



## LISA KRAFT

Copper Bear Consulting is 100% American Indian/Woman-Owned, created by Lisa Kraft, a citizen of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation. Ms. Kraft began her grant writing career in 1994 while at the University of Oklahoma (OU). By 2006, Ms. Kraft leveraged her grant experience for America's 8<sup>th</sup> largest tribal Nation to expand her services to the other 39 tribes in Oklahoma.

Ms. Kraft's ability to take the dreams of tribal leadership and turn them into highly competitive grant proposals has resulted in over

\$100 million in federal construction contracts and social programs awarded in Oklahoma Indian Country. Ms. Kraft manages most of the construction grants for her tribal clients to ensure they are built timely to budget.

Hired by the Citizen Potawatomi Nation (CPN) upon graduating, Ms. Kraft earned a bachelor's degree in Anthropology/Archaeology from the University of Oklahoma in 1995. She then helped negotiate her own Nation into self-governance in 1998 with the Bureau of Indian Affairs and in 2000 with Indian Health Service. She created the CPN's Transportation (Roads) planning and construction program after negotiating a \$3M spending plan. Kraft earned a master's degree in history from the University of Central Oklahoma (UCO) in 2004 and was then hired by the U.S. Department of Agriculture as a federal grants and agreements specialist and construction contracting officer.

Ms. Kraft's ability to manage complex, multi-million-dollar projects and bring in millions in federal grants ultimately led her to become the Research Manager for the College of Arts and Sciences at Oklahoma State University (OSU) in 2009. In two and a half years, Ms. Kraft managed roughly 370 grant submissions a year for 400 faculty. This puts Copper Bear Consulting in a unique position to understand federal grants and contracts, not only from tribal and federal perspectives, but also from views of the state and public higher education system.

Tribal leaders of the CPN appointed Ms. Kraft to their bank Board of Directors of First National Bank and Trust of Shawnee (2002-2008) until she was encouraged to run for elected tribal office (four consecutive terms 2008-2021). As a senior legislator, Ms. Kraft has experience enacting legislation to support a \$450 million tribal operating budget and master planning tribal land resources. Kraft has been a nation builder for her own people having successfully converted 17 pieces of land into trust and growing the CPN's land jurisdiction by thousands of acres.

Copper Bear consulting has now grown into the most successful Fee to Trust processing firm outside of the Bureau of Indian Affairs itself. Kraft, together with her team of BIA Realty Specialists, have converted 95 tracts of land into tribal trust. Copper Bear believes Fee to Trust and/or jurisdictional expansion is tribal sovereignty.



**MASTER, STRATEGIC and PROJECT PLANNING for TRIBES  
HUD IHBG & ICDBG, ACF-CCDF, DOJ-CTAS, DOC-EDA & VA Award-Winning GRANT  
WRITING, COMPLIANCE ADMINISTRATION, and CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT  
FEE TO TRUST (17+ Deeds Converted)**

- **CONCEPT TO KEYS: PHASE 1** - Plan, research, develop support, and write federal funding requests for American Indian tribes for: Housing Development, Travel Plazas, Convenience Stores, RV Parks, Sports Complexes, Restaurants, Grocery Stores, Farming and Ranching, Commercial Greenhouses, Non-Emergency Medical Transport, Museum and Cultural Centers, Diabetes Centers, Health & Wellness Centers, Roads, Water & Sewer, Childcare Centers and more; and **PHASE 2** - Administer projects for federal compliance, procurement, timely completions, on budget, and track grant progress, through reporting and master file documentation toward successful funding source closeout and available to assist in grant file audits. *References available*

#### EMPLOYMENT HIGHLIGHTS

- ❖ **Oklahoma State University (OSU)**  
Managed research support services for the College of Arts and Sciences and responsible for coordinating with 400 faculty members to package and submit 370 Federal, state, and private research proposals per year totaling \$80 million dollars in FY 2009 and \$95 million in FY 2010
- ❖ **U.S. Department of Agriculture-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)**  
Administratively managed \$16 million dollars of new and existing Federal grants and Congressional earmarks for agency executive management and Contract Specialist for approximately 48 Federal construction and service contracts ranging from federal dam construction to emergency cleanup of Oklahoma waterways from disasters
- ❖ **Citizen Potawatomi Nation (CPN)**  
Created internal process and applications to successfully convert 17 tribal tracts from Fee-To-Trust; wrote Federal proposals and awarded \$6.4 million in grants to further tribal programs (self-governance, social services, and capital projects such as tribal health center and cultural center); created the tribal roads department, developed system, tracked, and assessed programs totaling nearly \$30 million annually in Federal funds; and audited tribal-wide programs to successfully negotiate tribe into self governance compact with the DOI/BIA in 1998 and assisted in compacting with IHS in 2000

#### EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

- **Copper Bear Consulting, LLC** - President/Primary Consultant, Oct 2006 to Present - Stillwater, OK
- **Oklahoma State University** - Research Support Manager (Arts & Sciences), Jan 2009 to May 2011 - Stillwater, OK
- **U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, State Office** - Contract and Grant & Agreement Specialist, Oct 2004 to Oct 2006 - Stillwater, OK
- **Citizen Potawatomi Nation** - Independent Fee-To-Trust Contractor (2006-2008), Grants and Contracts Coordinator, 2000 to 2001; NAGPRA Consultant and contract archaeologist, 1998 to 2000; DOI/ Self-Governance Coordinator/Roads Director, 1996 to 1998

#### EDUCATION

- **240 CE hours** of Federal acquisition/procurement planning and contract formation/administration
- **Master of Arts (History), University of Central Oklahoma, Edmond, May 2004**, Thesis title: "If You Build It, They Will Come: Using Museum Design and Exhibition to Promote American Indian Nationalism."
- **Selected Publications:** **1)** Wetzels, Christopher. Review of *Gathering the Potawatomi Nation*, by Lisa Kraft. *The Chronicles of Oklahoma* 93 (Winter 2015-16): 502-503. **2)** Kraft, Lisa. "Trice Purchased: Acquisition and Allotment of the Citizen Potawatomi Reservation," *The Chronicles of Oklahoma* 86 (Spring 2008): 64-87. **3)** Kraft, Lisa. *Generational Principles: Modern Application to Business and Personal Success*. Edited by Jeretta Horn Nord. *A Cup of Cappuccino for the Entrepreneur's Spirit: American Indian Women Entrepreneurs Edition*. 2011. **4)** Kraft, Lisa (cultural consultant). *The Potawatomi*. Written by Karen Gibson. Mankato, MN: Bridgestone Books, 2003.
- **Bachelor of Arts (Anthropology-Archaeology), University of Oklahoma, Norman, May 1995**

#### ELECTED/APPOINTED

- **Citizen Potawatomi Nation (CPN)** Elected Tribal Legislator, **2008 to 2021** (elected four consecutive terms), Senior lawmaker for the 8<sup>th</sup> largest American Indian nation in America with over 36,000 tribal members, 2,500 employees and an operating budget of \$450 million
- Mabee-Gerrer Museum of Art (Shawnee, OK), Board of Trustees, 2007-2011 & 2019-2022 (chairman 2021-2022)
- First National Bank and Trust of Shawnee (Citizen Potawatomi Nation-owned), Board of Directors, 2002-2008