



Christina Sharp is a member of the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan. She has been in the education field for the past 13 years within the Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Education Department, where she is currently the Education Director. Christina received her Bachelor of Business Administration from Northwood University in 2009 and her Master of Science Administration from Central Michigan University in 2014. Christina moved her way up from the Education Director Administrative Assistant II (2010-2012, 2013-2017) to Assistant Education Director (2017-2022) to Education Director (January 2022-Present). She has been a member of the Confederation of Michigan Tribal Education Departments, CMTED, for the past six years and is the current CMTED Chairperson. Her passion is improving educational services for our Indigenous learners. Christina and Eugene have been together for 13 years and have four children. They love to travel and watch movies on the big screen.



Alexis Syrette (pronouns: kwe/she/her) is an enrolled tribal member of Batchewana First Nations in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario and currently resides in Mount Pleasant working for the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe as the Project AWARE Coordinator. Alexis obtained her Bachelor Degree in Family Studies and Youth Studies from Central Michigan University and then obtained her Master Degree in Indigenous Education from Arizona State University. In her current position as Project AWARE Coordinator Alexis works collaboratively with the surrounding school districts to raise awareness about youth mental health. Alexis is an advocate for Indigenous youth and mental health wellness in Indigenous communities. In her free time Alexis loves to sew, dance at powwows, and spend time with her family, friends, and her two cats Emmy and Sophie.



John Bowden-Little is the Project AWARE Co-Coordinator. He originally started on the team as the data analyst before switching roles upon completion of his second master's degree. Of his six collegiate degrees and certificates, the one he values the most is his Masters of Arts in Clinical Mental Health Counseling. As the Co-Coordinator he oversees the Project AWARE counseling staff, offering guidance and advice to students and staff alike. By partnering with Tribal Behavioral Health, he has been able to visit students at five different schools around the county. John spent his early years in a small rural community before moving to Saginaw, MI where he spent the next twenty years. In his spare time, he enjoys reading, watching documentaries (especially about 18 & 19th century warfare), checking in on family and friends, and baking for stress relief.



Heather Syrette is an enrolled member of Little Traverse Bay Band of Odawa in Harbor Springs, MI and Oneida First Nation of Ontario, Canada. She holds a Bachelor Degree in Social Work with a minor in Psychology from Central Michigan University. She supports individuals to seek assistance through traditional healing, advocating for Native rights, and helping others heal from Historical Trauma. Heather is rooted in her culture and language and utilizes traditional teachings to guide her respectfully throughout Indian Country. Heather has previous work experience with Indian Child Welfare, Substance Abuse Counseling, and Domestic Violence Advocacy. She currently is an elementary school counselor at the Saginaw Chippewa Academy as well as completing her Masters of Social Work from the University of Michigan in Interpersonal Practice in Integrated Health, Mental Health, & Substance Abuse.