

Dionne Cadiente-Laiti, Kaasoot, Teikweidee. Granddaughter of Irene Cadiente, Jingei Tlaa and Andres Cadiente. Granddaughter of Lena and Alex Laiti.

My education includes a Master's Degree in Business Administration from University of Alaska Southeast and a Bachelor's Degree in Cultural Anthropology and Political Science from Lewis and Clark College received in 1991. Since my graduation from Lewis and Clark College, I have been working primarily with nonprofit tribal and cultural heritage organizations including Central Council Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes, SEARHC, Sealaska Heritage Foundation as a Finance Director and Education Projects Manager. My work experience has been in direct services to our community and grants administration establishing programs and projects that provide service to our community.

I am currently honored to serve as the Goldbelt Heritage Foundation Executive Director supporting the success of GHF as best possible with my experience in grants financial management, projects and programs management, grant writing and most importantly my care and concern for our people. I was hired in 2007 by the Goldbelt CEO and VPO to help establish the foundation for GHF through the securing of grant funding. We received our first grant in early 2008 which was, "Honoring Our Elders and Youth" from the First Alaskan's Institute. This grant helped to provide cultural education activities for youth with elders and additionally supported the first Canoe Welcome supported by GHF for that same year. Since this time, we have been able to work towards additional funding for language preservation, traditional arts education and have made consistent efforts towards assuring that our schools provide culturally responsive education that upholds our youth and families remedying past practices of language and cultural exclusion. One of the most wonderful outcomes of these efforts has been to be able to see our elders go into the schools and work alongside our Cultural and Language Specialists to bring meaningful educational opportunities to students assuring that not only our language and cultural education has a place but so too do we as Alaska Native people.



My life-long goal has been and will continue to be to serve our people. I feel very fortunate to work with such a wonderful team of people who work incredibly hard to assure that our children, families and elders are held up in high esteem through efforts that preserve our language and culture. Gunalchéesh.