

## Northern Plains History and Cultures How Do Native People and Nations Experience Belonging?

"Today you know that, as a Dakota, you are expected to be a strong person. As a woman, you have to be strong. As a man, you have to be strong. . . As a Dakota you cannot sit around and say, 'Gee, I don't know what I'm going to do with my life.' By the fact that you are born Dakota, you already have that purpose. It is to be part of the land . . . You are part of the universe, and the creator gave Dakota people the responsibility of being caretakers of the earth. That is your job, however you choose to do it."

Gabrielle Tateyuskanskan (Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate)

Gabrielle Tateyuskanskan (Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate) explains what she believes it means to be a citizen of the Dakota Nation.