

Brian Harris

Catawba Nation Leader | Experienced Administrator | Advocate for Tribal Sovereignty and Development

Professional Experience

Catawba Nation Service

- Housing Director – Oversaw housing programs serving tribal members; advanced initiatives to improve housing access and quality.
- Administrative Officer, Catawba Service Unit – Managed operations, procurement, and compliance; served as purchasing and referred care officer.
- Procurement Officer – Held Public Trust Endorsement; responsible for government purchasing with multiple credit cards issued in name.
- Executive Committee Member – Provided leadership and representation; served as liaison to Social Services, Housing/Head Start, Economic Development, EPA, and ICWA.
- ICWA Spokesperson – Represented the Nation on Indian Child Welfare Act matters.
- Judiciary Committee Member (current) – Active in tribal judicial governance.
- Other Committee Service: PRC Committee (Catawba Service Unit), Economic Development Board, Oversight Committee (Chair/Vice Chair; authored and passed bylaws), ISWA Housing Board (Chair), Veterans Committee (USET), Housing Board attendee (USET), Catawba Corporations Board.

Key Contributions:

- Played a pivotal role in establishing the Catawba Nation courts/justice system.
- Instrumental in gaming negotiations, ensuring strong contracts and fair terms.
- Advocated for seniors, foster programs, mental health, housing expansion, healthcare, and education initiatives.

Entrepreneurship

Small Business Owner – Logistics operations; managed business strategy, compliance, and growth.

Education

- York Technical College – Business Studies
- Faulkner State – Business Studies

Awards and Recognition

- Recipient of multiple awards and certificates recognizing service and contributions to Catawba Nation governance, administration, and community programs.

Personal Background

- Raised on the Catawba Reservation, deeply immersed in tribal culture and traditions.
- Extensive engagement with tribal members locally and globally to address priorities and foster inclusive policies.
- Known for balanced leadership style—humble and collaborative, yet strong and assertive when necessary.