTIQ2S Community. She was selected as a "Changemaker" to attend the United State of Women Summit (2016) hosted by The Obama White House. In 2017, Shayai was nominated by to become a TEDxABQ speaker. Her speech/video is available online where she discusses how she incorporates traditional Pueblo teachings into issues of patience and tolerance. Shayai is also asked to advocate on behalf of rural and Native American entrepreneurs to Congressional Leaders. She is a Sequoyah Fellow for the American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES), where she also was given the lifetime appointment of Elders Helper for the AISES Council of Elders.