

RANDY'L HEDOW TETON

In the same spirit that Sacagawea helped guide explorers Lewis and Clark in their pioneering expedition during the winter of 1804 and 1805, Randy'L's role as the model for Sacagawea on the U.S. Mint's new gold dollar coin has added a new vitality to preserving the culture and traditions of indigenous people.

In much the same way that other models are discovered, Randy'L was chosen by New Mexico artist Glenna Goodacre as the model for sketches she would submit to the U.S. Mint for the new Sacagawea coin. The artist felt it was important to incorporate a young Shoshone Indian woman's likeness to add depth of character to this important assignment. The minted golden dollar portrays Randy'L as Sacagawea in a three-quarter profile, highlighting classic Shoshone beauty—luminous large dark eyes, broad smooth forehead and soft smile.

The two women—Sacagawea and Randy'L—share an affinity and a great inner strength as quiet but forceful leaders, even though their lives are separated by nearly 200 years. As the model for Sacagawea's likeness on the new coin, Randy'L believes she represents all Native American tribes across the United States (numbering in the thousands) who are bonded together by their unique heritage.

Randy'L grew up on the Ft. Hall Reservation in the Lincoln Creek District of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribe in Southeastern Idaho. She attended the Institute of American Indian Arts in Santa Fe, New Mexico, where she earned an Associate of fine arts degree in museum studies. She also studied at Fort Lewis College in Durango, Colorado, and The University of New Mexico in Albuquerque, where she graduated in the Spring of 2000 with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in art history with a minor in Native American studies.

Randy'L has worked with Museum of Idaho's exhibit and Lecture Series on "Discovering Idaho—through the Lewis & Clark Expedition," in which she visited local school districts as the voice of Sacagawea. She continues today in this role, as she is able to promote the higher education and betterment of all Native peoples' well-being. She was also selected as Curator for the "Poha Ba, Land of Healing Waters" exhibition in Lava Hot Springs, Idaho, which recognized the Shoshone-Bannock Tribe's culture and history.

Randy'L feels that "there is a great deal of Native American art in museums, but very few Native Americans who can adequately represent the significance of this art within the cultural context—and I want to be in a position to help educate the next generation."

Currently, Randy'L resides with her fiancée, two sons and adopted little brother in Southeastern Idaho. Despite her ongoing schedule she holds a job in her community with a grassroots organization in helping to reduce poverty through workforce training and education in southeastern Idaho.