

## **BIOGRAPHY OF MELANIE FOURKILLER**

Melanie Fourkiller has served as Policy Analyst for the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma since December, 2011, advising on Self-Governance and Health Policy. The Choctaw Nation, with over 230,000 citizens, covers 10 ½ counties in southeastern Oklahoma and operates a hospital as well as nine outpatient health centers. From 2006 to 2011, Ms. Fourkiller served as Secretary of State for the Cherokee Nation, a federally-recognized tribe of over 340,000 citizens, over 3,600 employees and an annual budget of approximately \$600 million (at that time). The Secretary of State is a Constitutional position of the Nation, appointed by the Principal Chief and confirmed by the Council of the Cherokee Nation. Prior to service as Secretary of State, Ms. Fourkiller served in the capacities of Executive Officer (Chief of Staff), Group Leader of Government Resources and Self-Governance Administrator.

Ms. Fourkiller has twenty-six years of experience working in tribal government, including program development, administration and intertribal and federal negotiations. Previous to her work with the Cherokee Nation, she worked six years with the Kaw Nation, a federally-recognized tribal government located in north-central Oklahoma. She has served on numerous intertribal workgroups and committees and consulted with several other Tribal governments regarding self-governance and federal/tribal policy.

Ms. Fourkiller is originally from Stilwell, Oklahoma, is Cherokee and Choctaw, and a citizen of the Cherokee Nation.