

be even putting their heads in the sand and refusing to look at the increase in minority population. It is a difficult issue for this country, and always has been, to deal with multicultural issues and issues of different people who come from not only different cultures, but different political views, different sexual orientations and maybe different physical disabilities. But we need to get over it. We have got to start breaking down some of those barriers or we are never going to solve some of those problems. We can't individually attempt to address the overwhelming set of problems that we have in this country in education, in the economy, among youth and so many other problems. We can't do that by ourselves, and so there has to be some attempt to reach beyond our individual groups and work collectively. But as long as people are not only not talking to one another, not even acknowledging one another, or actively disliking one another because of race or something like that, then we are not going to make the kind of progress we need to make as a country.

That is a huge barrier as we in this century look at entering the 21st century; just getting people to deal with each other and transcend their own communities, while they should certainly respect and celebrate who they are, they also need to reach out beyond that and work on some global issues together, and that's not happening.

Interviewer:

How do you see the future for Native Americans, particularly for young Native people?

Wilma:

It's a tough deal for young people, because a lot of the traditions are shifting and there's so much competition for the old value system. When I look at tribal traditions, I don't necessarily see participation in a specific ceremony or dressing in a particular way or some real strict ideology. Rather I see a set of values that are common among Native people in general or individual tribes specifically. And competing with those values is