

Dawn R. Duncan, MSW, MSc

Bio



Dawn Duncan, MSW, MSc is part Cherokee and grew up with strong influences from her grandfather who shared this part of his history with the family. Dawn has attempted to carry on these traditions shared by her grandfather and has been active in the Native American community since she attended graduate school at Boston University and the Harvard School of Public Health. Dawn has helped several Native American groups in Massachusetts, including serving as a founding Board Member of Intertribal Council of Tolba Menahan (Turtle Island), a Native American nonprofit organization that was originally founded in Somerville, Massachusetts and eventually moved to Gloucester, MA. ICTM was most well-known for an annual Inter-Tribal Pow Wow that was held at Stage Fort Park every summer in Gloucester. Dawn continues to serve as a Board member of the Massachusetts Center for Native American Awareness (MCNAA), a position she has held for nearly 20 years. Dawn is also a vocalist and musician, performing easy listening, country, pop and Native American music.

Dawn is President of the Grant Connection, a company that specializes in helping nonprofits navigate the often-complex grant funding maze and access private and government grant funds for their programs. Dawn has raised more than \$50 million in grant funding over the past 30+ years. Dawn is also Founder and President of Circle of Nations Inc. (CNI), a 30-year old nonprofit that provides fiscal sponsorship and project incubation for motivated individuals and nonprofit organizations to develop projects that help others by “paying it forward”.

Dawn holds a Master of Science Degree in Maternal and Child Health from the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health and a Master’s Degree in Social Work from Boston University.

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