

**Biography of
Principal Chief Mitchell Hicks
Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians
Cherokee, North Carolina**

Michell Hicks, CPA, is the Principal Chief of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, having been re-elected by an overwhelming majority in 2023. A dedicated leader with decades of experience in tribal governance and finance, he served three consecutive terms as Principal Chief from 2003 to 2015 and is a former Executive Director of Budget and Finance for the Tribe.

With over 31 years of experience as a Certified Public Accountant (CPA), Chief Hicks has demonstrated strategic foresight and fiscal expertise, leading the 16,000 member Tribe through a period of significant economic growth and cultural advancement.

Chief Hicks serves on the Board of Directors the Museum of the Cherokee People, Cherokee Preservation Foundation, and for the United South and Eastern Tribes (USET), working to advance policy and advocacy efforts for Tribal nations and Tribal organizations. He was also a member of North Carolina Governor Josh Stein's transition team, bringing his expertise to state-level governance and Indigenous affairs.

A graduate of Southwestern Community College and Western Carolina University with a bachelor's degree in business administration, Chief Hicks was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from the University of North Carolina-Asheville in 2015. He and his wife, Marsha, reside in Cherokee and have five children: Savannah, Noah, Lynsey, Amaya, and Marlee.