





## Chepa Rank

*Keep Going*, written by renowned Lakota author Joseph Marshall II, is a book that guides me frequently in my quest to improve myself professionally and personally. It is a book I referenced when deciding to pursue my doctorate degree in social work because it brought me to examine the words...."if not me, then who" when thinking about how to make a difference in my community. Going back to school

is a huge commitment, personally, professionally, and financially. The work at times daunting and balancing it all challenging; however, the knowledge and learning I achieved a tremendous asset that will help me as I continue my career, especially in the field of social work. I am passionate about social work and studying the grand challenges of social work that champions social progress through science.

The scholarship assistance I received from Dakota Indian Foundation helped me in my educational endeavors and I am deeply appreciative. I was a scholarship recipient during my undergraduate program and as a doctoral student in the field of social work. I am grateful for this assistance as it helped to alleviate a portion of my financial burden. Achieving my Doctorate of Social Work (DSW) was an amazing journey that I never thought possible but one that came true. Thank you to the many contributors who help fund scholarship recipients. I am grateful for your generosity and support to generations of Native Americans in pursuit of higher education.

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Dr. Melita "Chepa" Rank (Hunkpati Oyate) is the Chief Executive Officer for the Fort Thompson Indian Health Services (IHS) Health Center in South Dakota. In this not to miss podcast, Chepa inspires all to live true to Self by claiming "This is who I am, I embrace who I am. I accept who I am." Join us on Thursday to hear Chepa's podcast.

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