

## **Judi M. gaiashkibos Bio**

Ms. Judi gaiashkibos has been the Executive Director of the Nebraska Commission on Indian Affairs (NCIA) since 1995. She has worked with the government and private sector to provide opportunities for Nebraska Native Americans, fostered diversity and cultural sensitivity in the Nebraska State Legislature, promoted state and federal legislation, and advanced sovereignty issues.

She is an enrolled member of the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska and holds B.A. and M.A. degrees in Human Relations and Leadership from Doane University. She was the 2012 recipient of the Humanities Nebraska Sower Award, was the 2017 Governor's Distinguished Nebraskalander recipient and was an Inspire Award Finalist for Excellence in Government Service in 2018.

In 2017, gaiashkibos was appointed to serve on the Nebraska State Legislature's Whiteclay task force to help study and develop a positive path forward for the community. In her role as executive director of NCIA, she has played an essential part in the legal process of working with Nebraska tribes and the State Historical Society in the repatriation of Native remains in the state of Nebraska.

Ms. gaiashkibos has served as Advisor and Adjunct Professor to the Native Daughters Projects One and Two at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's School of Journalism and served on countless non-profit and institutional boards including UNMC Advisory Council, US Civil Rights State Advisory Council, the University of Nebraska President's Advisory Council, Doane University Board of Trustees, and the Governor's Racial Profiling Task Force and Education and Workforce Roundtable.

Under her leadership and vision, gaiashkibos has grown the bi-annual Chief Standing Bear Breakfast into a powerful gathering of people promoting awareness of Native culture and issues. gaiashkibos has taken the powerful story of Chief Standing Bear and inspired the creation of a world-class sculpture of the chief, which was dedicated on Centennial Mall in Lincoln, Nebraska in 2017, with a copy dedicated on Ponca tribal lands and most significantly legislation passed for placement in Statuary Hall, in Washington, D.C. in 2018.

gaiashkibos is the creator of the Sovereign Native Youth Leadership Academy for Native youth and also developed the Chief Standing Bear endowed scholarship program for Native students. Most recently, she has facilitated the development of an advisory board dedicated to the renovation and repurposing of the historic Dr. La Flesche hospital in Walthill, Nebraska.

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