

INDIAN

101

NARU MUI FILMS PRESENTS

La Donna Harris

LAURA HARRIS/EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AMERICANS FOR INDIAN OPPORTUNITY (AIO)

Laura Harris is the Executive Director of Americans for Indian Opportunity (AIO) where she heads up a national Native American leadership development program and an international indigenous leaders network. Before joining AIO, Harris was on the original fund-raising staff for the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian and prior to that, she worked in the Washington, D.C. office of U.S. Senator Jeff Bingaman (NM). During the 2004 U.S. presidential primary, Harris was Gov. Howard Dean's National Native American Policy and Outreach Senior Advisor and during the general election, served on Sen. John Kerry's Native American National Steering Committee. Harris has extensive experience on national, state and local campaigns and in political fundraising. Harris is a New Mexico State Director of INDN's List (a national organization that recruits and trains Native American candidates and campaign workers). Over the past ten years, Harris has served on several national boards, including the Center for Policy Alternatives, Renewing Democracy through Interracial/Multicultural Community Building, the National Committee for Responsive Philanthropy, and Las Adelitas. In 1997, President Clinton appointed Harris to a two-year term as Senior Consultant to the President's Initiative on Race. She is a trained facilitator in the CogniScope™ social system design process.