

The Incredible Kendra Bennett

Cee Cee Donovan: Hi Kendra, thank you for your time.

Kendra Bennett: Thank you!

Cee Cee: Can you share your journey to becoming a national account manager at both Skyland 3D and KAW Power & Safety, and how your role as AICCOk State VP fits into your professional vision?

Kendra: I am a Cherokee Nation Citizen and grew up in a small rural community within the jurisdictional boundaries. As a young girl, I was always eager to work hard but also serve those around me; still today that continues. I've spent much of my working career in oil and gas with a focus on state, federal and tribal lands. My passion for helping others thrived here when I connected the disservice that most Native American landowners were receiving. They are not educated in this massive area and I loved helping them understand their contracts. After leaving my first career of twelve years, I moved on to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation helping them create a stronger oil and gas code for their Nation. While I was helping their Citizens, I craved more and opened Agali Land Services where I still today help landowners and Tribal Nations educate their landowners. Which brings me to my daily grind with Kaw Nation Industries under Skyland 3D and Kaw Power & Safety. I've continued to stay connected with many Tribal Leaders and Tribal Nations in the forefront where we are serving in a multitude of areas within construction, energy, technology and safety, not just for our Oklahoma Tribes but nationwide. I'm also very passionate about connecting people and businesses to whom they need to connect, which leads me to my role with the American Indian Chamber of Commerce Oklahoma. I've served the last four years in capacities at both the State and Chapter levels and for the 2025 year serving as the State Vice President. Relationships are so important and more than just the relationship, it's trust that we all desire. Here I get to build those relationships that I've built on trust and pass those to others around me.

Cee Cee: What inspired your passion for innovative construction technology and service to tribal communities?

Kendra: My passion for serving tribal communities really stems back to being a tribal citizen and then really seeing all the gray areas while I started in oil and gas. I don't want to help just one person or one tribal community, I want to help them all. Every year we see massive weather-related events that leave not just tribal communities, but communities themselves in complete destruction. Often, we see more rural areas hit where poverty levels are higher and building back takes much longer. My passion for the 3DCP and its innovativeness is that we can build communities back faster, stronger, safer and more affordable.

Cee Cee: How did the Kaw Nation decide to pursue 3D concrete printing technology? What challenges in tribal housing or infrastructure was it aimed to solve?

Kendra: Kaw Power and Safety (KPS) has been building a new Greenhouse facility for the Kaw Nation of Oklahoma. It was during some general conversations with Dr. Ran Cox; Chief Operating Officer for Skyland 3D, who at the time was a partner in a different

3DCP firm, who wanted to bring this technology to Oklahoma. KPS, CEO, Sarah Yanez, a Kaw Nation Citizen, saw the many added benefits to 3DCP and what that meant for our tribal communities forming Skyland 3D and Stone Spear Robotics (a Kaw Nation owned entity that builds, sales and leases the robots for 3DCP). Here we are taking on the urgent rise in homelessness, destruction from natural disasters and growing labor shortages.

Sustainable solutions are no longer optional, they are essential.

Cee Cee: Can you describe the first projects executed with 3DCP within the Kaw Nation and the unique considerations for tribal or Indigenous communities?

Kendra: Skyland 3D printed a home in Somerset, KY called the Flood Buster 1. Communities in this area have been hit with weather related events with tornadoes and devastating floods. The challenge here was to build a home to withstand floods, tornadoes and fires, and that is what Skyland 3D did. We will soon in Braman, OK, have the first 3DCP homes on tribal land completed here in Oklahoma. We have submitted RFQ's within the tribal communities in Oklahoma creating environmentally friendly building and storm resilient housing.

We also are partners in a chronic homeless community in Providence Park, AR where we will print the first 5 of 400 tiny homes and building a greenhouse facility. Not only are we providing safe homes, but a place to source nutrition.

Cee Cee: How have strategic partnerships with tech innovators like Skyland 3D influenced KAW

Power & Safety's capabilities and reach?

Kendra: The sky is the limit when it comes to helping and serving tribal communities. One of our focuses has always been safety. Safety is no longer a luxury, it's a necessity. Construction costs are skyrocketing and we can help bring a family home to a home that is affordable, safer and something to be proud of. Safety, resiliency, and affordability are at the core of every Skyland 3D project. Homes and structures built using 3DCP are engineered to withstand severe weather, offering peace of mind to residents and investors alike. The technology unlocks previously inaccessible build sites and accommodates a wide variety of designs - from compact housing to large-scale industrial facilities.

Cee Cee: What are the key factors in developing successful collaborations in emerging industries like 3D construction?

Kendra: Adapting to modern construction challenges through automated building methods that reduce dependencies on large crew and conventional supply chains. Environmental and economic benefits of 3DCP, including energy efficiency, lower embodied carbon and reduced lifecycle costs. Solutions to workforce shortages, including training pathways that upscale local labor forces with future-ready competencies. Innovative infrastructure application, such as custom-shaped culverts that improve water management and climate resilience.

Cee Cee: How is the introduction of technologies like 3D concrete printing creating new workforce opportunities for tribal members?

Kendra: Skyland 3D has assembled a team of subject matter experts to manage end-to-end project execution - from design to print to completion.

Our turnkey approach streamlines permitting, compliance, and implementation, helping partners move quickly and confidently in a changing construction landscape. We want to deploy these skill sets to tribal giving a skill set that can be deployed for years to come.

Cee Cee: What training programs or initiatives have been most effective in preparing workers for these innovative roles?

Kendra: For the Somerset build, we partnered with Kentucky Community and Technical College System where they have an Additive Manufacturing Center and worked with their students to build the Flood Buster 1. It is our intention to work with Colleges and Trade Schools alike to work with those who want the experience and training within 3DCP.

Cee Cee: What sustainability benchmarks or goals guide your 3DCP projects?

Kendra: Whether is it addressing housing shortages, climate resilience or innovative structure needs, Skyland 3D is laying the foundation - literally and figuratively - for a smarter, stronger future. We do not just want to build a home that will last 30 years, we want to build one that will be around for 100+ years.

Cee Cee: How have reduced material waste and improved efficiency made an impact on both environmental outcomes and project timelines?

Kendra: We are significantly reducing waste when it comes to building a structure. We mix on site and mix as the project goes along so there is very little waste. With the adoption of technology, a CAD is implemented and printed precisely.

Cee Cee: Can you discuss any recent disaster response efforts where 3DCP played a role?

Kendra: A project spotlight featuring Skyland 3D's print in Somerset, Kentucky, with insights into real-world implementation, lessons learned and community impact. The Flood Buster 1 was an 800 sqft project designed for flood and tornado relief.

Cee Cee: How does this technology enhance the Kaw Nation's ability to provide rapid relief and long-term recovery solutions?

Kendra: Response to build times being quick and effective are at an ultimate high. Depending on the size of the structure, we can have the walls to a new home built within 2-7 days. With the innovativeness of 3DCP. In natural disaster areas where immediate shelter is needed, we can have Stone Spear Robotics deployed and Skyland 3D will have structures built in days.

Cee Cee: How do you ensure that advanced construction technologies like 3DCP align with traditional Kaw values and cultural needs?

Kendra: Skyland 3D is the first Tribally owned 3D concrete printing (3DCP) company in the United States, operating under Kaw Nation Industries on behalf of the Kaw Nation.

Skyland 3D is grounded in lived experience and driven by community purpose. Kaw Nation Industries launched Skyland 3D not just as a business, but as a response to real challenges

- housing shortages, rebuilding after storms, and the urgent need to control our economic future through native youth development.

Skyland 3D brings a tribal-led perspective that centers sovereignty, sustainability, and self-determination in construction innovation. It's not just about the technology — it's about transforming outcomes for Native communities, by Native communities.

Cee Cee: Are there examples where cultural design elements or tribal preferences have been incorporated into 3D-printed structures?

Kendra: In the very near future we will be 3D printing Teepee. It will look like a traditional built teepee but will be printed with concrete and artistically set with plaster. We will soon be releasing design plans for community tornado shelters that look like natural landscapes. Therefore providing a shelter that looks natural to the landscape.

Cee Cee: What's your vision for the evolution of Skyland 3D and KAW Power & Safety's work in Oklahoma and beyond?

Kendra: The construction industry is facing a perfect storm: rising material and labor costs, worsening climate impacts, and a growing shortage of skilled workers.

Meanwhile, communities are struggling not just with the cost of building - but with the cost of rebuilding after increasingly frequent natural disasters.

This makes innovative, cost-efficient, and climate-resilient building methods more urgent than ever. 3D concrete printing (3DCP) offers a practical, scalable solution that addresses all of these challenges simultaneously. It lowers construction costs, reduces carbon emissions, and produces durable structures built to withstand extreme weather. Even more critically, 3DCP provides a platform for workforce development in both rural and urban areas, equipping workers with modern, in-demand skills. As housing, infrastructure, and labor pressures increase across the country, 3DCP represents not just a technological breakthrough - but a timely, needed shift in how we think about building for the future.

Cee Cee: Are there any upcoming projects or innovations that you're particularly excited about?

Kendra: We are really excited for our partnership and opportunity with Providence Park, our builds coming to Braman, Oklahoma for the first homes to be built in Oklahoma. We have RFQs out now with tribal housing authorities here in Oklahoma. We anxiously await through these selection processes and are ready to be the first in Oklahoma.

Cee Cee: What advice would you offer to other tribal nations or Oklahoma businesses considering adopting advanced technologies in infrastructure?

Kendra: Don't wait. So many times, we wait to see what others are going to do, what decisions they are going to make, what failure or success looks like. Be the leader that goes for it and do so confidently. Be that leader that succeeds, helps others and help them succeed.

Cee Cee: As a leader, what are your guiding principles when balancing tradition, innovation, and economic growth?

Kendra: Follow your heart, sit down, do the research and share your knowledge. We learn through struggle, failure and success. We are all deeply rooted in our own traditions, but when we share with those around us, we can impact how innovation is used. When we create a learning experience for innovation, we can then grow economic impact all around us for generations to come.

Cee Cee: Thank you Kendra Bennett.

Kendra: It's been my pleasure, thank you Cee Cee Donovan and Oklahoma Business magazine.