



Leadership & Vision

Cee Cee: What inspired you to lead Kaw Nation Industries, and how does your heritage influence your approach?

Sarah: come from a large, tight-knit Kaw Nation family that has deeply shaped who I am. Being rooted in that kind of community taught me the value of shared success, resilience, and showing up for one another.

As a tribal member and leader, I've made it my mission to ensure our people are not just seen - but thriving. I stepped into this role because I believe economic development is one of the most powerful tools we have to restore prosperity, expand access to education, and build lasting financial sovereignty for the Kaw Nation.

My family's heritage shapes every decision I make. This work isn't about chasing quarterly profits, it's about creating generational impact. I lead with a long-term view, knowing that the choices we make today must uplift our people now and lay a resilient foundation for those who come after us.

Cee Cee: What distinguishes Kaw Power & Safety in the power and safety industry? [Kaw Power & Safety](#) was our first entity, born out of a need to address critical infrastructure gaps in tribal and rural communities. From power systems and lighting to site safety and contracting, it

laid the foundation for how we approach business: hands-on, mission-driven, and built for impact.

Today, Kaw Nation Industries is scaling that vision into a full ecosystem of tribally owned entities delivering integrated solutions across multiple sectors. What sets us apart is our ability to bring critical infrastructure together - renewable energy, clean water, food sovereignty, secure facilities, and sustainable housing - delivered as a cohesive, community-first solution.

We're building the future our Nation deserves - strategic, sustainable, and entirely our own.

Mission & Impact

Cee Cee: How do you balance economic success with sustainability and community values?

Sarah: At Kaw Nation Industries, we don't view economic success and community values as competing priorities - they're two sides of the same strategy. Every entity we build is designed to generate revenue *and* create long-term value for the Kaw people.

Our approach to sustainability is holistic. We invest in renewable energy, food sovereignty, water access, and resilient infrastructure not because it looks good on paper, but because these are the systems our communities need to thrive. Economic growth, when done right, *is* community empowerment. And by embedding these values into the business model itself, we ensure our success uplifts everyone, not just the balance sheet.

Cee Cee: Can you share a recent project that showcases your company's mission in action?

Sarah: One of the clearest examples of our mission in action is the Kaw Nation Food Sovereignty Project. We're nearing completion of a full-scale greenhouse site designed to provide year-round access to fresh, locally grown produce for over 3,000 people. The project creates jobs, offers hands-on learning opportunities for tribal members, restores food independence, promotes healthier communities, and drives economic development for the Tribe.

This project isn't just about agriculture - it's about reclaiming control of our resources, honoring traditional knowledge, and building systems that serve our people long-term. It reflects everything Kaw Nation Industries stands for: community-first development, cultural relevance, and sustainable infrastructure rooted in tribal values.

Innovation & Technology

Cee Cee: What technologies and innovations are shaping your field, and how are you adopting them?

Sarah: We're actively building the future with technologies that meet real-world needs in tribal and rural communities - especially in places where traditional infrastructure has failed or never existed.

Through Skyland 3D, we offer scalable, affordable housing using advanced 3D concrete printing technology. Paired with Kaw Power & Safety, we integrate these homes with solar power, battery backup, and atmospheric water generation units to create off-grid, resilient living environments. These aren't just structures to us - they're self-sustaining systems designed to advance tribal sovereignty and reduce long-term costs for our communities.

Innovation at Kaw Nation Industries isn't limited to housing and energy - it extends to how we grow and sustain our communities. Through KNI Environmental, we're advancing food sovereignty with a full-scale hydroponic greenhouse system - a large facility designed for year-round crop production. It's a modern solution rooted in traditional values, which is part of our commitment to implementing technology that strengthens our people and supports long-term sustainability.

Kaw Power & Safety is also deploying drone-based inspections to support energy and construction projects with safer, more efficient thermal imaging, terrain mapping, and site monitoring. These drones reduce labor risk, increase accuracy, and allow us to survey large or remote areas quickly - critical for planning utility infrastructure, identifying heat loss in solar systems, and ensuring jobsite compliance. They also play a key role in post-disaster and storm damage assessment, helping us respond faster and make informed recovery decisions when our communities are most vulnerable.

Growth & Tribal Business

Cee Cee: How does being a tribally owned business create opportunities or unique challenges?

Sarah: Being a tribally owned business opens doors that some can't access - Native Preference contracting, Buy Indian Act eligibility, and access to set-aside opportunities across federal, state, and tribal programs. It also brings credibility and trust when working with government agencies and other Tribal Nations who value shared values and sovereign partnerships.

But that opportunity comes with a higher standard. We're not just chasing contracts, we're building a legacy. That means we evaluate every decision not just for profit potential, but for its long-term benefit to the Kaw people. Balancing business velocity with cultural responsibility is the challenge, and frankly, the honor of working in a tribally owned environment. The stakes are higher, and so is the purpose.

Cee Cee: In what ways does Kaw Nation Industries support your growth?

Sarah: Kaw Nation Industries is more than a holding company - it's the platform that allows us to launch, scale, and align our entities under a single, mission-driven umbrella. It provides the governance, financial infrastructure, and strategic oversight we need to grow intentionally - not just quickly.

KNI also reinforces our vision of economic sovereignty. Every entity we build under its umbrella shares one unified purpose: to create real value for our people, build capacity within the Tribe, and ensure our growth is sustainable, strategic, and generational.

Community & The Future

Cee Cee: How do Kaw Nation traditions influence your leadership style?

Sarah: Kaw Nation traditions teach us that leadership isn't about control - it's about stewardship. You lead with humility, with purpose, and with the understanding that your decisions ripple across generations.

That mindset shapes how I lead Kaw Nation Industries every day. I try to listen more than I speak, surround myself with people who reflect our community's values, and avoid short-term moves that compromise long-term goals. Every strategy we pursue is grounded in our traditions of self-reliance, responsibility, and collective strength.

Cee Cee: What are your top goals for the next few years, and how do you cultivate Native American talent within your team?

Sarah: Over the next few years, my top priority is to secure and solidify the market presence of the entities that we've built. We're focused on deepening relationships, delivering consistent results, and making sure that when people hear "Kaw Nation Industries," they know exactly who we are, what we do, and the value we bring. It's not about chasing growth—it's about establishing a reputation rooted in trust, results, and long-term value—especially in the rural communities that have been historically underserved.

Developing Native American talent is central to that mission. We actively recruit, mentor, and promote within our community. But more importantly, we're intentional about the kinds of

opportunities we create. It's not enough to offer entry-level jobs - we're bringing advanced technologies and industry development to Kaw Nation land to create high-wage, high-skill career paths for our people. Whether it's manufacturing operations, overseeing sustainable infrastructure projects, or leading new business ventures, we are building companies where Native professionals can lead, innovate, and thrive. The businesses we're creating aren't just economic engines - they're launching pads for long-term, meaningful careers for Kaw citizens.

