

## THE MAD SCIENTIST'S CLUB: SCIENTIST PROFILE

### NAVAJO WOMAN ENGINEER

#### SANDRA BEGAY-CAMPBELL

University of New Mexico, U.S. Department of Energy



**She has spent the last 10 years bringing solar-powered electricity to remote tribal members of the Navajo reservation.**

#### *Job Description:*

Sandra listens to tribes about their energy needs and gives them information about renewable energy or green energy. She works to find solutions for her people. One of her first jobs was to analyze buildings after a huge earthquake in California. She knew from her early training that nature was stronger than human technology. "My cultural heritage has taught me that engineers ultimately cannot control Mother Nature and we have to accept the consequences from natural phenomena," she says.

When she was in sixth grade, she was interested in architecture, math, and solving problems. Since she was not a good artist, she decided to become an engineer. Sandra was a serious student who kept trying even when she felt like giving up.

Some tools for learning were her parents. Her father was a tribal leader who showed her that she needed to use her skills to help other American Indians. Her mother guided her as a working woman.

Today her goal is to develop a large wind farm on the Navajo Nation. In the future, she wants to change the image of today's engineers. She jokingly refers to herself as an "INJUN-eer." She enjoys science fiction TV, (especially "X-Files"), her family, and friends.

#### *Kathy's advice to young scientists is:*

"If possible, I would encourage young women to discover what an engineering career is like by visiting with a woman engineer."

#### *For more information about Kathy's work, click on:*

[http://www.myhero.com/myhero/hero.asp?hero=Begay\\_Campbell\\_california\\_06](http://www.myhero.com/myhero/hero.asp?hero=Begay_Campbell_california_06)  
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