

April 21, 2017

## DARIUS L. SMITH

## BIOGRAPHY

Darius Smith was born and raised in the Denver suburb of Montbello and spent many summer months with his maternal grandmother on the Navajo reservation. Although raised in a predominantly urban community, he was heavily influenced by the culture, language, and experience of the Navajo way of life. For Darius, viewing the world through a multicultural lens is an inseparable part of his identity/politics as a Navajo and Black. Darius earned a Baccalaureate degree in Communications from Azusa Pacific University, a certificate in American Indian History and Cultures from the University of Denver, and a Masters of Nonprofit Management/Leadership Training and Development from Regis University. Darius has served the American Indian community since 1992 as the Director of Indian Education for Denver Public Schools, National Director of the Natives Peoples' Initiative for Habitat for Humanity International, Board Member of the Denver Indian Center and President of the Colorado Indian Education Association. He now serves as both the Director of the Denver Anti-Discrimination Office within the City and County of Denver's Agency for Human Rights & Community Relations, and the American Indian Liaison to the Mayor and the City and County of Denver. Darius has developed many published education materials and has been recognized for his service to the community with numerous honors and awards. He speaks nationally on the topic of American Indians as Mascots and the negative effect it has on the self-esteem and self-determination of Native people. Running has not only been influential for Darius throughout his life, it has also opened many doors to academic and professional opportunities and is an honest reflection of his pride in his Navajo heritage. While no longer a competitive runner, he continues to run most days to maintain health and fitness while role-modeling the Navajo running tradition. Darius draws inspiration from playing with his own children and interacting with youth in the Indian community. Darius considers serving his people to be an honor and a privilege as well as his responsibility.



**Darius Lee Smith, Director**

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<http://www.denvergov.org/content/denvergov/en/human-rights-and-community-partnerships/our-offices/anti-discrimination.html>