



MeLissa J. Williams has been hired as the Director of the Indiana Native American Indian Affairs Commission by the Indiana Civil Rights Commission. As the director, she will be working with all the commissions, collaborating with other agencies, organizations, and coordinating events in Indiana to advocate for Native American Indians in the areas of: Health, Education, Employment, Housing, and Civil Rights. The passion to serve and to help others traces back to her parents and grandparents teachings. She feels very honored and grateful to serve all Native American Indians in the State of Indiana. It is extremely important for her to connect with Native American Indians that live in the State of Indiana that are from other federally recognized tribes in the United States and the Heritage Tribes of Indiana.

As an enrolled member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee's located on the Eastern Band Cherokee Indian Reservation, North Carolina, she understands the issues of being a Native American Indian and not living on the reservation nor living close. Mrs. Williams feels very strong about educating the public on the Native American Indian history and culture. She also believes in the importance of advocacy in breaking down the barriers that prevent Native American Indians from obtaining their education, employment, housing, healthcare and the basic fundamental right of civil rights. Her first employment working to advocate for Native American Indians started in 1993 with the American Indian Center of Indiana, Inc. (AICI), as the Southern Indiana Regional Coordinator in Evansville, Indiana. After she worked for the AICI, she decided to go back to school to earn her degrees to make a difference to help others. Mrs. Williams earned her Master of Science degree in Management and Bachelor of Science degree in Organizational Management from Oakland City University. Prior to working for the Indiana American Indian Affairs Commission and the Civil Rights Commission, she worked for Indiana Mentor Network as a Program Director; directing daily operations, mentoring staff and advocating for clients rights.

MeLissa has been an Indiana resident for over 35 years. Melissa and her husband, Stephen Williams moved from the southern part of Indiana; Mount Vernon to the Indianapolis area on April 7th. MeLissa has a step-daughter, Jennifer and son in law, Dr. Brandt Young that reside in Zionsville, Indiana. She also has a daughter, Shayna that resides in Cherokee, N.C.

For further information:

Website: <http://www.in.gov/inaiac/>

Melissa Williams, Director of the Indiana Native American Indian Affairs Civil Rights Commission

Indiana Native American Indian Affairs Commission

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