

Joseph Sowmick is a Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Elder who has been employed by the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan since October 1993. Joseph was born in 1960 and raised on the Isabella Indian Reservation in Mount Pleasant. Joseph's Spirit Name is "Chi Mic Ki Nic" (Big Turtle) and is Amik Dodem (Beaver Clan). Joseph has participated in numerous cultural ceremonies and teachings over the years and has offered prayers through fasting teachings at Mission Point in Bay Mills and the Sanilac Petroglyphs.

Joseph is currently employed as the Public Relations Manager for the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe and previously served as the Healing to Wellness Family Court Project Coordinator under a grant from SAMHSA.

Joseph received an Associates of Arts degree from Lansing Community College, along with a Bachelor of Arts degree from Michigan State University. Joseph also received an Honorary Doctorate degree in Public Service Administration from Central Michigan University in 2008.

Joseph believes there are many paths that can lead one to a good life and he shares his indigenous knowledge and teachings along with an approach that recognizes faith-based teachings and the twelve steps of recovery. By using the smudge medicine and Eagle Feather, the talking circle teachings shared embrace the "Wellbriety" of the Medicine Wheel and the Seven Grandfathers.

Joseph has served on numerous boards and committees on local, state, federal and tribal levels and is considered a valuable resource for his cultural and technical insights on the communications industry. He currently serves on the Isabella County Economic Development Board, State Advisory Council of MSU Ag-Bio Research, Region VII AAA Seniors Board of Directors, State of Michigan Advisory Council on Aging and the Saginaw Chippewa Elders Advisory Board.

Joseph lives in Mt. Pleasant and has been married for 39 years to his wife Susan and his daughter Lindy is a graduate from the University of Minnesota who works as Communications Director for Education Minnesota in Saint Paul.

