

# Employee Spotlight

Working at GCCCD we don't often realize that we get to work with people from all walks of life. We are a melting pot of cultures and background.

Share a little or as much as you like about your customs, culture, and background to let us know about YOU!!

Have fun and support learning!

Name:

Dept:

## About this picture:

This is a picture of my mother and me in traditional dress. All the jewelry that we are wearing was handmade by family members. And my mother made our clothes. The blankets are given when a girl turns 18 as a rite of passage. Most people might recognize my mother, her name is Amy Leasure and she is a Senior Buyer in Purchasing.

## Where I come from:

Often times when people first meet me they ask if I am Hispanic, Asian or Islander. I surprise people when I tell them that I am actually  $\frac{1}{2}$  Navajo,  $\frac{1}{4}$  French, and  $\frac{1}{4}$  English. Like most I have a very diverse culture that I am happy, proud and honored to represent.

## Interesting facts about my culture:

Our tribe is traditionally matriarchal. We are the largest tribe in the US, with the largest reservation as well. Many people know of the Navajo through jewelry and beautiful hand woven rugs. My family is known throughout the tribe for both. And I am pleased to say that I myself have been taught how to weave by my grandmother and my mother.

## Misconceptions:

That all Native Americans are rich from their casinos. The Navajo tribe just recently opened its first casino with the proceeds going to help better the living conditions on the reservation. Our tribe was actually the last major tribe to open casinos.

## What I would like you to know:

We are a quiet people that value family. We hold our core values to heart and these have been passed down through the generations. We are not a loud, boastful people. When most people meet a Navajo they often ask what is wrong due to the stern look on our faces, and to be honest nothing is wrong. We simply have the weight of our ancestors on our shoulders.

