



# MHA Women's History Month 2019

## Cleo M. Charging

Cleo (Stone) Charging has dedicated her life to the education of her children, her students and the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation. She started as a teacher's aide under Mrs. Margaret Breuer, her friend and mentor. She received her Elementary Education degree from Minot State in 1973 and took over the Kindergarten classroom in White Shield that fall. Cleo went on to obtain a Master's Degree in Educational Administration from the Tri-College (NDSU, Moorhead State and Concordia) in 1988. She also holds a second Master's Degree from KU in Curriculum & Development in 1993. Cleo did all this while working full-time and raising her 6 children with her husband, Arnold. Arnie was supportive in Cleo getting her education and in large part, kept the household going in those days.



Cleo also taught 6<sup>th</sup> grade in White Shield, before eventually becoming Elementary Principal of the Margaret Breuer Elementary School in White Shield. Cleo was part of the WS faculty for years before retiring. Upon retiring, she was recruited by the Fort Berthold Community College to work in their Teacher Education Department. She kept this post for several years before going into retirement again.

Cleo served on the NDIEA Board and currently serves on the Helen Gough Board. She was awarded the Three Tribes Outstanding Person of the Year in 1989, the NDEA Outstanding Minority Human Service Award in 1994, NDIEA Teacher of the Year in 1989, Fort Berthold Teacher Essay Contest (Elementary Division) in 1989, NDIEA Indian Educator of Year in 2002, IBM Classroom Computer Learning in ND in 1989, IBM Classroom Computer Learning Regional Winner in 1989, UND Center for Teaching and Learning Outstanding Educator in 1989, Sahnish Society & Arikara Archival Institute Center Recognition Plaque.

Cleo is particularly proud of the State and Regional awards she won from IBM for creating a computer classroom project for her 6<sup>th</sup> graders. They developed a calendar with each month dedicated to telling the life of an elder in the White Shield community. The students interviewed elders and wrote the stories. They used the computer to help produce the calendars and market them.

Retired now, Cleo enjoys spending time with her family and friends, traveling, reading and doing crossword puzzles and Sudoku. Cleo has 14 grandchildren and 11 great grandchildren with one more on the way in April!