



MHA Women's History Month 2019

Kelly Bradford

Kelly Bradford is the oldest daughter of Corrine and Willis Sage. She was raised by her grandparents, Eugene "Jimmy" Brugh and May Bradford Brugh, who taught her how to respectfully lead a caring, giving and spiritual life, to respect and care for the land and the animals, and cherish the value of family. She carries her great-grandmother's Indian name, Moves Sweet Grass. According to her grandma May, Moves Sweet Grass was a woman of great skills and abilities and one who cherished the lives of children, leading her to become a midwife and assisting many women in delivering babies at home due to the great distance in getting to the hospital from Independence to Elbowoods. Kelly has carried that name with dignity and respect in the way that she leads her life today and also the choice of her professional career as an Educator. Kelly has one son, who is her pride and joy, and her legacy, instilling in him the same values of how she was raised.



Kelly graduated from Mandaree High School and earned her Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education with a minor in Special Education from the University of North Dakota. Kelly went on to earn a Master's Degree in Early Childhood Education. She also completed a fellowship with the University of California Los Angeles specializing in content area of professional leadership development. She is also the newest member of the Mandaree School Board.

Kelly is currently the director of the Three Affiliated Tribes Head Start program, she has been with the program for 10 years. Kelly is proud of her staff for their willingness to honor and care for our smallest individual members, our babies. With the support of the Three Affiliated Tribes Tribal Business Council, Kelly has been able to create the opportunity for all of the teaching staff to obtain their four-year degrees in Early Childhood, making the Three Affiliated Tribes Head Start one of the few tribal Head Starts nationally to have degreed teachers in the classrooms.

Kelly has also worked in the Mandaree Public School, as well as on the Navajo Indian Reservation for eight years. She has also had the wonderful opportunity to work for the Arizona Department of Education in the capacity of 21st Century Community Learning Grant Coordinator.

Kelly was taught by her Grandmother May, that children are holy, that they need to be nurtured and cared for, not to be mistreated. Kelly has made that her foundation in her professional career and instills that same respect of children in her daily life.