

## Bryan V. Brewer -- Bio

Chairman Bryan V. Brewer is from Pine Ridge, South Dakota on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. He is an enrolled member of the Oglala Sioux Tribe. Presently, he is a Lakota Culture teacher at Pine Ridge High School and is in his 26<sup>th</sup> year there. During his years at Pine Ridge High School he has served in many capacities. He has been a teacher, coach, principal, athletic director and Dean of Students. He also lived and coached in Rocky Boy, Montana where his team, the Rocky Boy Northern Stars, played in the state basketball tournament .

Currently, and for the past 30 years, he has been the director of the Lakota Nation Invitational. He was the original founder of the LNI and has been the driving force in overseeing the growth of this huge event. The Lakota Nation Invitational was featured in Sports Illustrated magazine in 2006.

The LNI is one of the most prestigious and eagerly anticipated events in South Dakota. It is a mixture of athletics, academics and cultural activities. The LNI will celebrate its 32<sup>nd</sup> anniversary in December of 2008. It features some of the best teams in South Dakota and without a doubt the best that basketball has to offer. In addition, students are able to participate in wrestling, handgames, Knowledge Bowl, Language Bowl and art. The LNI awards 16 scholarships and 16 public service awards.

Bryan is a member of the Board of Directors for the South Dakota High School Activities Association. He is the first ever Native American to hold a position on the board. During his term on the board, he has brought to light many of the issues that plague Native American students in this state. As a result of his commitment to bringing about positive change, a new awareness and perspective into the rich culture of South Dakota's Native Americans has been brought to the forefront. Racism issues are now open for discussion and there have been some positive changes for South Dakota's Native American athletes.

Bryan is a Vietnam veteran, having served two tours of duty there as a member of the United States Navy. He is a traditional dancer sun dancer and craftsman. He attended Black Hills State University and graduated from there with a degree in secondary education.

During his spare time Bryan likes to watch sports events and attend pow wows. The dance regalia that Bryan wears was designed and constructed by him.

Bryan has worked tirelessly and remains committed to improving conditions for native youth. He continues to provide positive learning experiences for area students and a realization that we are all related. He stresses strongly the idea of reconciliation among all people.