



Dr. Lane Azure has dedicated nearly three decades to education, leadership, and service within Native communities. He is the son of the late Martin "Chib" Azure of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians and the late Laura (Rondeau) Azure of the Little Shell Tribe of Chippewa Indians of Montana. Raised in a family grounded in Anishinaabe values, he has built his career around strengthening educational opportunities and expanding opportunities for Native students.

He earned a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics Education from Minot State University, a Master of Science in Management, and a Ph.D. in Education with an emphasis in Institutional Analysis from North Dakota State University. A graduate of Toppenish High School on the Yakama Indian Reservation in Washington, he began his early career working for the Bureau of Indian Affairs before eventually pursuing a career in education.

Throughout his professional career, Dr. Azure has served in leadership roles across both K–12 and higher education. His work has focused on student success, institutional

effectiveness, strategic planning, and strengthening partnerships between educational institutions and the communities they serve. Much of his career has been connected to Tribal Colleges and Universities, where he has worked to support institutional stability, academic quality, and expanded opportunities for Native students while advancing the mission of TCUs as community-based institutions that strengthen culture, sovereignty, and opportunity.

His leadership philosophy reflects the values instilled in him by his parents and rooted in teachings that guide many Anishinaabe communities. He believes strong institutions are built through transparency, collaboration, and a clear commitment to serving students and community.

Dr. Azure and his wife Shannon are the parents of five adult children: Beth, Kayla, Jalyn, Kaidyn, and Noah.



Presidential Finalist 2026



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