



Jolene Bowman

Stockbridge-Munsee Band of Mohicans

Personal Statement

The start of my own higher education journey always seemed different from that of my peers, no matter which institution I attended. I came to realize the difference is facing the challenges that center around privilege while studying in predominately white colleges. My personal mission statement is *“live to serve and serve to live for growth in Indian education”*. I believe that education for American Indians is an essential factor in preserving tribal nations through adversity in this century and the centuries to come. I support working collaboratively for transformative change in Indian Education. This means keeping a positive outlook while working diligently, communicating effectively, networking, and advocating for resources to improve the education experience and outcomes for American Indians at all levels of academia.

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(Thank You)

Biography

Dr. Bowman graduated on May 17, 2015 with a Doctor of Philosophy Degree (Ph.D.) from Cardinal Stritch University in Leadership for the Advancement of Learning and Service in Higher Education. Jolene successfully defended her Ph.D. dissertation on June 13, 2014. The title of her dissertation is *“Student Voices: A Phenomenological Exploration of Stockbridge-Munsee Student’s Experiences and Strategies Related to Persisting in Wisconsin Colleges”*. She says that as she moved forward in her doctoral program she began to realize that although she attained many degrees in higher education she still felt like a young Indian girl from a small rural town called Morgan Siding in her first year of college.

Dr. Bowman works for Mohican Nation. She has been there for 23 years, with the last eight and half years as the Education, Employment, and Training Director. In this position, she is responsible for supervising areas of higher education, job training, Head Start, and two school liaison positions. She has a Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction initial Educator License for Early to Middle Childhood (Birth to 11 years old) Regular Education license. On April 11th, she was elected to represent the central region as a Wisconsin Indian Education Association (WIEA) board member. She enjoys spending time with family and friends, shopping, and going to pow-wows. She actively spends time and cares for her grandmother or, as Jolene observes, is it more like her grandmother takes care of Jolene.