



COLEEN THOMAS

Tribal Council Member #2

"When you are willing to make sacrifices for a great cause, you will never be alone." – Coretta Scott King

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No matter which hat I am wearing, my goal is simple – **empower our people and leaders to differentiate themselves by being the best that they can be and implement measurable results through game-changing decisions.**

Known for tireless work ethic, organizational skills, and a hands-on approach, I remain unassuming, unselfish with a genuine interest in the wellness of our people. I have a strong intuitive understanding of and am responsive to others' needs and concerns. My drive is directed at working with and for others. Cooperative and willing, I receive particular satisfaction from accomplishing tasks and ensuring opportunities for others, the Team, the Community, and the Nation. I am committed to serving others and have served on numerous committees for many years such as Enrollment, Youth organizations, Environmental organizations, and Powwow & Gathering Committees.

I have worked with the Prairie Band Casino & Resort in a leadership role for the past 10 years, and currently serve as the Purchasing Manager. Readily approachable, I have remained an effective communicator while working at a faster-than-average pace paying close attention to details, as well as being both quick and accurate.

A natural multi-tasker, I completed my education while working as a single mother of 4 and a second mother to my 3 nephews. I have a Masters' degree from Baker University and undergraduate degrees from Washburn University and Highland Community College. I have also successfully completed the Tribal Leadership Development program. My passion is to coach and mentor, as I have played an integral role in shaping the lives of many young talents in the community over the years. I do my best to encourage all ages to continue their education all while pursuing their own personal goals, just as was afforded to me by my personal and professional mentors.

While the Nation faces a multitude of issues, there are a few that require immediate attention such as Enrollment, Economic Development, and Sovereignty. The current Federal administration continues to threaten our inherent Sovereign rights and it is imperative that we protect our Nation and our people in the battles on the federal, state, county, and local levels. It is crucial that continued support of our Language initiatives and Cultural activities remain a priority, as these define who we are. Our current Enrollment policy jeopardizes the future of our Nation with dwindling enrollment numbers. We need viable enrollment options to safeguard the future of our people while providing the needed support for all members. With the current state of affairs, the COVID-19 Pandemic has made it evident that we need to broaden our Economic Development opportunities to ensure the sustainability of our Nation. Eager to be sure that things are done exactly right, I will follow-up carefully and closely, especially if work requires delegating details to others. When it is necessary to be critical, I will try to do that in a constructive, supportive manner. With a combined sense of urgency and a sense of duty, I will remain actively engaged with the timeliness and correctness of any work for which I am held responsible.

There are many great leaders within our Nation: some who have taken the initiative to sit at the table and provide insight, guidance, and direction; as well as those who chose to provide just as much valuable leadership and support from the sidelines. Both are equally important and offer many significant, notable, and indispensable lessons. No matter the outcome, I will always be happy to continue to play my role, which ever it may be.

I would very much like to discuss opportunities, concerns, and issues with each of you. Thank you for taking the time to review my candidacy for Tribal Council Member #2. I look forward to talking with you.