



MHA Women's History Month

2019

Karen Boyd Hartman



Karen M. Boyd Hartman grew up on Fort Berthold. She is a member of the Ma?xo' oxadi clan. Karen was raised in New Town and graduated from the New Town ND school system. All three of her children Chris, Krystal, and Jaime, graduated from New Town as well, and all have college degrees.

Her career as a professional educator began in 1980 when she received her Bachelor of Science degree from the University of North Dakota. She continued with graduate school, but eventually moved to White Shield in 1983 to teach second grade. After teaching there for 2 years, she moved to New Town

where she completed teaching 25 years. She also taught a couple of classes for the Fort Berthold Community College. There were many women who were influences in her career that she would like to acknowledge, Greta White Calf, Lena Malnourie, Alvina Hall, Jean Hall, and Caroline Blue Stone. These women played an integral role in shaping her outlook as a career educator.

Another important aspect in Karen's professional career that greatly affected her individual interests and pursuit of activism and community service was to have a direct or an indirect impact in decision-making through the various Boards that she was appointed to, elected to, or volunteered on. This interest started with Dr. Herbert J. Wilson on the Museum Board, and continued with Talent Search at Mary College, Broken Arrow Community Board in Grand Forks, Advisory Board for Juvenile Justice for the State of North Dakota, North Dakota Indian Education Association, Fort Berthold Community College Board of Director's, New Town City Library Board, Fort Berthold Council of Congregational Churches, Council of American Indian Ministry, and New Town UCC Board of Director's, to name a few.

Karen has been presented with various certificates and awards during her career, but is very proud of being bestowed with Educator of the Year by her peers for the North Dakota Indian Education Association.

She described her as a very intelligent, honest, strong, compassionate, notable character. A close friend and colleague said, "I've always admired Karen, how she carried herself, a very strong, expressive person that could articulate." She went on to describe Karen as the "hub of her family, a pillar of her family." Karen is kind, compassionate, and hard-working woman who rarely says no when called upon for help and will go out of her way to make sure things are taken care of.