



Sadie Cooper serves as the Human Resources Director at Leech Lake Tribal College, where she provides leadership in institutional operations, personnel management, policy development, and strategic planning initiatives. A proud alumna of Leech Lake Tribal College, Mrs. Cooper's professional journey reflects a strong commitment to tribal higher education, student success, and strengthening opportunities for Indigenous communities through accessible and culturally grounded education. She previously served as Vice-Chairperson of the Leech Lake Tribal College Board of Trustees from 2021 to 2024 and was selected as part of the College's Interim Presidential leadership team, assisting with institutional decision-making and operational leadership during a period of transition.

Throughout her career, Mrs. Cooper has gained experience in higher education administration, governance, accreditation preparation, strategic planning, and federal reporting, including collaboration related to Higher Learning Commission (HLC) accreditation and IPEDS reporting processes. Prior to her work in higher education administration, she served in advocacy and community-centered roles supporting youth, families, and tribal communities through positions with Evergreen Youth Services, Northwoods Coalition for Battered Women, the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe SNAP Education Program, and the Leech Lake Regulatory Division. These experiences helped shape her leadership philosophy centered on service, accountability, collaboration, and community impact.

Presidential Finalist 2026



Mrs. Sadie Cooper

Mrs. Cooper earned Associate degrees in Business Administration and Liberal Education from Leech Lake Tribal College, graduating as Salutatorian of the Class of 2018. She later earned her Bachelor of Business Administration with an emphasis in Human Resources and completed her Master of Business Administration degree at Bemidji State University in 2025. She believes strongly in shared governance and collaborative leadership that honors the voices of students, faculty, staff, administration, Board leadership, and the broader tribal community. Her leadership approach emphasizes transparency, relationship-building, strategic growth, and culturally responsive decision-making in support of the mission and future of Tribal Colleges and Universities.

