



MHA Women's History Month 2019

Iris Bird Bear-Obes

Iris Bird Bear-Obes is a Water Buster Clan member. Her Hidatsa name is Bear Woman. Her mother was Cora Snow and her father was Robert Bird Bear. She was the middle child of seven children. He is a Hidatsa speaker and is a certified Native Language teacher. Iris is a long-time educator. She has worked at the Four Bears Casino since 1992 and with the New Town Public School as a Hidatsa Language teacher for twenty-six years. Iris presents in the community on many cultural events. She shares her knowledge of the Hidatsa language and culture daily with anyone who requests her help.



Iris received a bachelor's degree in Social Services from Minot State University in 1990. She attended Nueta Hidatsa Sahnish College in the early years when it was the Fort Berthold Community College. She is continuing her studies in Early Childhood at Nueta Hidatsa Sahnish College.

Iris is very loved as an Aunt, Mother, and as a Magoo (Grandmother). She is affectionately called "Magoo" by all of her past students. She is well-respected and known for her generosity, helpfulness, and sharing of the Hidatsa language and cultural knowledge.

Iris is active in the community. She provides help to many of the Hidatsa people with her language and culture knowledge. She encourages everyone to relearn and teach the language. She continues to work and help in our community. She says, "I will keep working 'til the Good Lord takes me home."