



MHA Women's History Month

2019

Margaret Yellow Bird



As the Sahnish Language & Culture Coordinator, Margaret assists tribal members who are interested in becoming Sahnish language teachers. She has a passion and ideal of language revitalization and preservation. "We are building an army of language warriors and I am honored to be a part of this battle that many tribes and nations face."

Margaret has been involved in Indian Education both locally and nationally. She served as president of the Student Professional Education Council at United Tribes and the president of Student North Dakota United, which is the state association that is linked with the National Education Association. Last term she sat as the Secretary of the National Indian Education Association board. In past years, she presented a topic at the United National Indian Tribal Youth, UNITY convention with the focus of promoting Natives to pursue the field of education. Encouraging and supporting our Native youth in leadership is a huge passion of hers.

She has also worked on a number of other projects. The Northern Wet Plate Series is major collaboration with a photographer to archive wet plate portraits of area Native American subjects in their respective regalia called "Northern Plains Native Americans: A Modern Wet Plate Perspective". These portraits will be archived at the North Dakota State Historical Society once this project is complete. Another project that she has been involved with is the creation of the documentary entitled "7th Voice – Sakowin Ho," which illustrates the impact the Dakota Access Pipeline and the NoDAPL movement had on area youth. She worked with the National Congress of American Indian (NCAI) on a "Native Vote Counts" campaign to develop awareness about the importance of Native Vote. Finally, she is a Native Nations Rebuilder from the Bush Foundation, cohort 9.

Overall, she loves keeping herself active in her Native community. She assisted as secretary with the organization of the United Tribes Technical College International Powwow. She continues to be involved with Women's Action Network. Margaret plans to continue being involved in advocating for Native issues, community organization, and promoting for the field of education.