



Indian Education

By Melody Staebner, Indian Education Coordinator

Indian Education Program

The Indian Education Program of Fargo and West Fargo Public Schools advocates for Native American students' success in school while providing cultural opportunity connections for students and families. The primary program goals remain to provide cultural awareness, Native cultural identity, and a sense of belonging to engage students in school. The Indian Education Program provides service to both Fargo Public Schools and West Fargo Public Schools.

This year, nearly 1,100 students, representing more than 30 distinct tribes are served by the Fargo and West Fargo Public School Districts.

[Click here for our Facebook Page](#)

[Click here for our website](#)

The members of the Indian Education Program would like to introduce themselves and review the programs and resources they provide.

MEET THE STAFF

Kansas Ree

Boozhoo! My name is Kansas Ree and I am an enrolled member of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa. I was born and raised in Belcourt, ND, attended United Tribes Technical College where I earned my AS in Human and Social Services, and then earned my BS in Psychology at NDSU. This is my first year in the district and I'm excited to connect with the Native youth here in Fargo as an Indian Education Mentor!

Contact me at: 701.446.1055 or reek@fargo.k12.nd.us

Tawny Davis

Hello, my name is Tawny Davis, and I am an enrolled member of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Tribe. I graduated from high school in Bottineau and furthered my education at Minot State where I received a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice. I am currently pursuing a master's degree from Minot State. I recently relocated to the Fargo area with my daughter. We enjoy watching old movies together and baking. I hope to be able to be a positive role model for the students in Fargo Public Schools while working with the Native American population. I hope everyone has a great school year!

Contact me at: 701.446.1058 or davist1@fargo.k12.nd.us



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Ricky White

Boozhoo! I am Anishinabe, from Whitefish Bay First Nations, and I am fluent in the Ojibwe language and very knowledgeable in Native American culture, traditions, history and ways of life. I am with FPS to help support Senate Bill 2304 (August 2021), which requires all schools and school districts to implement Native American content into the program.

Contact me at: 701.446.1067 or whitef@fargo.k12.nd.us

Melody Staebner

Boozhoo, Zoogipun Binesi'kwe indigo, I am known as Snow Bird Woman. I am an enrolled member of the Turtle Mountain Reservation. I am the Indian Education Program Coordinator, and am in my 20th year with the District. Serving Fargo Public Schools and West Fargo Public Schools, its staff, and our Native students and families has been one of the greatest experiences of my life. I am a proud mother of three. I am currently going to college full-time at UND pursuing my Social Work degree with a minor in Psychology. I look forward to many more amazing years with FPS!

I was appointed as a Commissioner on the National Alyce Spotted Bear and Walter Soboleff Commission on Native Children by Senator Mitch McConnell, senate majority leader. This commission is charged with conducting a comprehensive study of the programs, grants, and supports available for Native children. At the conclusion of the commission, the Commission will issue a report with its recommendations to the President and to Congress on how to achieve better outcomes for Native children.

Contact me at: 701.446.1054 or staebnm@fargo.k12.nd.us

Darlene Boyle

Boozhoo! My name is Darlene (TenBear) Boyle. Nindizhinikaaz Makwa Ikwe (My name is Bear Woman), that is my Ojibwe name. I am an enrolled member of the Crow Tribe (Apsáalooke) of Montana and affiliated with the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa. I am from the Crow Tribe matriarchal clans of Whistling Water (Bilikóoshe)/Big Lodge (Ashshitchíte) and from the Ojibwe Tribe. I am from the Bear (Makwa) Clan.

I have worked for the Indian Education Program for 17 years and currently am the Program Assistant and Home/School Liaison for grades K-12 supporting students and families. I have three children who are 23, 22, and 19 years old. They have grown into amazing adults of whom I am



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very proud. I am currently a Junior at UND going to college full-time working toward my Social Work degree with a minor in Psychology. This year has been great as I received two awards, one being the Gladys Ray award (which is a great honor), and the other was the DSP (Direct Support Professional) of the Year award in the state of North Dakota for working with individuals at Red River Human Service Foundation. I am proud that I have a job I love, working in the Fargo Public Schools and West Fargo Public Schools with Native American students, families, and within the Native American community!

Contact me: 701.446.1057 or boyled@fargo.k12.nd.us.

MENTOR PROGRAM

The Indian Education Mentoring Program provides Native American role models that connect with Native students on goal setting, problem solving, and positive decision making. Tawny Davis and Kansas Ree have access to PowerSchool, so they are also able to access school attendance and academics.

The Indian Education Secondary Mentors' primary role is working directly with the students in the school building and connecting with staff within the school as needed for each student she serves. Please remember to use these mentors as a resource for your Native American students.

LIAISON SUPPORT: HELPING WITH CRITICAL NEEDS

- We provide support for elementary and secondary students with a focus on school attendance and academics.
- We continue to serve as a bridge for our Native students and families who have significant barriers both inside and outside of school through home visits, school meetings, and consistent phone calls.
- Our staff provides additional support beyond school for students and families by connecting them with medical appointments, phone calls home, home visits, food baskets, clothing referrals, attendance and/or behavior concerns, etc.



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INDIAN EDUCATION PROGRAM SERVICES

- School supplies provided to all Native students including a massive beginning of year school supply drive followed by offered school supplies offered all year as needed.
- Monthly cultural events: Back to School Night, Indigenous Peoples Day, Winter Gathering, Youth Leadership Day, Reading Events, Graduation Picnic, and more.
- Monthly newsletters
- Monthly Parent Committee Meetings
- Cultural presentations
- Pow-wow celebrations

FPS PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

We offer professional development with credit attached so that all involved in education can learn the essential understandings of Native Americans. North Dakota Native American Essential Understandings (NDNAEU) is two Graduate Credits through North Dakota State University.

There is still time to join the NDNAEU professional development series for CEUs and for graduate credit. Please sign up in Kickup and sign up on the Google Classroom Link, <https://classroom.google.com/c/NTA1MTU1MDU1OTgw?cjc=oaag5nv>. All FPS staff will need a personal Gmail account for the online NDSU course.

If you missed the first session, please watch the Session 1 Training Recording, <https://youtu.be/PsEOBpDKz3Q>, then please [complete the survey here](#).

HOW TO REFER A STUDENT

We like to receive Native student referrals as a result of our close relationships with our Native community and strong network of partners both inside and outside of school. Anyone can make a referral, but it needs to be submitted by a counselor, Student Wellness and Family Facilitators, or school principal. [Click here](#) to fill out a referral.

In closing, we are ready to help and work with all of you! We appreciate your ongoing support for all students and especially our Native students and families. Please do not hesitate to contact our program with any questions you may have about support, services, or learning.

