

A portrait of Carol Lee Gho, a woman with dark hair, smiling and wearing a fur-lined hooded jacket. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent blue filter.

# Carol Lee Gho

*Lake Minchumina*

Before moving to Fairbanks, Carol Gho grew up in the rural village of Lake Minchumina in Alaska's Interior. Her parents engrained in her the importance of hard work and an awareness of the world around her. Carol owes much of her perspective of the world and sense of self to her Native heritage. When teaching core, foundational values to students, she believes that "You take them outside and you have them look at the mountains, you have them look at the hills, you have them count the number of berries on a plant so that level of awareness is there. That's the way values are taught. Anybody who is a teacher will teach values according to what they value, and students pick up on that."

Having taught in Fairbanks for many years, Carol is all too familiar with how life in a village compares to life in a city. She explains that many teachers who are from the Lower 48 or are non-Native sometimes encounter difficulties adjusting to the new dynamics of living in a remote village. She says, "We need Alaska Native teachers in Alaska Native villages. If you go to the villages that have the majority of their teachers that

are Alaska Native, those are the schools where things are happening in education. They're role models and the students relate to them. Those teachers don't have to spend the first six months in the village just figuring out how they are going to survive. Those teachers, that are Native teachers, already know how to survive and they already know the community and who they're with. It's extremely important." Carol wants to see the number of Alaska Native teachers rise so that Alaskans are teaching Alaskans throughout the state. This would be a dream come true.

Carol recommends that students begin preparing for their future careers before they enter college. High school is the ideal time for universities to reach into the schools and begin training students. Students who take dual credit courses are set-up for future success in college before they graduate from high school. It is important to realize that education is an immeasurable tool for achieving life goals. Carol sums up the teaching profession by saying, "We're giving people opportunities. We're giving people a key so that they can move forward."

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