

Nicole Maria Yanes (Opata) is a grassroots advocate, farmer, and community organizer in the region of Nogales along the Arizona-Sonora/U.S.-Mexico border. She has been employed as the Community Programs Coordinator with the International Indian Treaty Council since March of 2014 to present; strategizing in the areas of food sovereignty, climate change, youth outreach, and intergenerational transmission of knowledge from the local to the international arenas. In October 2016, Nicole started her role as Coordinator for the Native American Food Sovereignty Alliance, a national organization working to support, protect and revitalize Indigenous food systems through best practices and advocacy that place Indigenous peoples at the center of national, Tribal and local policies and natural resources management to ensure food security and health of all future generations. In March of 2019 Nicole joined the NDN Collective team as Delegate Consultant to Mexico for the NDN Changemaker Fellowship & Prize supporting the organization's vision to equip all Indigenous Peoples with the tools needed to become architects of our future through a holistic approach to infrastructure, funding, advocacy, movement building, and philanthropy.

In 2013, Nicole graduated from Arizona State University with an Interdisciplinary Studies degree with concentrations in American Indian Studies and Non-Profit Organization Management & Leadership. As a student she founded "Light is Life: Food Sovereignty Project," a student led initiative, and was active in other student led food movements including the Buffalo Council and the Real Food Challenge initiatives.

Nicole represents the International Indian Treaty Council on the Nutrition and Food Systems Working Group of the Civil Society Mechanism of the United Nations Committee on Food Security and is an alternate for the International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty. In addition, is on the board of the "Asamblea de Pueblos Indígenas por la Soberanía Alimentaria de México" and on the steering committee for Slow Food Turtle Island Association.

Nicole is founder and CEO of Weaving Solutions, LLC and partner of the Inherent Rights Agency, LLC. These support Indigenous grassroots movements, non-profit organizations and Nations on inherent rights, food sovereignty, and economic development among other components of nation building.