

My name is Paul R Smith. I am a member of the Oneida Nation of Wisconsin, and I am part of the Turtle Clan. My tribal or Longhouse name is La Gee Gwa Gahdt Stay or Strong Warclub. I earned that name from my tribe for the work I have done to fight for the impoverished. I am married to a hard-working undervalued educator of 23 years all with MPS. She teaches the lucky students at Fernwood Montessori, and we have a 11-year-old son River.

I was born in the Silver City neighborhood of the lower south side before we moved to the Thurston woods neighborhood where my family spent most of my childhood. We spent every summer at the Silver Spring Neighborhood center and swam every day at McGovern Park. We moved back to the South Side to be closer to school and work for my parents. My mother, was a nurse and father worked at A.O.Smith for 31 years, two weeks after graduating from Milwaukee Boy's Technical high school. My great grandparents moved here in 1933, and my family has been serving the Native community since then over 90 years. I have lived in Milwaukee my entire life and have either lived in or went to school at or worked in every part of Milwaukee. I love this City.

I am a proud graduate of Riverside University high school, I attained my associate degree in Teacher Education from MATC, and I received my undergraduate degree from UW Milwaukee in History. During my time at MATC I was elected president of the Student Teacher Association and when I was at UWM I was elected to be president of the American Indian Student Association.

I served a term of service for AmeriCorp at Milwaukee Habitat for Humanity where I trained over 1,000 volunteers during my service term and four years as a staff member there. I sit on and started the American Indian Advisory Committee at the Milwaukee Art Museum. I also sit on the Educational Advisory Board for MATC. I have over 31 years in the building trades and over 15 years of that in the non-profit realm. My team and I recently filed our papers for a 501 3c nonprofit status where I will serve as the Vice President of the Milwaukee Intertribal Circle. We have a goal of building a mix use tribal center for all of the tribal nations of Milwaukee.