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BAC-9804

Contact Information

Contact Name	Deserea Richards	Home Address	
Preferred Phone		Home City	
Preferred Email		Home State	
Other Phone		Home Zip	
Other Email		County	
DOB		Hispanic or Latino origin or Descent?	No
Gender	Female	Race/Ethnicity	Native American
Other Gender		Other Ethnicity	
Title		Salutation	Ms.
		Pronouns	Winyan/She/Her

Application

Status	New	Council Resolution Number	
Notes			

Board Information

Board Name	Denver American Indian Commission (DAIC)	Original Start Date	
		End Date	
		Other boards or commissions served	

Work Information

Employer		Work Address	
Position		Work City	
Business Phone #		Work State	
Work Email		Work Zip	

Additional Information

Are you a registered voter?		Objection to appointment?	No
If so, what county?		Special Information	
Denver City Council District No	Lives outside of the City and County of Denver	Registered Lobbyist	No
Conflict of Interest Explanation		Conflict of Interest	No

## Education and General Qualifications

Name of High School		Name of Graduate School	
Location of High School		Location of Graduate School	
# of Years Attended High school		# of Years Attended Graduate School	
Did you Graduate High School	Yes	Did you Graduate	
		Graduate Major	
Name of College			
Location of College			
# of Years Attended College			
Did you Graduate College			
Undergrad Major			

## Reference Details

Reference Name #1		Reference Email #1	
Reference Phone #1		Reference Address #1	
Reference Name #2		Reference Email #2	
Reference Phone #2		Reference Address #2	
Reference Name #3		Reference Email #3	
Reference Phone #3		Reference Address #3	
Agree to a background check	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

Owner Esther Lee Leach

Created By Denver Integration, 2/11/2025, 10:18 AM

Last Modified By Denver Integration, 2/11/2025, 10:18 AM

## Notes & Attachments

20240926\_101236.jpg

Mini Biography.docx

Type	Attachment
Last Modified	Denver Integration
Description	<a href="#">View file</a>

Type	Attachment
Last Modified	Denver Integration
Description	<a href="#">View file</a>

Deserea Richards Resume.pdf

Type	Attachment
Last Modified	Denver Integration
Description	<a href="#">View file</a>

## Applicants History

2/11/2025, 10:18 AM

User	Denver Integration
Action	Created.



# DESEREA RICHARDS

## SUMMARY

A dedicated and results-oriented professional with extensive experience in Native American student support, demonstrated success in developing and implementing comprehensive engagement strategies to enhance retention and academic achievement, fostering a culturally sensitive environment within higher education institutions to drive student success.

## WORK EXPERIENCE

Program Coordinator for Native/Indigenous Student Support  
Initiatives, Metropolitan State University of Denver

Aug 2022 - Present

- Proficient in identifying and recruiting Native American students, providing crucial support services, and ensuring a smooth transition to the institution. Skilled in creating an inclusive environment to foster student success and retention.
- Led training sessions for faculty/staff to enhance understanding of Native American cultures, traditions, and contemporary issues. Focused on fostering an inclusive campus environment and promoting cultural sensitivity.
- Established valuable partnerships by building strong relationships with tribal communities, organizations, and leaders. Leveraged these connections to secure resources that support Native students' academic and personal success.
- Developed relationships with faculty/staff and community members to facilitate mentorship and professional opportunities for Native American students.
- Coordinated cultural events such as powwows and celebrations to encourage student engagement, build community, and celebrate Native American heritage.
- Monitored data on student progress and performance, identifying areas for improvement and reporting findings to stakeholders.
- Collaborated with administrators to develop and advocate for policies that prioritize Native American student success. Worked to implement institutional practices that address and remove barriers to academic achievement.
- Demonstrated success in advocating for Native student needs, addressing academic challenges, and navigating complex institutional systems. Skilled in providing tailored support for overcoming barriers to higher education.
- Excelled in conflict resolution, offering guidance and support to students facing personal or academic difficulties. Applied empathetic problem-solving strategies to resolve conflicts and maintain student well-being.
- Extensive knowledge of the unique historical and contemporary challenges faced by Native students in higher education. Focused on addressing these challenges to foster an inclusive and supportive academic environment.
- Expertise in creating and implementing effective strategies to retain Native American students.
- Proven leadership in managing teams and coordinating cross-functional initiatives. Guided diverse teams toward shared goals in support of Native American student success.
- Skilled in building consensus among diverse stakeholders to create collaborative environments. Focused on uniting faculty, staff, and administrators to support Native students effectively.
- Strong background in budgeting, resource allocation, and program evaluation to ensure the effectiveness of student support initiatives. Continuously assessed programs to maximize resources and outcomes.

**Peer Health Educator, MSU Denver****Jan 2022 - May 2022**

- Created and presented informative talks on various health topics to high school students throughout the Denver area.
- Served as a confidential resource for students seeking information, guidance, and referrals to relevant health services.
- Facilitated interactive sessions on health topics, incorporating activities like role-playing and open dialogue.

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**EDUCATION****Master of Arts in Counseling, Clinical Mental Health****Aug 2024-Present**

School of Education &amp; Human Development at CU Denver

**Bachelors of Science in Psychology with a concentration of clinical and mental health counseling****Aug 2019-May 2022**

Metropolitan State University of Denver

**Associates of Arts in Psychology****Jan 2015 - May 2019**

Community College of Aurora

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**KEY SKILLS & CERTIFICATES**

- Project management
- Data Analysis
- Organizational and time management skills.
- Corporate communications.
- Student Development Knowledge
- Strategic Planning
- Diversity Awareness
- Certificates in facilitation for holistic practices

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**LEADERSHIP & COMMUNITY EXPERIENCE****Leadership Cherry Creek & Indigenous Parent Action Committee, Aurora CO****Aug 2024 - Current**

- Building cross-district partnerships to strengthen the Indigenous community.
- Advocating for undervalued youth in the cherry creek school district
- Building relationships with high school youth to recruit

**Faculty Learning Community, MSU Denver****Aug 2024-Current**

- Explore potential sources of Traditional and Indigenous Knowledge to enrich an existing course curriculum.
- Develop and foster meaningful relationships with Indigenous knowledge holders while honoring Indigenous traditions of reciprocity and respect.
- Bringing Indigenous knowledge into our classrooms and research, will foster a sense of belonging and community among Native and Indigenous students at MSU Denver.

**Board Member of Indigenous Corporation 5280****Dec 2024-Current**

- Support senior executives with administrative tasks, including scheduling meetings, managing correspondence, and preparing reports.
- Assisted in the planning and execution of corporate events and client meetings, ensuring a high level of professionalism and attention to detail.

**Native Nations Council****Sep 2022-Current**

- Co-founder of the faculty and staff affinity group, created to support the 900+ Indigenous students.
- Assisting in progressing towards a Native American Non-Tribal Serving Institution

My name is Deserea Richards, and I am Oglala Lakota. I am a mother, aunt, sister, daughter, granddaughter, and community member. My mother's family is the Richards and Blackeyes family from Martin and Tuthill, South Dakota. My father's family is the Janis and KillsSmall family from Porcupine and Kyle, South Dakota. I was born in Rapid City, South Dakota. I have lived in Colorado most of my life but have lived in three other states. I return home often to visit my family on the rez and for community and ceremonial purposes to stay connected to my traditional ways.

In my professional role, I am the Associate Director of Native/Indigenous Student Engagement and Success at Metropolitan State University. In this role, I help Native students make a positive transition to college life while maintaining the best of Native culture by emphasizing harmony and balance in their daily lives.