

Cecilia Firethunder, was born and raised on the prairies attended school locally and moved with family to Los Angeles under the relocation program where she completed high school and became a nurse. She helped start the first American Indian Free Clinic in the 1972 to provide health care for American Indian families living in the greater LA area as many did not have health insurance working low paying jobs. While in San Diego attending school she was asked to restructure a clinic which she did incorporating the San Diego American Health Center in 1979 along with involvement in San Diego City Schools with native/Indian students. Returned to Kyle on the Pine Ridge in 1987 and immediately began to organize around violence against women as it impacted children, she became the first lady President of the Oglala Sioux Tribe in 2004 and has never stopped bring folks together to address needs of children, she has been the President of the Little Wound School Board for past four years, on the board for 16 years and serves as the President of Oglala Lakota Nation Education Coalition which includes six tribal treaty schools, four public schools on the Pine Ridge and St Francis Indian School on the Rosebud Reservation. She is an instructor at Oglala Lakota College where she teaches Lakota Language, History, Art and Literature.