

television and all of the things that we see in the general culture. It is very confusing to young people in the practical sense to have, a big part of their life, their family, their tribe and their community talking about traditional tribal values, and then having the general culture have a total different set of values.

So I think that it's going to be a tough road for young people. As each generation passes, people have more and more challenges to deal with, and traditional tribal people have more competition from the general culture for the hearts and minds of the young people. I have always believed and believe today that as long as tribal people don't control their own education system, there's no way that they can keep the children within a certain value system and teach them within a certain value system.

I wish I could be totally optimistic about the future of Native youth. On the one hand, when I see young people here in community service and youth camps and summer employment, youth leadership, and focus groups, I am very optimistic about the future. They are interested in the tribe. They are interested in their own history, language and culture. But I think it's going to be a tough challenge for them, a very, very difficult challenge for them. You know older people and elders, and young people seem to be more interested in cultures than people my age who are kind of in the middle. Young people seem to be coming back to it in many ways, and I think the adults need to be there for them.

Interviewer:

In your opinion, how should we be addressing the issues of racism that touches every part of our society? In particular, what steps should be taken to eliminate both the silent and overt racism towards Native Americans?