

John Bonaparte (Mohawk of Akwesasne)  
NAFSA Leadership Committee

#### Bare Bones Farms

John Bonaparte has been involved with agriculture his whole life, specifically Horticulture the last 4 years. He is passionate about using ecologically sound practices to responsibly grow food. John has devoted himself to seeing that his community has access to local, healthy food and is an advocate for people growing their own food, and pursuing farm and food related businesses as a means to stimulate the local economy. While serving as farm manager of the Strong Roots Community Garden he helped found the Akwesasne Farmers market in 2019, he is currently one of the market managers. Mr. Bonaparte is in the process of starting Bare Bones Farms, a diverse market farm focused on growing ethical food and providing space for future Mohawk farmers to learn different aspects of agriculture. He works with Seedshed in the Hudson Valley of New York to grow out Haudenosaunee varieties on Mohawk ancestral farming lands to bring seed and food back to Akwesasne. In 2019 he became a Cornell Cooperative Extension Master Gardener Volunteer to promote good gardening and environmental practices in his community and assist those who seek help. In the fall of 2020 he was nominated to be a member of the Cornell Cooperative Ag Advisory Committee for Franklin County. He is an advocate for knowledge sharing and enjoys networking with fellow growers and farmers to learn more about growing and the reasons why others farm.