



## PRESS RELEASE- INDIGENOUS MEDIA

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### Wampanoag Leader Danielle Hill Greendeer Named CEO of Wings of America

**Santa Fe, NM — August 1, 2025—** Wings of America, a Native-led nonprofit dedicated to empowering Indigenous youth through running, leadership, and cultural resilience, proudly welcomes **Danielle Hill Greendeer (Mashpee Wampanoag)** as its new Chief Executive Officer.

Hill Greendeer's appointment marks a historic moment for Wings, as the organization embarks on its *Vision 2028* plan—a bold roadmap to expand programs to 15 new Tribal communities, reach 3,500 Native youth annually by 2030, and elevate the voices of Native runners through storytelling and mentorship.

"As a Native woman, a runner, and a cultural steward, I see Wings as a living circle—one where movement, story, and community are inseparable," said Hill Greendeer. "My vision is to ensure that our young people see running not just as a sport, but as ceremony and connection to their ancestors."

### Rooted in Community and Culture

Danielle Hill Greendeer has spent her career weaving together advocacy, cultural revitalization, and Indigenous-led economic and youth development. A Wampanoag seed steward and co-author of *Keepunumuk: Weeachumun's Thanksgiving Story*, Hill Greendeer brings a deep commitment to Indigenous food sovereignty, intergenerational leadership, and storytelling that reclaims Native narratives.

Her leadership experience spans roles with the **Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe, United South and Eastern Tribes (USET)**, and national Native-led initiatives. She has championed programs that center sovereignty, cultural identity, and youth empowerment—values that align with Wings' 35-year legacy.

### A New Era of Leadership at Wings

Hill Greendeer steps into the CEO role as **Dustin Martin (Navajo)** transitions into the newly established position of Chief Visionary Officer (CVO). Martin, who has led Wings for 13 years,

will continue driving creative initiatives, including the *Stories of Resilience* series and alumni engagement projects. Martin will also continue to champion Native participation at the elite high school, college and professional levels.

Together, they will work to advance *Vision 2028*, which includes:

- **The New Heights Expansion:** Building partnerships with Tribal communities nationwide, including the East Coast and California.
- **The Patti Dillon Fellowship:** Providing elite mentorship and marathon training for Native young women.
- **The Digital Leadership Academy:** Creating accessible online tools and hybrid trainings to build the next generation of Native leaders.
- **Stories of Resilience:** A national storytelling platform highlighting Native runners and their communities.

“Danielle brings both ancestral knowledge and modern leadership to Wings,” said William Channing, Co-Founder and member of the Wings Board of Directors. “Her vision is rooted in the understanding that running is not just about speed, but about healing, connection, and carrying forward the stories of Indigenous people.”

“I remain committed to building upon the tradition of Native running excellence with Danielle at the helm. Our new organizational structure allows me to shift focus toward effectively and consistently telling the stories of our extraordinary participants and program alumni. I am so excited to share more of their inspiring journeys with the world,” added Dustin Martin.

## About Wings of America

Founded in 1988, Wings of America has empowered tens of thousands of Native youth to embrace running as a source of personal strength, cultural identity, and community leadership. With Hill Greendeer at the helm, the organization enters a new era dedicated to expanding its reach and amplifying Indigenous voices.

For more information or to support Wings’ *Vision 2028* initiatives, visit: [www.wingsofamerica.org](http://www.wingsofamerica.org).

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