

F A L L 2 0 1 5

# SWIWC CONNECTIONS

A newsletter to connect, educate and promote change within tribal communities



## Message from Leanne:

One of the many blessings I have received in working with tribes is getting to know the people – hearing their stories, observing their customs, seeing their land and sharing their food.

The Southwest Indigenous Women's Coalition (SWIWC) continues to bring awareness, training, technical assistance, assisting in policy making/changes, and most of all, continuing to enhance safety to Native women.

In always knowing that my work would be in helping Native people, to be immersed in the movement to end violence against Native women and children is a blessing and honor.

## SACRED, we are...

The Southwest Indigenous Women's Coalition (SWIWC) is a non-profit, non-governmental statewide Native American domestic violence and sexual assault coalition located in Mesa, Arizona. The primary purpose of SWIWC is to increase the capacity of Native women and tribes to better respond and address domestic violence and sexual assault in their communities.

Through training and technical assistance, SWIWC aims to develop and enhance the leadership, advocacy and programmatic skills of Native Women, tribal domestic violence and sexual assault programs as well as other related programs, community task forces/committees and, native communities as a whole.



**Leanne Guy**  
Founder and Executive Director  
Dine

## Previous Training

2015 September

**September 15 & 16, 2015**

### Topics:

Sex Trafficking      LGBTQ community  
Law Enforcement & Advocacy  
Coordinated Community Response  
Domestic Violence 101/Sexual Assault 101  
VAWA 2013

## Save The Date!

Statewide Conference

**April 2016**

More information  
coming soon. Please  
visit [www.swiwc.org](http://www.swiwc.org)

## New & Familiar Faces

### Welcome Tania! New Program Specialist

Tania, Dine from Chinle, AZ, comes to SWIWC after serving 13 years as a victim advocate from Ft. McDowell. She also was the program coordinator for their Domestic Violence Task Force who organized many community education/events and collaborated with many local, tribal and state service providers. Tania fit right in and will continue to bring awareness of domestic violence and sexual assault as well as enhancing the safety of Native women in Tribal communities.

#### Training and Technical Assistance:

If you need training/technical assistance in your area please contact Tania, as she will assist in organization.

PH: 480-828-2542      Email: [tania.harvey@swiwc.org](mailto:tania.harvey@swiwc.org)



### Veronica Hunter, Finance Manager

Veronica is of the Tangle People clan, born for the Bitterwater clan, maternal grandfather is of the Water-flows Together clan, and paternal grandfather is Towering House clan. She is a member of the Navajo tribe from Chinle-Canyon De Chelly, Az. She previously worked for Ama Doo Alchini Bighan, Inc from 1991-2007, as the bookkeeper, administrative assistant, finance manager, victim advocate and interim executive director. She loves her large family and always enjoys helping others. She is passionate about helping end violence against Native women to make the world a better place for her family. She is located in the Chinle sub office.

### Leanne Guy, Founder & Director

Leanne Guy, Dine, has over 18 years of experience in tribal community health promotion, public health and safety initiatives. Currently she is the founding executive director of SWIWC, the first statewide tribal domestic violence and sexual assault coalition in Arizona. Previous work includes directing a tribal domestic/sexual assault victim services program on the Dine Nation and working for the Inter-Tribal Council of Arizona, Inc. and the Indian Health Service directing programs focused on HIV/AIDS and women's health respectively.

In her spare time she enjoys writing, reading, traveling, making jewelry, being active and spending time with family. Leanne has been married to her sweetheart for 30 years. Together they have five wonderful children and two beautiful granddaughters. Leanne is an advocate for social change and justice and is passionate about the work to end violence against Native women and children.





## HIGHLIGHT PROGRAM

### Southwest Center For Law and Policy

The Southwest Center For Law And Policy (SWCLAP) is a non-profit organization providing legal training and technical assistance to tribal communities, organizations and agencies serving Native people. SWCLAP is also the host of the National Tribal Trial Collage providing free legal training for Attorneys, Judges, Law Enforcement, Advocates and community members on domestic/sexual violence, stalking, dating relationship violence and other related topics. Their most recent training in July marks the first long-term, intensive program, which certifies victim advocates as official Tribal Legal Advocates. The National Tribal Trial College is one of only a few organizations committed to training native leaders to advocate in tribal courts, and the only one with a specific focus on achieving justice for victims of sexual and domestic violence. The certification condenses three

years of law school into a six-month program. The curriculum focuses specially on areas relevant to violence against women.

Another project- NICCSA.org: The Southwest Center for Law and Policy's National Indian Country Clearinghouse on Sexual Assault (NICCSA) is a comprehensive, centralized archive of information about different aspects of sexual and domestic violence in Indian Country. At [niccsa.org](http://niccsa.org) you can find answers to questions ranging from legal to the different methods to identify if you or someone you know is being abused. Along with articles and other resources online, NICCSA includes a toll-free hotline operating five days a week to help answer questions from Indian Country professionals as well as community members. Find more information at [niccsa.org](http://niccsa.org) or call 1-855-464-2272.



## SAFE STAR

### SAFESTAR PROGRAM SEES EARLY SUCCESS



Designed by experts in Indian Country criminal justice, advocacy, and healthcare, SAFESTAR is a unique model of healthcare that trains community-based, lay healthcare providers to provide forensic examinations for Native victims of sexual assault. Respected members of Tribal communities are selected to undergo a 40-hour training, teaching, technical skills and cultural competency. SAFESTAR has four responsibilities: to provide emergency first-aid to victims, referrals to counseling or other medical

service, provide outreach and education in their communities and to collect forensic evidence and testify to the evidence in court.

SAFESTAR are local leaders and unbiased agents of justice with expert knowledge comparable to that of SANE. Due to diversity of laws, customs and traditions, SAFESTAR can deliver culturally appropriate care effectively and promptly than healthcare providers focused on the general population. For more information please visit: [swclap.org](http://swclap.org)

# Young Women Are Sacred

## 2015 Conference:

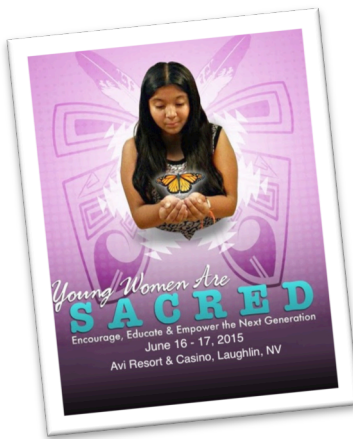
The Young Women Are Sacred (YWAS) conference was held in Fort Mojave, AZ with coordination by Carolina F. Antone from I:MIG LLC, Hualapai Tribe, Ft. Mohave Indian Tribe DV Program and SWIWC. YWAS was specifically for young women with presentations on various subject matters over two and a half days. A total of 26 young women plus their chaperones attended.



## Encourage, Educate & Empower

The Young Women Are Sacred Conference is the most incredible, intense and exciting experiences I will ever have, not only with the young girls, but also with the women and men who made this event possible. To be just a part of, witness and help ignite in the young women and open up their eyes to endless possibilities of who they want to become is PRICELESS.

Imagine a young lady realizing and understanding her life is not over but just beginning. A beginning of anything, wanting a beautiful home, a safe environment the truest of friends, a loving community and the greatest career. These are all the possible dreams and visions along with imagination, creativeness and development of skills they can and are capable, as well as being intelligent, strong, committed, desired and focused. If only we as a society can continue to encourage, educate and empower them.



## Our Next Generation

I understand that I alone or as a group cannot get everyone to accept help. However that doesn't mean to stop trying, it doesn't mean to ignore and it doesn't mean to give up. There are many who will refuse, reject and fall away. But what about the ones who will hold on to every word, the one who learns and begins to teach others, and the ones who grows because their like a sponge, who takes the information and blossoms! This change will create a difference and develop a momentum so slowly and so powerful. It will become an incredible, joyful and spiritual experience because it begins to form hope for each of the young women; how they are unique in their own way and valued not by other but by themselves. As their families grow and become THE NEXT GENERATION of leaders!

-C.F. Antone-

## A Success!

SWIWC would like to thank all who assisted in planning this great conference: chaperones, speakers and a special thank you to the Ft. Mojave Domestic Violence Program for contributing to Diva Day, door prizes, and providing volunteers through out the conference. As the young women stated, it was fun, enjoyable and a success! On behalf of SWIWC and Caroline F. Antone, Thank you!



## SWIWC's Council of Women

### Mary Howe, President

Mary Howe a Fort Mojave Tribal member has been the Director of the Fort Mojave Indian Tribes (FMIT) Domestic Violence Program since 1999. The FMIT Domestic Violence Program provides direct victim services and batterer's re-education to tribal community members with the tri-state area of California, Arizona, Nevada, on and offer the Fort Mojave reservation.



### Geraldine Laughter, Secretary

Geraldine is from Kayenta, Arizona on the Navajo Nation. She's Dine of the Nakaidine clan and born for Tachiinii notah-dine. Geraldine received her Bachelor's degree from Arizona State University and made the decision to return to my community to work. I formerly worked as Director of Tohdenasshai Shelter Home in Kayenta, AZ from 2001-2011. She was a former member of the Navajo Nation Advisory Council on Domestic Violence and the Navajo County Food and Emergency Shelter board for over 10 years. Geraldine is currently a Council of Women (COW) member for the Southwest Indigenous Women's Coalition (SWIWC) since 2006.

### Lorena T. Halwood, Council member

Lorena is Navajo from Chinle, AZ and is employed with Ama Doo Alchini Bighan, Inc (ADABI) for the past 18 years. Lorena has trained 350+ Law Enforcement officers within Navajo Nation, facilitates a 10-week Women's Support Group and co facilitates the Sweat Lodge. Lorena provides overall direction and supervision for ADABI operations, employees, and programs. ADABI is a non-profit domestic violence and sexual assault program, which assist victims with crisis intervention, on-call emergency assistance, shelter placement/transportation, court assistance, and also provides community education and awareness and has a successful volunteer program.



### Carrie Imus, Council member

Carrie is a member of the Hualapai Tribe. She's currently serving a 4-year term as a Council Member for the Tribe. Carrie was elected as the first women to serve two terms as the Chairperson for the Tribe; in addition, she also served as the Vice Chairperson. Carrie received her education at NAU with a BA in Social Work. Carrie is a proud mother of four and grandmother to 16 grandchildren. Carrie currently is employed with the Hualapai Tribe as the Director of Hualapai Human Services, since 2006.

# Southwest Indigenous Women's Coalition

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Council of Women

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