

CYNTHIA LINDQUIST MALA, COLLEGE PRESIDENT and INDIAN STUDIES GRADUATE



Cynthia Lindquist graduated with two degrees in 1981. her bachelor's degree is in Indian Studies. Since 1981 she has gone on to a master's degree in Public Administration at the University of South Dakota. Cynthia is completing her dissertation in UND's Educational Leadership doctoral program and will graduate in 2006. She is a citizen of the Spirit Lake Nation.

Her career has included administrative and teaching positions with Indian health Services and the Medical School at UND. She has garnered many honors including being a Bush Foundation leadership Fellow, serving on the Barbara Jordan Health Policy advisory board, and serving with the Council of Public Representatives, which advises the Director of the National Institutes of Health. In April 2004, Cynthia was appointed to the National Advisory Council on Indian Education, an advisory body to the Secretary of Education; she is chairperson.

She became President of Cankdeska Cikana Community College in 2003. During her presidency, the college has grown and is assuming a leadership position in American Indian higher education, particularly among tribal colleges.

According to president Lindquist, her Indian Studies major "impacted my life. As I got into the course work, I learned so much about us (Indians) that I did not know. I became more proud to be Native and [I] better understood the historical context of oppression." She found that the presence of other Indians helped her feel better about being a college student.

Her advice to Indian Studies majors is: "Keep on and hang in there. Education is so important - there is joy in learning and understanding. Tribal colleges need faculty who can teach Native history and who can be role models for our students."