1. How do you define yourself? What is your identity? Which identity is the most important to you?

I define myself as being Sharon.  I am a strong person, carry my ancestors on my back, and a mom.  I consider myself a person who shows love to those who seek me.  My identity is a matriarch.  The matriarch is the most important to me because it encompasses all of the roles I have- mom, Tunwin, Elder, Leader, friend.

            2. How do you communicate your identity to others?

I communicate through my actions.  I show people who I am by being myself and my engagement and communication with them.  I lead by example.

             3. Do you experience any discrimination based on your identity?

I have at times experienced some discrimination.  I felt it more through my ancestors, and my parents, and a little less through myself and my children.  I have been impacted by prejudice and racism as a result of being Indigenous from both external and internal sources.

             4. What are your suggestions to bridge the gap between ingroup and outgroup members?

Continue through educational and community experiences.  Make sure that involvement expands beyond the immediate players and to extended people in various communities and the public at large.  Ensure that there are opportunities to understand history, the present, and the goals for the future- and offer unity-building experiences like the Pow Wow for Mendota- this has volunteers from many places not just the Mendota community who all come together to make the Pow Wow happen.  This is way of being inclusive and bonding over a unifying action can help bridge the gap and show common purpose.