

# Four Year Degree Recipient Anthony Frank

## *Childhood Hardships Lead to Triumphs*

**By Marisol Gonzalez**

**HOLLYWOOD** – Growing up was definitely not easy for Anthony Frank, Panther Clan. Having a rough childhood and becoming a foster child at a young age was the least of his worries. Being an epileptic patient and suffering from seizures since he was seven years old was just another bump in the road for Frank.

Overcoming all of these obstacles and having been educated have been goals that he has achieved thus far.

Frank graduated from Labelle High School and was then given choices by the Tribe to either attend a vocational technical school or a college/university. At that time he was given three options, he could either go to Ft. Myers, Fla., Hollywood, Fla., or Albuquerque, N.M. Frank chose to attend Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute (SIPI) in Albuquerque, N.M.

After attending SIPI for electronics, he then went on to the Technical Vocation Institute which is now Central New Mexico Community College. There he completed an electro mechanical technology course.

He got married in July 1997 and decided to become a stay at home dad while his wife worked. Frank then went on to obtain his associates' degree from Broward Community College in business administration in May 1999. In April 2004, he earned a bachelor's degree in business management, with a minor in finance, from Florida Atlantic University.

"It was always my mother's wish for me to get a good education," Frank said.

Frank started working with the Tribe on Jan. 10, 2000, as a data entry clerk. He held that position for almost four years and then became a liaison between human resources and fellow Tribal citizens. His current position in human resources is Human Resources Manager Trainee III, which he has held for nearly two years.

Frank said that working for the Tribe was rocky at first, but said that since the directors have changed the department, things have gotten better. Frank says that he gets a lot of inspiration from God, Tribal Council representatives and Lee Zepeda, director of human resources.

"Lee tells me that I have a gift, he doesn't know what it is, but he knows I have a gift," Frank said.

Frank said his ultimate goal is to become a manager or director within the Tribe.

"I wanted to work for the Tribe because this is my home, these are my people and I wanted to give back," he said. "I belong to the Tribe and the Tribe belongs to me."

If Frank wasn't working in the Human Resources Department, he said he would probably end up in accounting. He said he would like to take advantage of his minor in finance because "I'm a numbers guy."

For nearly 40 years, Frank has suffered seizures caused by epilepsy. This was just another challenge for Frank to overcome. Frank would have seizures two to three times a week, even occurring during work.

In 2006, Frank decided to seek possible surgical options for his seizures. He began undergoing tests, including ones that would induce seizures, in order to find the exact location in the brain where the seizures would occur.

He was eventually deemed an acceptable candidate for brain surgery, which he underwent on October 18, 2006. Frank said he has not had a seizure since. Since his successful surgery, Frank said he now takes fewer medications and has fewer side effects from his medications.

Without the fear of suffering a seizure, Frank now has more time to focus on his family, as father of three children while also enjoying fishing, hunting, and reading.