

# Our Sacred Heart Story with the Potawatomi People in Kansas, 1841-79

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## Kelli Mosteller's Biography

Dr. Kelli Mosteller has served as the Director for the Citizen Potawatomi Nation Cultural Heritage Center since 2010. She recently led her team in a multi-year renovation of the CHC's exhibits. As a result, the museum was recognized as a Top Ten Native Cultural Center in the U.S. by the Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries, and Museums in 2020.

As a tribal member, Dr. Mosteller is honored to serve her tribal community by overseeing the Cultural Heritage Center's other services, including a community garden, tribal archives, library, gift shop and video production department. She also administers all activities involving the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) for CPN and is the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer. Since 2013 she has also been a Gaming Commissioner for the Citizen Potawatomi Nation.

Following a long family tradition, Dr. Mosteller attended Oklahoma State University, where she earned a B.A. in History. She then went on to earn her M.A. and Ph.D. in History, with a focus on Native American history and Indigenous Studies, from the University of Texas at Austin. Her dissertation, *Place, Politics, and Property: Negotiating Allotment and Citizenship for the Citizen Potawatomi, 1861-1891*, examined the influences of allotment and United States citizenship on the social, political, and cultural evolution of the Citizen Potawatomi from the signing of the treaty that made them land-owning citizens in 1861 through the opening of the Potawatomi reservation to non-Native settlement with a land run in 1891.

Passionate about wildlife conservation, Dr. Mosteller partners with Tribal Alliance for Pollinators as a representative of CPN to rehabilitate habitats for monarchs and other threatened pollinators. To date, the group has planted 40,000 milkweeds and is in the process of restoring 28,000 native wildflowers on 350 acres of habitat. Dr. Mosteller's most cherished community role is that of mentor for young Citizen Potawatomi students, facilitator for women's ceremonies, and auntie to the eagles at the CPN Eagle Aviary.