

## **Facilitators' Biographies**

### **Tina Olson ~ Yaqui**

Tina has worked on issues surrounding domestic violence for over 27 years. Tina is the Executive Director and founding member of Mending the Sacred Hoop (MSH), an American Indian Non-Profit Organization located in Duluth, MN. Tina has provided training, technical assistance, and material development for tribes across the country, assisting them in program development, implementation, and consultation on developing a tribal response to domestic violence and sexual assault. Tina has taken various roles in the work to End Violence Against American Indian & Alaska Native women on a local, tribal and national level; women's support group facilitator, women who use force group facilitator, men's group facilitator, advocate, trainer and public speaker on issues around domestic violence, sexual assault, trafficking, and elder abuse. Tina is presently a board member of the American Indian Housing Program. Tina is the proud mother of four daughters and nine grandchildren and lives with her partner in Duluth, MN.

### **Brenda Hill ~ Siksika**

Brenda has been Director of Technical Assistance and Training for NIWRC since January 2019. She has been an advocate for ending violence against Native women and their children for over 30 years. Her work is based upon a grass roots, proactive, culturally-base perspective. Making connections and relationship building are central to her philosophy. Previously, Brenda was an independent consultant following her position as the Native Co-Director for the South Dakota Coalition Ending Domestic and Sexual Violence. She was Education Coordinator for Sacred Circle, National Resource Center to End Violence Against Native Women for over 11 years. She is the founding mother & former Director of the Women's Circle Advocacy Program on the Lake Traverse Reservation. Brenda was also faculty for the Sisseton-Wahpeton Community College.

Brenda earned a B.A. from New York University and an M.A. and certificate in alcohol and drug studies from the University of South Dakota, but attributes her expertise in the area of advocacy to the many grassroots women who have honored her with their stories and trust in her as an advocate, her personal experience as a survivor, and her relationships with grass root advocates.