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BAC-10367

Contact Information

| | | | |
|-----------------|------------|---------------------------------------|------------|
| Contact Name | [REDACTED] | Home Address | [REDACTED] |
| Preferred Phone | [REDACTED] | Home City | [REDACTED] |
| Preferred Email | [REDACTED] | Home State | [REDACTED] |
| Other Phone | | Home Zip | [REDACTED] |
| Other Email | | County | [REDACTED] |
| DOB | [REDACTED] | Hispanic or Latino origin or Descent? | [REDACTED] |
| Gender | [REDACTED] | Race/Ethnicity | [REDACTED] |
| Other Gender | | Other Ethnicity | |
| | | Tribal Affiliation | [REDACTED] |
| | | Salutation | [REDACTED] |
| | | Pronouns | [REDACTED] |

Application

| | | | |
|--------|-------------|---------------------------|--|
| Status | In Progress | Council Resolution Number | |
| Notes | | | |

Board Information

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

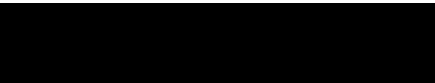
Work Information

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

Additional Information

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|-----|---------------------------|----|
| Work or home in Denver | Yes | Objection to appointment? | No |
| Are you a registered voter? | | Special Information | |
| If so, what county? | | Registered Lobbyist | No |

Denver City Council
District No



Conflict of Interest No

Conflict of Interest
Explanation

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



Owner



Created By Denver Integration, 1/22/2026, 9:43 AM

Last Modified By Sterling Simms, 2/20/2026, 3:40 PM

Notes & Attachments

20240926_101236.jpg

brief bio.docx

Type **Attachment**
 Last Modified **Denver Integration**
 Description [View file](#)

Type **Attachment**
 Last Modified **Denver Integration**
 Description [View file](#)

Deserea Richards Resume.pdf

Type **Attachment**
 Last Modified **Denver Integration**
 Description [View file](#)

Applicants History

2/20/2026, 3:40 PM

User **Sterling Simms**

Action **Changed Status from New to In Progress.**

1/22/2026, 9:43 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.

EDUCATION

Master of Arts in Counseling, Clinical Mental Health

Aug 2024-Present

School of Education & 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

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

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

Deserea Richards (Winyan, she/her) is an enrolled member of the Oglala Lakota Nation and a proud mother, wife, auntie, sister, daughter, and community member. Grounded in her Lakota identity and lived experience, her passion for her people is central to both her personal and professional work, particularly in service to Native students and community.

Originally from Rapid City, South Dakota, Deserea has spent over 20 years living in the Denver metro area, which she also considers home. Her family roots extend across South Dakota, with maternal ties to the Tuthill and Martin areas and paternal roots in Porcupine and Kyle.

Deserea currently serves as the Associate Director of Native/Indigenous Student Engagement and Success at Metropolitan State University of Denver (MSU Denver), a role she has held for the past three years. This position the first of its kind at MSU Denver was long envisioned by community members and is dedicated to supporting Native student success and fostering spaces where Indigenous students can thrive academically, culturally, and personally. She also serves on the Native Nations Council Affinity Group and advocates for restorative, community-centered practices and a strong Native American Studies program.

Beyond the university, Deserea remains engaged in the local Native community and is active with the Indigenous Parent Action Committee in Cherry Creek School District. She is currently pursuing her Master of Social Work at MSU Denver, with plans to obtain her Doctor of Social Work in the future.

Education:

AA, Psychology – Community College of Aurora

BS, Psychology (Clinical & Counseling), Minor in Human Services – MSU Denver



