science. The program, which prepares students for transfer to four-year institutions, is called "Sihasins," a Navajo word referring to the north and representing the ultimate stage of Navajo learning. In addition to classes with regular faculty, students frequently meet with Navajo medicine men and spiritual leaders, who reinforce traditional values and emphasize the interconnection of all living and nonliving things found in the natural world.

"We want our students to have a broad understanding of the impact of what they're learning," explained Frank Morgan, curriculum specialist in Diné Education Philosophy at Navajo Community College. "Nowhere is that more important in today's world than in science, technology and medicine. We hope our students will see the ramifications of what they do in their professions and make responsible decisions and recommendations."

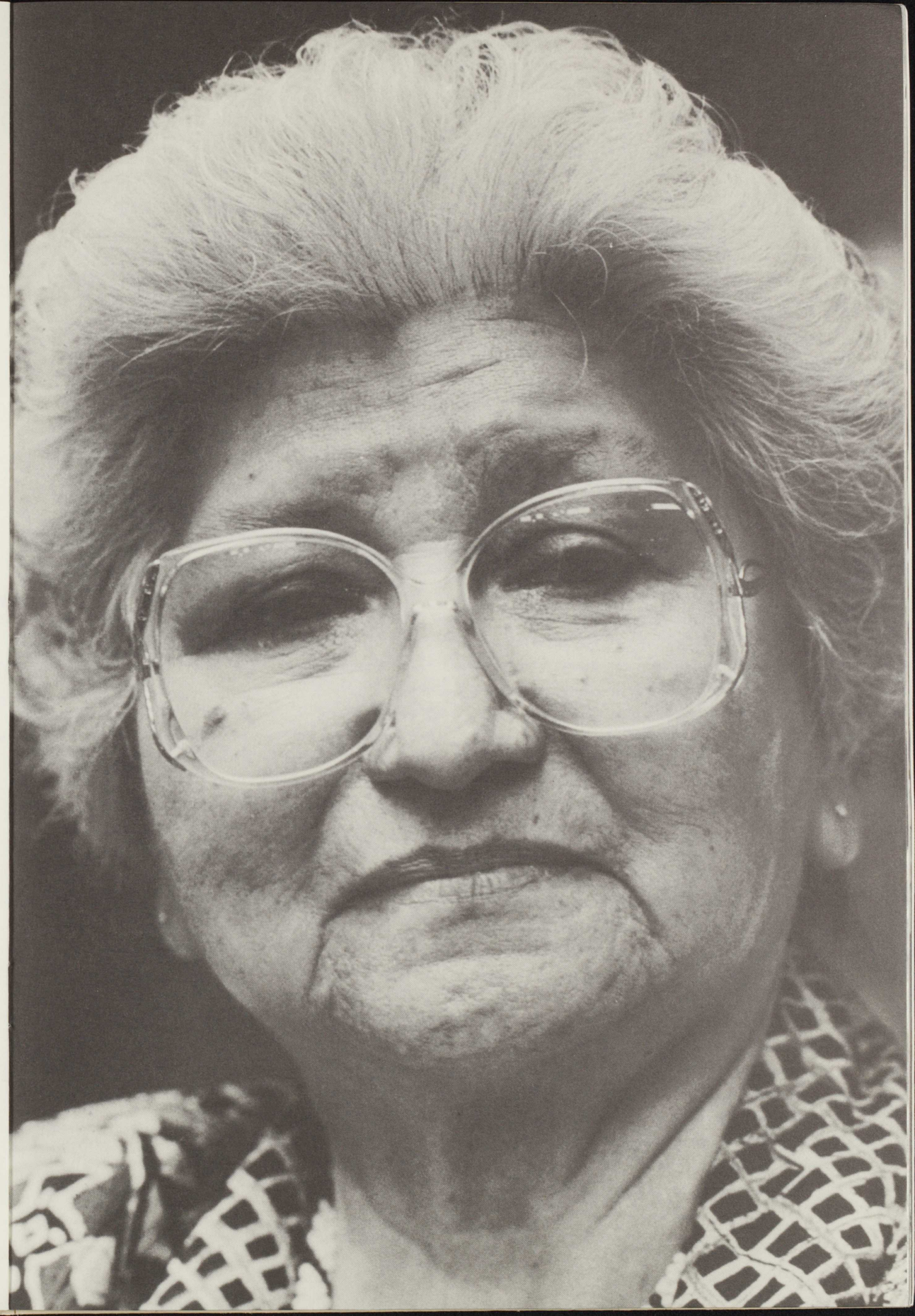
Sinte Gleska University on the Rosebud Sioux Reservation in South Dakota has taken a somewhat different route in developing a cohesive Lakota (Sioux) curriculum for students who want a strong base in Lakota knowledge. While all students, regardless of their major, are required to take at least one course in Lakota language, history and culture, they also have available to them four two-year degree programs in Lakota Studies: Traditional Arts, Lakota Language, Lakota History and Culture, and Lakota Creative Writing. Some students go on from these programs to advanced studies in human services, education and business — professional areas on the reservation where an understanding of Lakota values and culture is vital.

The university is now developing a four-year program in Lakota Studies that department head Victor Douville describes as even more tradition-based. Plans for the program include new courses in Lakota linguistics, including study of word structure and alphabets; Lakota astronomy; Lakota geography; Lakota social systems and more in-depth history courses on the Rosebud Sioux and the origins of individual communities on the reservation.

"Let us put our minds together and see what life we can make for our children."

Sitting Bull,

Lakota Sioux, 1877



Right, Melvina Everett, tribal elder and Arikara language instructor at Fort Berthold Community College