

Chadwick “Chad” Smith

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December, 2011

PROFESSIONAL PROFILE/SUMMARY:

Strategist and leader who articulates a vision, defines clearly the desired outcomes and develops an organizational strategy for achieving that vision by aligning resources and recruiting effective talent. Extensive experience in business, education, nation-building and government-to-government relations on the local, state, federal, and tribal levels. Ensure effective branding, score-card performance, principle-based management and comprehensive marketing for private products and government services.

Principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation from 1999 to 2011, serving as the elected executive officer of the second largest Indian nation in the United States with 310,000 citizens. Focused on three initiatives: economic-self-reliance, cultural revitalization, and community development.

Economic Leadership –

Since 1999, led the Cherokee Nation to become the largest employer in Northeastern Oklahoma, improved the quality of life for tribal citizens and the community at large by providing 8,500 jobs, building 600 miles of roads, installing 150 miles of waterlines, erecting 30 community buildings, and assisting 120 communities with internal governance and community development. Some of the Cherokee Nation’s growth statistics for the period 1999-2011 include:

- Increased assets from \$47 million to \$1.2 billion.
- Increased payroll from \$70 million to \$248 million.
- Increased employment from 2,400 to 8,500 jobs.
- Increased healthcare services from \$18 million to \$310 million.
- Building the Nation’s a law enforcement agency up to 32 cross deputized officers.
- Diversified business interests by including environmental services, surveillance, tribal government consulting, and alternative energy.

Educational Leadership –

- Developed an overall education plan to align with an overall economic plan focusing on leadership and self-reliance.
- Built Sequoyah High School’s reputation of “a school of last resort” with 50% occupancy to a school of first choice at 100% occupancy and a waiting list of 115 students.
- Awarded \$27 million in college scholarship from 2000-2011.
- Developed program for issuing Cherokee Nation automobile tags. The successful issuance of 102,000 automobile tags allowed the Nation to contribute over \$24 million to local schools.
- Instituted Cherokee Scholars, which is a dormitory and class cohort at Northeastern State University.

- Developed the Cherokee language immersion school, with 100 children attending pre-kindergarten to sixth grade are fluent and literate in the Cherokee language.
- Developed a 40 hour Cherokee history class that 10,000 people have completed since 2000.

Business Leadership –

- Developed an economic strategy for tribal government that currently produces \$1.2 billion in annual revenues.
- Developed and executed a successful economic and tribal development plan that increased Cherokee employment from 2,500 to 8,500 in 10 years.
- Appointed the Board of Directors for Cherokee Nation Businesses (CNB), the tribal corporation which operates gaming, business development, environmental solutions, healthcare services and aerospace manufacturing. Increased business assets from \$47 to \$703 million, including \$450 million in construction of clinics, schools, and gaming operations.

Community Leadership –

- Assisted communities to develop leadership and implemented programs and policies that allow less bureaucracy and more direct input from community members.
- Negotiated and executed compacts with the state of Oklahoma for gaming, tobacco, automobile tags, child welfare, and hunting and fishing.
- Promoted self-help community projects that resulted in the communities building and/or expanding 30 community buildings and the installation of 150 miles of water lines.
- Organized 24 Cherokee community groups in urban areas.

Governmental Leadership –

- Served three full four-year terms as Principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation.
- Provided leadership to diverse government operations, including healthcare, social services, child protection, housing, law enforcement, education and cultural programming, emergency management and community development.
- Appointed members for Boards and Commissions to provided governmental checks and balances for a stable and progressive tribal government.
- Established the first editorially independent newspaper among Indian nations in 1999.
- Established an office in Washington, D.C. to develop relationships with congressional and federal agency offices, and to advance and protect the interests of the Cherokee Nation.

Legal Leadership –

- Accomplished trial lawyer, including criminal, civil rights and Indian law litigation.
- Developed legal policy and strategy for Cherokee Nation in defending sovereignty and business interests.
- Recovered judgments against the United States in the U.S. Supreme Court for healthcare contract disputes.
- Developed legal theories for retaining tribal rights recognized by federal courts, including water, hunting and fishing rights.

- Admitted to the Bar of the Cherokee Nation Courts, Oklahoma Supreme Court, Eastern and Northern Oklahoma District Federal Courts, 10th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals, and U.S. Supreme Court.

EDUCATION:

- Juris Doctorate - 1980
UNIVERSITY OF TULSA LAW SCHOOL
Tulsa, Oklahoma
- Master of Science in Public Administration – 1975
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN
Madison, Wisconsin
- Master of Business Administration in Hospitality Management – 2008
UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA – LAS VEGAS
Las Vegas, Nevada
- Bachelor of Science in Social Science Education (with honors) – 1973
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA
Athens, Georgia

EXPERIENCE:

Cherokee Nation – Tahlequah, Oklahoma **1999 - 2011**
Principal Chief

- Elected Principal Chief of Cherokee Nation following a constitutional crisis. Completely redesigned the Executive Branch by establishing financial accountability and improving operational systems, including human resources, legal and procurement. The Cherokee Nation received the highest award for excellence in governmental accounting 2001- 2011 from the National Association of Finance Officers.
- Developed a principle-based, leadership organization, challenging the executive staff to lead their disciplines toward the vision established for the Cherokee Nation.
- Created the Cherokee Nation *Declaration of Designed Purpose* – principles through which the organization made decisions.

University Professor- **1996, 1994, 1992**

Visiting Professor of Indian Law – “Cherokee History” and “Indian Law”, Dartmouth College – Hanover, New Hampshire, 1996.

Adjunct Instructor, “Legal History of the Cherokee Nation”; Northeastern State University, Tahlequah, Oklahoma, 1994; Rogers State University, Claremore, Oklahoma, 1992.

Private Practice – Tulsa, Oklahoma **1997 to 1999, 1989 to 1995**

Attorney

Conducted a general law practice, representing clients in civil rights litigation and appeals, general civil litigation, criminal defense and Indian law.

Public Defender's Office – Tulsa, Oklahoma

1996 to 1997

Assistant Public Defender

Conducted criminal jury trial defense of indigent defendants in Tulsa County District Court.

Cherokee Nation – Tahlequah, Oklahoma

1991 to 1995

Attorney/Director - Office of Justice/Tax Advisor

Provided ongoing services as a Prosecuting Attorney for the Cherokee Nation and Tax Advisor to the Cherokee National Tax Commission. Conducted legal and historical research of the Cherokee Nation, drafted and compiled the tribal codes. Prosecuting duties included jury trials, criminal cases, delinquent juvenile hearings, and Indian Child Welfare cases.

U.S. Dept of Treasury – Tulsa, Oklahoma

1987 to 1989, 1980 to 1982

Estate Tax Attorney

Performed audits of estate tax returns, performed valuation of businesses and real estate.

Creek County – Sapulpa, Oklahoma

1983 to 1987

Assistant District Attorney

Tried criminal and juvenile jury cases, participated in preliminary hearings, bond settings, extraditions, arraignments, and non-jury trials. Served as first chair trial prosecutor in approximately 20 jury trials; conducted approximately 200 preliminary hearings.

PRESENTATIONS:

Visiting Lecturer: “Tribal Economic Systems”, May 2006, International School of Business, Moscow, Russia.

Speaker: “Symposium on the American Indian,” Northeastern State University, 1993, 1994. Commencement Speaker: Sequoyah High School 2000-2011; Cave Springs High School, 2005-2006; Bell School, 2006; Belfonte School, 2004 and others.

Keynote Addresses and Lectures: University of North Carolina, American Indian Heritage Month, 2005; University of Georgia, Athens Georgia, 2006; Oklahoma Museum Associations, 2005; Oklahoma Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admission Offices, 2006; Native American Financial Advisor Educational Summit, Merrill Lunch, 2007; Oklahoma Association Serving Impacted Aid Schools, 2007; Oklahoma State University American Indian Science and Math Association, 2007; U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor Visit/Women's Leadership Conference, 2007; Western History Conference, 2007; Limestone College, Gaffney, South Carolina, November, 2011.

Panelist: Native American Journalism Conference, 2003; Tribal Employee Rights Office Technical Compliance Conference, 2003; Congressional Forum for Native Americans, 2004; Ash Institute for Democratic Governance and Innovation, Harvard University, 2005, Tar Creek Comprehensive Forum, 2005 American Indian Chamber of Commerce, 2006; Oklahoma Gubernatorial Election and Tribal Leaders Forum, 2006; Indian Reservation Roads Program Conference, 2006; Leadership Oklahoma Class XX, 2007; Panelist, “Sovereignty Symposium,” Oklahoma City, OK, 1999-2007; Federal Bar Association, Panelist “Freedmen” Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, 2009; Center for Disease Control, Capacity Building Conference, 2011.

PUBLICATIONS:

Cherokee Nation Youth Choir CDs, 2000-2011, Executive Producer and founder, released ten CD recordings of gospel and patriotic music sung in the Cherokee language. Received Native American Music Award 2002,

2003, 2007 and 2008. Performed at the White House, Smithsonian Institute, Viet Nam Veterans Wall, National Cathedral, Kennedy Center, and Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade.

Building One Fire – Art and World View in Cherokee Life. Written by Chad Smith and Dr. Rennard Strickland, 2009. History of Cherokee cultural and art images uniquely organized around the concepts that art transfers cultural attributes and messages.

Coach Tommy Thompson and the Boys of Sequoyah, Forward by Chadwick Smith written by Patti Dickenson, 2009. A History of Sequoyah High School, University of Oklahoma Press.

Cherokee, Foreword by Chad Smith, photographs by David Fitzgerald, text by Robert Conley, 2002. A photographic and narrative portrayal of the Cherokee people.

The Trail of Tears, Foreword by Chad Smith, photographs by David Fitzgerald, text by Dr. Duane King, 2007. A photographic and narrative portrayal of the infamous forced removal of Cherokees from their homeland in 1838.

Declaration of Designed Purpose, 2000. Wrote and edited comprehensive strategy document that included the history of the Cherokee Nation, vision, mission, guiding principles, desired outcomes, attributes, organizational structure and metrics to achieve a hundred year plan for the Cherokee Nation.

Proceedings of the Cherokee Nation Historical Convention, 1999. Co-edited by Dr. Rennard Strickland, series of 24 essays by recognized scholars of Cherokee history on the one hundred-fifth anniversary of the Cherokee National International Indian Council of 1843.

Cherokee Nation Code Annotated, 1992. Assembled and codified.

Cherokee Nation Case Law Book. 1992. Assembled and edited a compilation of federal statutes, treaties, and cases of the Cherokee Nation.

Cherokee Nation Legal History Course book, 1992. Assembled and edited. Also, prepared the text and teaching materials for a 40-hour Cherokee Nation legal history course completed by 10,000 tribal citizens. (Not just tribal citizens)

The Cherokee Nation Response to the Cherokee Outlet Celebration, 1994. Oklahoma Indian Bar Review. Article about the Cherokee story of the Cherokee Strip Land Run.

Cherokee Nation Criminal Procedure Code, Penal Code, Juvenile Code, and other legislation - 1991.

Cooperative Law Enforcement Agreement, 1991. The Agreement involved the Cherokee Nation, Department of Interior, and State of Oklahoma providing cross-deputization of over 20 state and local law enforcement officers.

APPOINTMENTS AND BOARD POSITIONS:

National Indian Women's Health Board, 2003-present, Board member and Secretary.

Arkansas Riverbed Commission, Chairman 1999-2011, Consortium of Cherokee, Chickasaw and Choctaw Nations to manage ninety-six miles of the Arkansas Riverbed.

Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes, 1999-2011. President April, 2001 to April, 2003. (Represents 500,000 tribal members.)

Cherokee Nation Education Corporation, President 1998-2004; Advisory Committee, 2004-present. Non-profit organization with \$2 million in assets that was designed to promote education and culture within the Cherokee Nation.

Cherokee National Historic Society, Ex-Officio member 1999-2011. Non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of Cherokee culture and operates the Tsalagi Ancient Village and Museum.

Oklahoma State Chamber, Executive Board Member 2004-2011.

Oklahoma Academy, Member 2004-2011. Non-partisan research and advocacy group for the advancement of quality of life goals for Oklahoma.

Autry National Center Stewardship Board, Board member 2005-2009. The Autry National Center was established in 2003 following the merger of the Southwest Museum, the Women of the West Museum, and the Museum of the American West (formerly Autry Museum of Western Heritage). The combined museums tell the story of convergence of cultures in the American West.

CONGRESSIONAL TESTIMONY:

- July 2, 2007, “Confirmation Hearing of Charles Grimm as Assistant Secretary for Indian Health Service,” Senate Indian Affairs Committee
- February 16, 2006, S. 1970, “Amend Trail of Tears System Act,” Subcommittee on National Parks of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
- April 27, 2006, HR. 3085, “Amend National Trail of Tears System Act.” Subcommittee on National Parks of Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
- April 14, 2005, FY 2006, “Bureau of Indian Affairs Appropriations,” Interior Appropriation Committee, Appropriations, House Appropriation Subcommittee on Interior, Environment and Related Agencies
- April 28, 2004, S. 2172, “Contract Support Costs,” Senate Indian Affairs Committee
- June 4, 2004, S. 281 and S. 725, “Tribal Transportation Program and Improvement Act,” Senate Indian Affairs Committee
- April 17, 2002, HR. 3534, “Arkansas Riverbed Settlement Act,” House Committee on Resources
- May 16, 2000, HR. 4148, “Tribal Contract Support Cost,” House Committee on Resources

OTHER:

Celebrity Runner, Tulsa Run 15 k, Tulsa, OK – October, 2010.

Inductee, “Outstanding American”, National Wrestling Hall of Fame, Stillwater, Oklahoma - June, 2010.

Designer, Cherokee Nation Veteran’s Center, Tahlequah, Oklahoma – 2009, which is an energy efficient solar envelope constructed 4,000 sq. ft. office and meeting building designed for community participation in construction.

Ambassador of Year, Red Earth Foundation, June – 2009.

Whitney M. Young Jr. Service Award, Indian Nations Council Boy Scouts of America, August – 2009.

Honoree, Junior Diabetes Research Foundation Gala, May – 2008.

Outstanding Financial Tribal Leader of the Year, National Association of Financial Officers- 2007.

Seven Seals Award, National Committee for Employer Support of the National Guard and Reserves – 2005.

Eagle Scout, Boy Scouts of America, Nashville, Tennessee, 1969.

HOBBIES AND INTERESTS

- Rebuilding vintage Studebaker cars.
- Repair and restoration of home.
- Attending traditional Cherokee dances and ceremonies.
- Attending High school and college sports.
- Bicycled the 950 miles of the Trail of Tears from Georgia to Oklahoma.
- Supported of Special Olympics by repelling off of a 19 story hotel and taking polar plunges.

PERSONAL

- Citizen of the Cherokee Nation.
- Married 34 years to Bobbie Gail Smith, a full-blood Cherokee Nation citizen who speaks the Cherokee language fluently.