



## **Calling Upon the Warrior Spirit to Heal Historical Trauma Conference and Ceremony**

**October 8, 9 & 10, 2018**

Viejas Resort & Casino, Alpine, CA

**Hosted by:**

**Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Indians**

**Sponsored by:**

**The Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Indians**

**Conference Packet Includes:**

**Conference Agenda \*Fact Sheet\* Bios**

Welcome to our three-day conference of discussions and ceremony focusing on understanding and healing historical trauma in Indian Country through the shared expertise of guest speakers, presenters, and conference participants. In addition to the presentations, there will be on a Sweat Lodge and Talking Circle ceremonies to pray for individuals, families, communities, and tribes impacted by historical trauma.

Over the past year, we have had a monthly conference call with the Roundtable on Native American Trauma- Informed Initiatives. This call included many committed persons who address historical trauma in their personal and professional lives. Native American elders have respectfully advised that we pause in addressing historical trauma by having a conference and ceremony from an Indigenous perspective. The conference features insight from individuals, tribes, programs, services, and entities currently serving the trauma





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impacted community. Traditional Native elders of tribes will perform the sweat lodge ceremony. Plus, Native elders will offer their input, advice, and respective traditional healing perspectives and prayers.

## **The Conference and Ceremony objectives are as follows:**

- To have a conference from an Indigenous perspective that focuses on input and recommendations from Native speakers, traditional elders, and Roundtable on Native American Trauma-Informed Initiatives members, tribes, and organizations on how to holistically address historical trauma among rural and urban Indians;
- To develop a specific goal and plan to enhance the effectiveness of programs, services, funding, and treatment for individuals and families experiencing trauma through collaboration, input, and advice of all attendees;
- To have all individuals who have participated in the Roundtable on Native American Trauma-Informed Initiatives conference calls, respective tribal programs and services, universities, and key entities meet each other in person and share ideas, experiences, and collaboration;
- To have a women and men's Sweat Lodge and Talking Circle ceremonies led by Spiritual Leaders to pray for spiritual healing of individuals, families, and populations impacted by historical trauma in your service areas.

Through these objectives, the following outcomes are sought;

- Strengthening the Roundtable on the Native American Trauma-Informed Initiative group to be more effective and creating momentum to move forward with a focus and mission;





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- Creating better communication and collaboration among individuals, tribes, programs, and services to establish and enhance holistic healing of historical trauma;
- Establishing mutually agreed upon goals and plans for the group to support collectively in the future, including recognizing traditional healing as an integral component of services, networking, funding, and legislation;
- Identifying networking, collaboration, funding, and legislative opportunities;
- Providing tribal communities with tools to create comprehensive initiatives to address historical trauma in their communities; and trauma-informed communities, including sharing examples of tribes that have already done so.

The conference and ceremony are detailed in the announcement, agenda, fact sheet, registration form and sponsor form. The conference registration fee is \$150.00 per person which will be used specifically to offset anticipated conference and ceremony expenses.

In addition, the Planning Committee for the event is seeking financial donations and contributions from Tribes, other programs, services, universities, and the private sector to assist in paying for the cost of the event. A Sponsor Form with all information is attached. All sponsor donations and registration fees would be greatly appreciated and will be used specifically for the conference and ceremony costs. This conference and ceremony brings together a distinguished group of Native American professionals and elders, addresses topics of great interest to Native communities, and addresses historical trauma from an Indigenous holistic healing perspective and approach. Please contact the following Planning Committee members if you have any questions or need further information:

**Website and Registration Link: [viejas.com/warriorspirit/](http://viejas.com/warriorspirit/)**

**Hotel : 619.659.2444**





## **Agenda**

### **Calling Upon the Warrior Spirit to Heal Historical Trauma Conference and Ceremony**

**October 8, 9 & 10, 2018**

Viejas Resort & Casino  
5000 Willows Road Alpine, California 91901

**Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday October 8-10, 2018**

**Sunday October 7, 2018**

**5:00 PM - 8:00 PM**

Sunday Evening Warrior Gathering Prosper Waukon - Winnebago  
(Indigenous leadership, What is it and is it relevant for Indian Country today?)

Conference Attendees and Presenters Informal Meet & Greet

Ceremonial Games - Oak Ballroom Conference Site with Medicine Carrier  
Karen Waconda - Isleta Pueblo New Mexico

**Monday October 8, 2018**

6:30 AM-7:30 AM Smudging & Prayer: Available for all conference attendees and presenters. (patio outside Oak Ballroom) Dennis Alto, Kenneth G. White, Jr. MSW

7:30 AM-8:30 AM Registration & Breakfast Conference commences





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with Posting of the Colors

8:30 AM-8:40 AM Bird Singers, Vice Chairman Campo Band of Kumeyaay Indians, the Honorable Paul Cuero, PhD

8:40 AM-9:00 AM Welcoming by Honorable Vice Chairman Victor E. Woods

9:00 AM-9:10 AM Poem written by Kumeyaay Award Winning Poet Tommy Pico and performed by Grayson Turner, youth, Chocktaw-Chickasaw, Oklahoma from Taos Pueblo, New Mexico

9:10 AM-9:40 AM Opening Statement “The Warrior Spirit and Indigenous Wisdom’s Presence and Purpose in Healing Historical Trauma”, Kenneth G. White, Jr., MSW, Native Healthcare Solutions, LLC, Flagstaff, Arizona

9:40 AM-10:40 AM Elders and Youth Panel (Elders) Midge Svien, Elder from Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Indians and Satch Christman (Youth) Connor Handley, Luiseno/Kumeyaay Band of Kumeyaay Indians and Mercedes Ruiz, Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Indians

10:40 AM-10:50 AM Song written by Darius Watkins-Risberg and performed by Losa - Youth from San Diego

10:50 AM-11:00 AM Break

11:00 AM-11:30 AM “Meaningful Plan for Trauma-Informed Communities”, Dan Press, Attorney, Van Ness Feldman Law Firm, Washington D.C., The Roundtable on Native American Trauma-Informed Initiatives

11:30 AM-12:00 PM Traditional Healing Circle, Kenneth G. White, Jr., MSW, Native





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Health Care Solutions LLC, and Alex Laky, Principal, ARCHSOL, the Architectural Solutions Team

12:00 PM-1:00 PM Lunch, Guest Speaker, GONA

1:00 PM-1:30 PM Margie Falk, Strong Hearted Women's Curriculum & Handbook

1:30 PM-3:00 PM Keynote: Dr Vincent J. Felitti, Co-Principal Investigator of the ACEs (Adverse Childhood Experiences) study

3:00 PM-3:10 PM Spoken Word Poet

3:10 PM-3:40 PM Terese Yanan, Attorney, and Alexis DeLaCruz, Attorney, Native American Disabilities Law Center Legal Update: Havasupai students v Bureau of Indian Education

3:40 PM-3:50 PM Spoken word/Poetry Angel Gosek, singer/songwriter firefighter

3:50 PM-4:20 PM Julie Osuna, "Building Iipay Nation: Historical Trauma & Healing", San Ysabel Iipay Nation, Tribal Housing Coordinator

4:20 PM-4:35 PM Dennis Alto, Vera Tucker Pricilla Day and Sandra White Hawk, Discuss the Sweat Lodge Ceremony and Talking Circle Ceremony

4:35 PM-4:45 PM Closing Prayer, Dennis Alto

4:45 PM-5:00 PM Shuttle To Sweat Lodge

5:00 PM-7:30 PM Men's Sweat Lodge Ceremony, Dennis Alto on





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Viejas Reservation & Talking Circle, Vera Tucker at Oak Ballroom

7:30 PM-9:30 PM Monday Evening Warrior Gathering: Conference Attendees and Presenters Informal Meet & Greet: Make Your Own Medicine Bag, Sage Bundle, Sand Art and Prayer Ties

## Tuesday October 9, 2018

6:30AM-7:30AM Smudging & Prayer: Available for all conference attendees and presenters (Patio outside Oak Ballroom) Dennis Alto, Kenneth G. White, Jr., MSW

7:30 AM-8:30 AM Breakfast

8:00 AM-8:10 AM John Christman, Kumeyaay, singing Illshaa music

8:10 AM-8:30 AM Kenneth G. White, Jr., MSW, Morning Greetings and Agenda Overview

8:30 AM-9:15 AM Jodene Cuero, Resilience & Traditional Philosophy

9:15 AM-10:10 AM Center for Mind-Body Medicine, Matt Erb. Noshene Ranjbar, MD, Donna LaChapelle, Linda Eagle Speaker

10:10 AM-10:20 AM Poetry written By Kicking Horse, Choctaw Nation

10:20 AM-11:20AM Carol Robinson-Zanartu, PhD, Trauma-Informed Schools

11:20 AM-11:30 AM Spoken Word Poetry







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11:30 AM-12:00 PM Sandy White Hawk, Sicangu Lakota, Rosebud, South Dakota and  
Priscilla Day, PhD, Historical Trauma

12:00 PM-12:50 PM Lunch

12:50 PM-1:50 PM Tami DeCoteau, PhD. DeCoteau, Trauma- Informed Care and  
Practice, Bismarck, North Dakota, “Link between Trauma and Addiction”

1:50 PM-2:20 PM Wolf Diaz, “Experience strength and hope,” Founder and President of  
“Walk of the Warrior”, an American Indian outreach program addressing substance and  
alcohol abuse on the reservations

2:20 PM-2:30 PM Break

2:30 PM-3:30 PM Youth Voice, “ACEs (Adverse Childhood Experiences) Science Healing  
Historical Trauma”, Dana Brown, Executive Director

3:30 PM-4:30 PM Craig Beswick, Vice-President, Learn4Life, “Trauma-Informed Schools  
and Communities”

4:30 PM-4:45 PM Closing Prayer, Women’s Sweat Lodge Ceremony Discussion, Vera  
Tucker, Talking Circle Discussion

4:45 PM-5:00 PM Shuttle To Women’s Sweat Lodge Ceremony on Viejas Reservation

5:00 PM-7:30 PM Women’s Sweat Lodge Ceremony, Vera Tucker & Talking Circle  
Ceremony at Oak Ballroom

7:30 PM-9:30 PM Tuesday Evening’s Warrior Gathering : Conference







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## Attendees and Presenters

Guided meditation to help seek your Spirit Gift. Attendees experience guided meditation with Medicine Carrier Karen Waconda and then journal it.

### Wednesday October 10, 2018

6:30 AM-7:30 AM Smudging & Prayer, Available for all conference attendees and presenters. (patio outside Oak Ballroom) Dennis Alto, Kenneth G. White, Jr., MSW

7:30 AM-8:30 AM Breakfast

8:00 AM-8:10 AM Blue Eagle Vigil, Kumeyaay Bird Singer

8:10 AM-8:40 AM Dr. Anthony R. Pico and Dana Brown, Morning Greetings and Agenda Overview

8:40 AM-8:50 AM Spoken Word/Poetry, "Viejas Mountain" Barbara Leo from Capitan Grande Band of Mission Indians, Viejas group-historian

8:50 AM-9:50 AM Prosper Waukon, Compliance Officer, Gila River Tribal Employment Rights Office (TERO) : Indigenous Leadership

9:50 AM-10:00 AM Spoken Word/Poetry, Dr. Tria Andrews

10:00 AM-10:50AM Joe Renteria

10:50 AM-11:40 AM Henry Quintero and Nephi Craig, Indigenous Chef, The Healing Modality of Indigenous Food





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11:40 AM-12:40 PM Lunch

12:40 PM-2:10 PM Elders and Youth Panel (Elders) Sylvia Sherbert, Ipaay Nation of Santa Ysabel and Beverly Means, Barona Band of Mission Indians (Youth) Richard Taliwood, Dine' Navajo Nation and Anya Ashley, Dine' Navajo Nation, Tuba City with Guest Moderator, Tamara Strohauer

2:10 PM-2:20 PM Song written by Darius Watkins-Risberg, Taos Pueblo, NM & Chocktaw-Chickasaw, OK performed by Dylan

2:20 PM-3:30 PM Call To Action Ceremony, Karen Waconda-Lewis, Medicine Carrier from Isleta Pueblo, NM with all participants and presenters

3:30 PM-4:30 PM Closing Ceremony, Retirement of the Colors followed by Honoring for Kenneth G. White, Sr.

**Calling Upon the Warrior Spirit, Inspired by Our Creator, to Heal Historical Trauma Among Native America Through Indigenous Wisdom**

## Conference and Ceremony

October 8, 9 & 10, 2018

Viejas Resort & Casino  
5000 Willows Road Alpine, California

## Background

This conference and ceremony originated from a discussion with, and advice from, Native American elders. The elders recommended that to meaningfully address and impact the





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topic of historical trauma in Indian Country it is necessary and respectful for Native Americans to have a ceremony and prayer first and foremost. Through this effort, the many initiatives developed by tribes, programs, and services nationwide will be validated, recognized, and empowered to move forward with good faith efforts to address historical trauma scientifically, spiritually, and holistically.

## Conference Theme

Native elders advise that the term “historical trauma” is a condition, whereas “Calling Upon the Warrior Spirit to Heal” is a Native American remedy to address this condition in many social, medical, and spiritual areas of need experienced by Indian populations. Elders further advise that the Warrior Spirit is a living vibrant being that has been present in Indian Country for generations and is the force, healing power, essence, and foundation that the Creator gave Native Americans to heal. Along with modern research, counseling, and treatment to Native Americans impacted by historical trauma, the Warrior Spirit must be recognized to provide holistic healing for Indigenous populations. Therefore, this conference and ceremony theme “Calling Upon the Warrior Spirit, Inspired by Our Creator, to Heal Historical Trauma Among Native America Through Indigenous Wisdom” was chosen to respect this view and advice from Native elders. The Warrior Spirit, to be most effective, is best put to work as the center of a comprehensive tribal initiative to address the causes and effects of historical and other forms of trauma in the tribal community. The conference will also discuss ways Tribes can implement a comprehensive tribal initiative and present examples of tribes that have already done so.

## Date and Location

The conference and ceremony will be held on October 8th, 9th and 10th, 2018 at the beautiful Viejas Resort & Casino’s Oak Ballroom. The address is 5000 Willows Road in Alpine, California 91901. The Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Indians Tribal Council has graciously offered the site to conference attendees. It is a luxurious Forbes Travel Guide





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4 Star and AAA Four Diamond resort. For information and directions to the resort or conference site, please visit our website: [viejas.com/warriorspirit/](http://viejas.com/warriorspirit/) A Conference Site map is also attached.

## Registration

The registration fee for the “Calling Upon the Warrior Spirit to Heal Historical Trauma” is \$150.00 per person. Six group meals are included for participants in this registration fee. This fee will be used specifically to offset anticipated conference and ceremony costs. A registration form with all related information is attached.

## Agenda

The agenda is formulated to address historical trauma from both a professional and holistic traditional healing perspective by noted speakers, presenters, and elders in the field of trauma, behavioral health, research, and Native American health care.

## Ceremony

A Men and Women’s sweat lodge ceremony and an all genders Talking Circle will be held on Monday, October 8th and Tuesday, October 9th, 2018. The purpose of the sweat lodge will be to call the Warrior Spirit to heal historical trauma through spirituality and prayer, so individuals, tribes, and organizations will be empowered to enhance and develop their healing services, programs, and initiatives to populations in need. The purpose of the Talking Circle is to allow all conference participants an opportunity to express themselves and their concerns.

## Special Topics/Events of Agenda

The agenda incorporates special topics, ceremonial events, poetry, and song to highlight





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unique Native American services, humanity, compassion, awareness, and resilient people.  
These special topics/events are:

- A special presentation on developing a Traditional Healing Circle, an architectural design that incorporates a women and men's sweat lodge, tribal specific dwelling (example: hogan), tipi grounds, shade house, fire pit and community garden. The intent of this design is to provide a structure that combines western medicine with traditional healing. The Circle can be combined with a behavioral health facility or a stand-alone structure
- Keynote Speaker: Dr Vincent J. Felitti, Co-Principal Investigator of the ACEs (Adverse Childhood Experiences) study.
- Poetry performances written and performed by award winning poet Tommy Pico, Native performers & Native youth.
- Native youth and elder panels to recognize the invaluable views and input to address historical trauma in Indian Country
- A comprehensive planning session entitled "Indigenous Leadership" by Prosper Waukon, Compliance Officer, Gila River Tribal Employment Rights Office (TERO)
- \* Sweat Lodge Ceremony Monday & Tuesday Night
- \* Warrior Spirit Gatherings after hours: Indigenous Games, Healing Art: Making Medicine in our traditional ways, Guided Meditation





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## Flight and Hotel Accommodations

Alpine, California is located 37 minutes East of Downtown San Diego. Conference attendees would fly into San Diego International Airport. Viejas Resort is pleased to be the host of this conference and ceremony and has offered discounted rates on hotel rooms for all conference attendees. Please visit our website [viejas.com/warriorspirit/](http://viejas.com/warriorspirit/) and click on the link to book your room at the special rate of \$99 per night (for up to 4 nights). You can also call 619.659.2444 for hotel reservations.

## Sponsorship

The conference and ceremony are soliciting sponsorship from all sources to meet identified budget expenses, including honorarium gifts, lodging, and travel for presenters, food, ceremony costs, printing and mail outs, and other related costs. The conference and ceremony are heavily contingent upon the sponsorship of potential sources, such as individuals, Virtual Learning Collaborative members/organizations, Tribal governments, programs and services, Universities, and private foundations. A sponsorship form with all related information is attached. All sponsorship contributions will be greatly appreciated and used for conference and ceremony related costs.

## Conference Planning Committee

The Conference Planning Committee are:

Dr. Anthony R. Pico, Chairman, San Diego Warrior Spirit Planning Committee and  
Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Indians

Kenneth G. White Jr., MSW, Navajo Nation Tribal Member and Native Health Care  
Solutions LLC, Flagstaff, Arizona





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Oletha Leo, Capitan Grande Band of Mission Indians,  
Viejas Group-Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Indians

Tangerine Risberg, Taos Pueblo, New Mexico and Chocktaw-Chickasaw Tribal Member and  
Owner, Native Dreams Day Spa

Ally Planning Team Member: Dana Brown, ACEs Science Statewide Facilitator, Learn4Life,  
Organizational Liaison, ACEs Connection and Executive Director, Youth Voice

Ally Planning Team Member: Tamara Strohauer MSW, ASW, SDSU School of Social Work  
Lecturer, SERVE: Indigenous Social Workers for Change Project Coordinator

## **Contact Information**

General Information: [warriorspiritSD@gmail.com](mailto:warriorspiritSD@gmail.com)

Website and registration link:

[viejas.com/warriorspirit/](http://viejas.com/warriorspirit/)

Hotel or Registration : 619.659.2444

Viejas Resort & Casino GPS Link:

<https://goo.gl/maps/xk7fSnhmGyM2>

Biographies of Speakers and Presenters

Calling Upon the Warrior Spirit to Heal Historical Trauma







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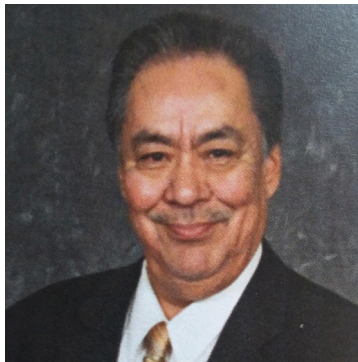
## Conference and Ceremony

In Order of Appearance

### Dennis Alto

Conference Spiritual Leader - Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Indians, Sweat Lodge Leader

### Kenneth G. White Jr. MSW



Ken is the Chief Executive Officer of Native Health Care Solutions, LLC, a healthcare firm located in Flagstaff, Arizona. Mr. White has over 30 years of experience working in health care development, elder care and managed care to generate capability and capacity to finance, administer, manage and operate health care projects, programs, and services. He has a unique expertise with tribal, state and federal laws and contracts related to project management, fiscal and strategic analysis, information technology, compliance, third party revenue generation, and hospital administration. Mr. White has extensive nationwide health care liaison and technical advisor experience with tribal governments, and state and federal health care agencies. He also has a unique experience and background developing long term care, behavioral health and traditional healing services in rural and urban settings. Mr. White holds a master's Degree and Certificate in Gerontology from Arizona State University. Professional Background





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- Chief Executive Officer, Native Health Care Solutions, LLC
- Chief Executive Officer, Native Americans for Community Action, Inc.
- Executive Consultant, Potomac Healthcare Solutions, Tempe, AZ
- Hospital Project Manager, San Carlos Apache Tribe, San Carlos, AZ
- Director, Legislative Affairs, Tsehootsooi Medical Center, Fort Defiance, AZ
- Director, Revenue Generating Depart., Tsehootsooi Medical Center, Fort Defiance, AZ
- Tribal Liaison, Officer of the Director, Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System, Phoenix, AZ
- Director, Legislative Affairs, National Indian Council on Aging, Albuquerque, N.M.
- Director, Navajo Foster Grandparent/Senior Companion Program, Fort Defiance, AZ

## Paul Cuero, PhD



Honorable Paul Cuero Jr. is a leader, mentor and cultural icon of the Campo Band of the Kumeyaay Nation. Paul recently received the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Humane Letters from San Diego State University. Paul is nationally known for his mastery of a





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cycle of songs named for the Takut. These cultural bird songs, of which there are 300 in the Takut cycle, are a metaphor for life. Paul is a leader in educating young people about bird singing and Kumeyaay philosophy and spirituality of the Kumeyaay people. Paul is a staunch advocate for education as a path to leadership and cultural pride for the young people.

## Honorable Vice Chairman Victor E. Woods



Elected in 2015 as Vice Chairman, Victor E. Woods is now serving his second term in office, having previously served as a councilman in 2011. Previously as councilman, his areas of responsibilities included working with Tribal Security, Viejas Fire Department, All Mission Indian Housing Authority (AMIHA), Internet gaming and political affairs. He returned to office to continue the good work he started. As Vice Chairman, his focus is on the Viejas business enterprises and the health and welfare of the growing Viejas tribal community. Vice Chairman Woods comes from a long line of family committed to serving their community and he continues in this proud tradition. His father, cousin and great uncle served terms as chairman, and several of his family members have held various positions on Tribal Council. He spent his early childhood on the Viejas Reservation and has fond memories of family gatherings, community events and bonding with family members. Upon securing employment off the reservation, Woods' father relocated the family to north San Diego County. However, the family maintained close





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ties to friends and family within the Viejas tribal community and on the reservation. After graduation from high school, Woods worked several years at a 5-star resort in Northern San Diego County, affording him exposure to travelers from around the world. His hard work and exceptional customer service, allowed him to advance in his position. In the late 1980's, Woods relocated back to the reservation to live. Upon Viejas opening the then, Viejas Turf Club, he found employment in the Food & Beverage Department, applying skills he acquired during previous employment to his new position. In the years leading up to taking office, vice chairman Woods worked on realizing personal and professional goals, fulfilling a lifelong dream of traveling extensively to learn about new cultures. Every time he returned home, Woods relished in the uniqueness of life on the reservation which motivating him to give back to his community once again. He served on several committees, including Enrollment, Wellness, Housing, Finance and Hotel committees. In his spare time, Woods continues to pursue his passion for travel and spending as much time as possible with his family, as well as the Viejas community.

## Tommy Pico

Tommy "Teebs" Pico is author of the books IRL (2016), winner of the 2017 Brooklyn Library Literary Prize and a finalist for the 2018 Kate Tufts Discovery Award, Nature Poem (2017), a finalist for the 2018 Lambda Literary Award, Junk (2018) a winner of the 2018 Whiting Award, and the forthcoming Feed (2019 from Tin House Books). He was the founder and editor in chief of birdsong, an antiracist/queer-positive collective, small press, and zine that published art and writing from 2008-2013. He was a Queer/Art/Mentors inaugural fellow, 2013 Lambda Literary fellow in Poetry, 2016 Tin House summer Poetry scholar, a 2017 NYSCA/NYFA Fellow in Poetry from the New York Foundation for the Arts, was awarded the 2017 Friends of Literature prize from the Poetry Foundation, and has been profiled in Time Out New York, the New York Times, and the New Yorker. Originally from the Viejas Indian reservation of the Kumeyaay nation, he now lives in Brooklyn where he co-curates the reading series Poets With Attitude (PWA)





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with Morgan Parker, co-hosts the podcast Food 4 Thot, and is a contributing editor at Literary Hub

## Grayson Turner

Grayson is a 16 year old youth from the Choctaw-Chickasaw Nation of Oklahoma and Taos Pueblo, NM. He lives in San Diego with his parents. He is an inspiring clothing designer and does underground rap.

## Geraldine Midge Svien



Geraldine “Midge” Svien has lived almost all of her 82 years with her large and extended family on the Viejas and Barona Indian reservations. Her family and extended family numbers in the hundreds. She raised four children. Today she has 17 grandchildren, 45 great grandchildren, at 3 great, great grandchildren. She still resides on the Viejas reservation on an appropriately named street, “Midge and Kids Way”. Midge emphasizes her greatest accomplishment second only to her family is that she is a lifelong member of her church. After a divorce Midge returned to school graduating with honors with an associate of arts degree in secretarial science. She has been an activist her entire life for her Kumeyaay people. She served on the Viejas tribal Council for many years. As a political activist she lobbied without compensation, walking the halls of Congress in Washington







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DC and the California State Legislature in Sacramento. Her protest cries of “jobs and justice” rang throughout California as unified California Indians caused the state to amend the state constitution to allow slot machines on Indian land only. When Indian tribal governments won the right to gamble on their own land, some tribes like Viejas began a road to prosperity. Midge took advantage of that and became employed here. She started cleaning restrooms and worked her way into the bingo hall, she continued to work hard and became Bingo Director where she remained for 6 years. Because of her intimate knowledge of her people and a positive attitude, she served 18 years as tribal liaison for the Viejas employees. Geraldine retired in 2001, at that time her counterparts threw her a big party but nobody wanted her to go. She was and still is the life of any party.

Midge is now the matriarch of a large family where she enjoys profound respect and love. No one in her family does anything until they check with her first not even the Chairman, you see Midge’s sister is the Chairman’s mother. Midge plays competitive chair volleyball and is quite accomplished as she travels with her team regionally throughout Arizona and Nevada. She enjoys playing high stakes bingo almost nightly. Geraldine “Midge” Svien is a true legend in her own time, not because of what she has become or what she has done, Midge has lived a painful, tragic life yet she sees her cup as always half full. She has experienced terrible loss of people she has deeply loved and through devastating pain she reaches out to comfort others. Her tribal people are amazed at her resiliency. At the “Calling Upon the Warrior Spirit that Heals Historical Trauma” conference Midge Svien will reveal what made her resilient.





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## Harold “Satch” Christman



Harold “Satch” Christman has lived almost all of his 71 years on the Viejas Indian Reservation. His loving mother, Mary Pico Hyde, and his stepfather, Thomas J. Hyde, who served on the Viejas Tribal Council for more than 50 consecutive years. They gave the keys to the future in the form of values to their son, affectionately known as “Satch.”

The values they gave him are elements of Indigenous wisdom: hard work, integrity, community service, generosity, accountability, respect and fairness. His parents had a wonderful and considerable sense of humor. That is a large part of Satch’s personality today. His reservation community provided him with a strong sense of belonging. He also had support from his biological father, Homer Christman, who contributed to his welfare.

Satch spent 22 years in the building material industry. The last 15 years he was promoted to management, sales and operations. This enabled him to intimately understand the process of cost and effect in construction of buildings.

In 1993 he was recruited to come back to the reservation and help his people during a commercial construction boom. His experience in this area enabled him to indirectly save his Tribe tens of millions of dollars in construction costs, at a fair price. This brought him his greatest satisfaction to take what he learned to be of service to his people.







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Satch prevails in almost everything he does. Because, his parents provided him with a stable, nurturing home where a spiritual pursuit was marked by a clear path within the Catholic Church. His stepfather challenged him by always testing his limits of his ability. Where hard work, a nurturing environment and positive discipline was reinforced with always more responsibilities and freedom.

Satch understood and learned that as long as he was willing to pay the price of hard work, and endure the agony that goes with it, he could achieve any goal. Satch knows that in order to be successful, we need others and his stepfather taught him the indigenous wisdom of old Indian values.

What has sustained him in times of anxiety is his love of sports. His engagement in competitive softball and passion for golf has helped him in times of stress.

Satch has three sisters Geraldine Svien, Candy Christman and Nancy Lopez. Satch also had a brother, Robert Grijalva and a sister, Carmen Welch, who are both deceased. His daughter, Rene Curo, is serving as Tribal Secretary and son John Christman, who also served on the Tribal Council as Vice Chairman and Treasurer. John is also a very respected traditional singer. Satch's second son David Christman, a very proud father, is raising his two youngest children.

Today he is semi retired, looking at how else he can help his people. Today he supervises the care for his 92 year old invalid stepfather with the same kind of love, affection and compassion that was given to him. Come and hear about historical trauma and how it can affect Native America.

## Mercedes Ruiz

Mercedes Ruiz grew up on the Viejas Indian reservation. She is very proud of her





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Kumeyaay heritage. She loves being surrounded by culture and tradition that she knows goes back thousands of years. Mercedes is most proud of her daughter Kelashwii Dizon, being surrounded by culture and tradition. Being a Kumeyaay woman and having the opportunity to give back to her community here at Viejas is an accomplishment that will last her a lifetime.

This school year, she will begin her 11th year giving back to her community by being involved in the education of Viejas students in teaching leadership activities that bring the culture alive through music, dance and language revitalization. She thoroughly enjoys advocating for all Indian youth. She is so happy to be alive, happy to have good health and so proud of her extended family and Tribe and united accomplishments.

Mercedes' early life was marked by neglect. Eventually she went to live with her uncle where she was nurtured, loved and protected. She was exposed to her Kumeyaay culture by her godmother who took her to wakes and funerals. As a young teenager, the reservation education program, where she now works, exposed her to more of her culture and its director Brenda Garcia took her and others to numerous cultural activities.

Mercedes Ruiz is a valuable asset to the people of Viejas. She is an outstanding culture leader as a remarkable young person her elders were hoping to come along.





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## Joe Renteria



As shared by Joe and his family with Tamara Strohauer

Joe Renteria of Cherokee Nation celebrated his 101st birthday on July 17, 2018! Born in Emporia, Kansas, Joe's life had a difficult beginning. Coming from People wrought with historical trauma, including the making their way to Oklahoma on the infamous Trail of Tears, Joe ended up in a Catholic orphanage at eight years old. Bullied continually for being Indian, and with the Head Nun "turning a blind eye" to the abuse Joe endured at the hands of another youth, Joe often had to defend himself physically and was eventually expelled after a fight he won. From there he was sent to a State Orphanage, which was more of a work farm where Joe says "they didn't treat me very well." By age 10, Joe to ran away from this institution to make his way in the world on his own. This was during the era of the Great Depression, a time when many people made a life of "riding the rails" and Joe found a life as a "Hobo" as he refers to it along with the companionship with "an old man who I realize now was probably 18 or 20." The two traveled together for some time. Joe made his way from Kansas to Mount Rushmore jumping freight trains, and quickly learned how to beg and steal food to survive. "We would wait at the back of the train for the passengers to get off, this was better even though the people at the front had more money, there was too much competition there."





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As Joe shares his stories, one can see the instinctual wisdom and resilience of a young child radiate from deep within this man who looks to be decades younger than he is. “My friend sent me to steal milk and a newspaper in a rich neighborhood. The lady came out in her robe, with her child behind her looking at me, hanging onto her robe. I was dirty and must have looked terrible, I thought I was in big trouble, but she invited me in for breakfast. Her husband came down in his robe too, and they invited me to play with their children in the back yard...I learned that people were kind.” Speaking of this kindness brings a light into Joe’s eyes as he continues. “Another time, I went to take food at a farm and I got caught again. The farmer told me I could chop a pile of wood and they would give me food. They were not rich, they worked very hard. My friend asked why didn’t I just run? I told him I learned I could work for food, that people work hard, and they were also kind.” Joe soon went to work for Ringling Brothers and Barnum Bailey Circus, where after a time of hard, physical labor, he learned to walk on stilts and became part of the opening parade. As the circus moved on to Florida, Joe decided he had had enough of that life, and ended up at the doors of Father Flanagan’s infamous Boys Town in Nebraska, where he truly found a supportive and caring environment. He tells the story of the man and the moment that forever changed his life. “Father Flanagan saw me outside. He put his hand on my shoulder and said ‘you know I can make you go into the church service, but I won’t. I would appreciate it if you would go in and set an example for the other boys.’ Appreciate it he said, no one had ever said they would appreciate me, and I went in.” Joe even ran for Mayor of Boys Town during his time there, then attended High School in Arcadia, Nebraska where he played football and graduated. Boys Town has been providing much needed care and housing for orphans throughout the U.S. and last year both Joe and Boys Town celebrated their 100th birthdays together!

Joe joined the Army at age 19 and became a Machine Gunner where he was in charge of the mule that hauled the Machine Gun and ammunition for the outfit, and later joined the Navy. Joe shares many stories of bullying and abuse in both branches of the service as a Native American soldier, but he also shares that “I was made to work harder than





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everyone else, so I got better at my jobs than anyone else.” With continued resilience and passion to learn everything he could, Joe made his way up to serving during World War II as a Navy Aviation Photographer. During World War II, Joe served under Admiral Halsey in Noumea, New Caledonia. He was not present at the bombing of Pearl Harbor but he had been stationed there only a couple of months earlier and, after photography school in Florida, he returned to Pearl Harbor and assisted with cleanup before he was transferred into service as Admiral Halsey’s staff photographer. Joe did photo reconnaissance during the war, in particular around Guadalcanal. He spent many hours hanging his camera out of the plane canopy taking pictures of the different installations, sometimes having to swim to shore from a sub to take land photos. Joe’s request to learn color photography was denied by the Navy so he took leave and paid out of pocket to attend school in Topeka, Kansas. After training he returned to his position and then initiated the use of color photography and motion picture film for the Navy on the West Coast and designed the color lab for them, always an innovator. After 17 years in the Navy, Joe retired from the military and became the head of the San Diego State University photography department for over 32 years. Joe designed the photo lab at the University and it became the biggest photo lab in the state at the time. Joe has photographed presidents such as John F. Kennedy, and the inaugurations of Presidents Truman and Eisenhower, and racehorses belonging to Bing Crosby at the Del Mar Race Track.

Upon his retirement, Joe became closely involved with local Native American tribes and Chaired the Board of the Indian Human Resource Center for 15 years, co-founded and was on the Board of the San Diego American Indian Health Center for 10 years and the Indian Child Services committee for 5 years. He remains an active advisor and advocate for American Indian organizations and issues. Joe has endless stories including how he met his wife Jill who passed away at 103 years of age after 71 years of marriage. Joe lives with his son Michael and his wife Susan in a beautiful home in Point Loma that the two built over the course of eleven years. Michael, was just seven when they began its construction in (year). The house is filled with memories of Joe’s incredible life, his beloved







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wife, and his cameras. Joe continues to share his life stories throughout San Diego and beyond, with dancing eyes and melodic laughter. He travels to Pow Wows, celebrations and ceremonies. He recently was honored by the San Diego Cherokee community at the San Diego Veterans Museum in celebration of his 101st birthday, just one of many celebrations of this incredible milestone and even more incredible man. We are truly blessed to have him here with us. Thank you Joe Renteria for embodying the Warrior Spirit, love and resilience the likes of which few have ever encountered!

## Connor Handley

Connor-26, graduated from Humboldt University with a degree in Native American Studies: Environment and Natural Resources and minors in Wildlife Biology and Rangeland Resource Science. He worked for the seventh generation fund for indigenous peoples for 3 years as a media production assistant. Connor is actively culturally engaged in many areas— he is knowledgeable about Kumeyaay traditional canoe making, tools, and cultural restorative practices. Connor made difficult choices to consciously example overcoming challenges he faced as a young boy. He had a vision, support and resiliency to pursue his goals— ultimately prevailing against the odds and getting a degree & continues maintaining his cultural connection. He is currently working with the California State Park Services.

## Darius Watkins-Risberg

Darius is a 23 year old visionary, who began writing Spoken Word, poetry and music at the age of 16. He has written two Spoken Word Poems for our conference from within what we Native people call the “Iron Cages”. Darius shares his music seeking spiritual liberation from the dark world of incarceration. He was a wrongfully convicted youth, but through it all, he is a warrior. Thru his own practice of ceremony, meditation, fasting, prayer and writing music, Darius hopes to be able to be truthful in his experiences and expression thru words. His hope is for the light of love and healing our Creator provides will resonate





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with everyone attending the conference. This will be his first public piece of art since his freedom was lost 4 years ago. He faces 9 more years, and asks for you to see beyond the veil of our corrupt current system of enslavement. Please remember the 2.2 million trauma survivors currently enslaved by an inhumane government. Darius represents that dreams and visions that can be manifested in even the worst of circumstances. He also shows the resilience of the unbroken First People whose bloodline runs deep within his own DNA. He wishes to honor his ancestors, Mother Earth, the Plant and Animal Spirits and the Native brothers who have taught him his medicine in their own ways. He will have his little brother and one of his high school friends recite his poetry for him.

## Dan Press

For over 40 years, Dan Press has provided legal and Washington representation assistance to Indian tribes, Indian organizations, and companies doing business with tribes. Dan assists tribes with strengthening their tribal governments by helping them develop and implement ordinances that exercise the tribe's sovereign authority in such areas as employment rights and labor relations. He has helped to establish a range of entities designed to promote economic development in Indian country, including creative use of the special 8(a) rights Congress has provided to tribes and the first multi-tribally owned financial institution. He has also counseled tribes to obtain legislation awarding them hundreds of millions of dollars in land claims settlements, new health facilities, and new authority to promote employment on their reservations. He has special knowledge of Indian land issues, including rights of ways and leases on Indian land and the unique legal issues that arise when doing business on reservations and assisted companies negotiate various agreements with tribes regarding land use. Dan has used his years of experience working with tribes and private sector companies to assist his clients develop productive business partnerships with tribes so that their projects can move forward quickly and cooperatively. Dan is also adept in the application of the Affordable Care Act to Indians







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and how tribal and other reservation health care facilities can use the Act to greatly expand the resources available to them to treat the underlying problems responsible for the serious health issues on many reservations. Mr. Press serves as pro bono general counsel for two national organizations that assist communities apply the science on the causes and effects of historical and childhood trauma to address social and health problems in their communities. The Roundtable on Native American Trauma-Informed Initiatives works to assist Native communities implement comprehensive trauma informed initiatives while the Campaign for Trauma- Informed Policy and Practice works at the Federal, state and community levels to encourage elected and agency officials to adopt policies that apply the science on trauma to the programs that address the effects of trauma, such as suicide, substance abuse and domestic violence. It also educates local communities about the benefits of implementing comprehensive trauma-informed initiatives. Mr. Press is also an adjunct professor at Columbia University, where he teaches undergraduate courses on current issues facing Indian tribes including Issues in Tribal Government and Native American Economic Development. He also co-taught an original course called The Holocaust and Genocide in America in which the students examined these two genocidal events and the way the United States government and public have treated each in recent years. - Representative Experience

- Tribal workforce protection ordinance encompassing the range of laws designed to protect workers and assisted tribes Helped to found the Tribal Employment Rights (TERO) program in 1977 and has served as general counsel to the Counsel for Tribal Employment Rights, the national TERO organization, since its founding in 1983.
- Organized and obtained certification for the first multi-tribal 8(a) company which was owned by 12 tribes and assisted that company obtain over \$90 million in contracts.
- Helped to start the Native American Bank, the first inter-tribally owned financial institution. Assisted one tribe obtain legislation awarding it \$450 million to resolve the





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Tribe's claim for inadequate payment when tribal land was taken for a Federal dam and assisted another obtain funding for a new health care facility to replace the one a Federal dam had destroyed 50 years earlier.

- Drafted a model comprehensive tribal workforce protection ordinance encompassing the range of laws designed to protect workers and assisted tribes tailor, adopt, and implement the ordinance.
- Drafted a model comprehensive tailor, adopt, and implement the ordinance.
- Represents a large city in its negotiations with a tribe regarding city rights- of-ways across tribal lands within the boundaries of the city. - Awards and Honors
- "Best Lawyers in America" by Best Lawyers Native American Law, 2018
- Council for Tribal Employment Rights Award of Appreciation
- Native American Bank Award of Appreciation Mr. Press is recognized by tribal governments throughout the Nation as an outstanding a compassionate lawyer, advocate, educator, and leader in addressing Tribal Employment Rights and Historical Trauma through his experience, education, and expertise.

## GONA

### Margie Falk

Victims Service Specialist, Strong Hearted Native Women's Coalition, Escondido, CA Teacher, Counselor twenty-five years, working with indigenous and minority communities through education, art and advocacy. Master of Science in Human Services and Counseling. Curriculum writer for Children Exposed to Violence in Indian Country for the Nevada State Attorney General's Office. Co-Creator for Tribal Trauma Informed Training manual, for California native tribes. VOCA Specialist for Washoe Tribe of California and Nevada. Domestic Violence Supervisor for Nevada Urban Indians





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Inc. Teacher for WALC Wilderness Arts and Literacy Program San Francisco. Speaker, teacher and advocate for Maui Office of Education Hawaiian School District. Activist for Environmental Protection.

## Dr Vincent J. Felitti



A renowned physician and researcher, Dr. Vincent J. Felitti is one of the world's foremost experts on childhood trauma. Leading the charge in research into how adverse childhood experiences affect adults, he is co-principal investigator of the internationally recognized Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) Study, a long-term, in-depth, analysis of over 17,000 adults. Defying conventional belief, this study famously revealed a powerful relationship between our emotional experiences as children and our physical and mental health as adults. In fact, the ACE study shows that humans convert childhood traumatic emotional experiences into organic disease later in life. Revolutionary at its inception, Felitti's groundbreaking research remains extremely relevant to today's healthcare models.

Founder of the Department of Preventive Medicine for Kaiser Permanente, Felitti served as the chief of preventive medicine for over 25 years. Under Dr. Felitti's leadership, his department provided comprehensive medical evaluations to 1.1 million individuals, becoming the largest single-site medical evaluation facility in the western world. During this time, Felitti's revolutionary health risk abatement programs incorporated weight





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loss, smoking cessation, stress management, and a wide range of cutting-edge efforts to reduce patient risk factors. Dr. Felitti is Clinical Professor of Medicine at the University of California, and a Fellow of The American College of Physicians. He is currently Senior Editor of The Permanente Journal and on the International Editorial Board of the Swiss medical journal, Trauma und Gewalt. Dr. Felitti has served on advisory committees of the Institute of Medicine, the American Psychiatric Association, the Committee of the Secretary of Health and Human Services for Healthy People 2020, and the Advisory Committee on Women's Services at SAMHSA. A noted expert on the genetic disease hemochromatosis, as well as obesity, he educates audiences around the country on these two very common, deadly maladies.

An engaging speaker, Felitti has traveled the world speaking with audiences and various policy leaders about his research. A well versed medical expert, Felitti also uses his knowledge to speak out against domestic violence and other forms of childhood trauma. Drawing on his years of experience, he has become an important voice advocating for the wellbeing of children everywhere. While time may not heal all wounds, Felitti helps show audiences how we can understand these physical and mental traumas, and ultimately, prevent them.

## Terese Yanan

Therese Yanan began working in Mexican Hat, Utah for DNA – People's Legal Services, Inc. in 1993. Since 1994, she has been the Director of the Native American Protection & Advocacy Project, which began as an office of DNA. In October 2005, the Native American P&A was established as a separate non-profit organization now known as the Native American Disability Law Center. The Native American Disability Law Center is one of the few disability advocacy offices in the country that focuses on the special legal needs of Native Americans with disabilities. Ms. Yanan specializes in representing adults and children with disabilities. She has represented children in every level of the special





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education process in Arizona, New Mexico, Utah, and in schools funded by the Bureau of Indian Education. She has also been involved in major efforts to improve protections for the civil rights of Native Americans with disabilities in federal and tribal courts, to increase statutory protections for Native Americans with disabilities and to expand the understanding of the unique issues facing Native Americans with disabilities

## Alexis DeLaCruz

Alexis DeLaCruz is a staff attorney at the Native American Disability Law Center. Ms. DeLaCruz joined the Law Center in March 2014. Her practice focuses on ensuring Native American children with disabilities obtain appropriate educations in the Four Corners region of the Southwest. Ms. DeLaCruz has represented children with disabilities, and their families, in special education proceedings in Arizona and New Mexico and in schools funded by the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE). She also represents children entitled to Indian Child Welfare Act protection in New Mexico state abuse and neglect proceedings. Currently, Ms. DeLaCruz is the Law Center's lead counsel on the landmark federal case *Stephen C. vs. BIE*, a historic civil rights case advancing the educational rights of Havasupai children. Ms. DeLaCruz is from Denver, CO, and graduated cum laude from Seattle University School of Law.

## Angel Gosek

Angel Gosek (Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Tribal Citizen,  
Poet/songwriter, singer & firefighter)

Angel's resiliency; overcoming hardships is expressed through his poetry & songwriting. Angel's poetry & songwriting is his way of healing—in this he has found a way to work through hurt, pain and gain insight to himself & feelings. As such, his healing thru poetry journals a young boy overcoming the emotional pain & trauma of the suicide of a parent, addiction, abuse, disconnection with Tribe—to healing & reconnection with





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familial tribal ties; ultimately leading him to a sense empowerment and identity. Angel, the father of two young boys, has his own production studio- where he enjoys supporting community talents and expression. Angel's music can be found on iTunes-Angel humbly expresses "We are all working to heal in some way shape or form; poetry/songwriting/performing has helped me."

## Julie Osuna

Julie Osuna is the Project Coordinator for Building Iipay Nation (BIN). BIN is an ANA funded Workforce Development Project located in Santa Ysabel. Education and Economic Development are the two main objectives of the grant. Born and raised on the reservation Julie has witnessed firsthand the effects of Historical Trauma within the community. At the age of 13 till 20 Julie used drugs and alcohol, until her journey began of self-discovery and her purpose in life. Presently Ms. Osuna lives within the Nation with her spouse Virgil Perez and their blended family of 7 kids. This young lady has been a positive role model in her community and for her family, this is her purpose in life. Being involved in the community, volunteering and engaging in tradition, helped her walk a path she didn't know was possible. Julie has coordinated 8 crews of participants from the BIN program and Co-Facilitates with Jim Warne and Bernice Paipa to provide students with an understanding of the Impact of Historical Trauma in Tribal Communities, promote strong work ethics, develop self-awareness and pride in Tribal Communities.

## Sandy White Hawk

Sandra White Hawk is a Sicangu Lakota adoptee from the Rosebud Reservation, South Dakota. She is the founder and Director of First Nations Repatriation Institute. First Nations Repatriation Institute (FNRI) is the first organization of its kind whose goal it is to create a resource for First Nations people impacted by foster care or adoption to return home, reconnect, and reclaim their identity. The Institute also serves as a resource to enhance the knowledge and skills of practitioners who serve First Nations







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people. Sandra organizes Truth Healing Reconciliation Community Forums that bring together adoptees/fostered individuals and their families and professionals with the goal to identify post adoption issues and to identify strategies that will prevent removal of First Nations children. She has also initiated an ongoing support group for adoptees and birth relatives in the Twin Cities Area. Sandra is a consultant for the Center for Tribes, Center for Regional and Tribal Child Welfare Studies University of Minnesota Duluth and The Hennepin County Indian Child Welfare Unit and works at the Indian Child Welfare Law Center. Sandra has become a spokesperson on the issues of the adoption and the foster care system and how it has impacted First Nations People. She has traveled throughout the United States, Canada, Costa Rica, Australia and Japan, Alaska sharing her inspirational story of healing. She served as Commissioner for the Maine Wabanaki State Child Welfare Truth and Reconciliation Commission and served as an Honorary Witness of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission on Residential Schools in Canada. Sandra is a contributing author to, *Outsiders Within*, J. J. Trenka, J. C. Oparah & S. Y. Shin (Eds.), *Outsiders Within: Writing on transracial adoption* (pp.). Cambridge, MA, South End Press, *Parenting as Adoptees*; Adam Chau, Kevin Ost-Vollmers (Editors) and *The Kinship Parenting Toolbox*, Edited by Kim Phagan-Hansel.

Sandra has received the following awards:

The National Indian Child Welfare 2017 Champion for Children Award

Women in Wellbriety Dana Tiger Award for Creating Change in Nations, 2014

Named one of The INNOVATORS in Color Lines Magazine, 2008

Named one of the 50 Visionaries Who are Changing Your World Utne Reader, 2008

Named Outstanding Native Women Award from the University of Minnesota 2003







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Named one of the “50 Most Influential and Cool People” of Madison, WI, in Madison Magazine, November 2002.

## John Christman

John Christman, the son of Harold “Satch” Christman is a lifelong resident of the Viejas Indian Reservation. John found his calling early in life being mentored by several traditional singers and became one of the most respected traditional singers of the Southern California, Western Arizona and Southern Nevada regional areas. He has spent 30 years signing traditional music almost exclusively at wakes and funerals. There are few singers in Southern California who take up this endeavor because it requires a great deal of dedication. That dedication is in the form of having to sing frequently when someone passes away. There are sixteen Indian reservations who have called him to sing at a wake. This means he sings all night to help relieve bereavement and help people cope with death. To choose this path is not easy. To be a traditional singer, it takes someone who is very generous, compassionate, someone who is empathetic, profoundly respectful, mentally strong and requires great stamina. John has all of these gifts.

John has served as both Vice Chairman and Tribal Treasurer of the Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Indians. He is forty-nine years old and is married to Marla. They have two daughters, Rylee, fourteen and Emma, seven. He has three grown children, Phillip, Dylan and Raven Christman.

John is employed by the Viejas Casino & Resort. He is the manager of facilities support.

John gives away what he was given. He teaches culture: music, singing, dancing, language and peon, a southern California traditional gambling game.

The Viejas Band of Kumeyaay are very proud of John Christman. Proud that he gives back to his community and thereby helps us heal from historical trauma.





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## Jodene Cuero



Jodene is a licensed MFT and a PSY D Candidate at Alliant International University. Jodene is a member of the Navajo Nation. Jodene has extensive experience to critique and adopt Marriage and Family Therapy Theories to the need of the American Indian population. Jodene's work integrates many aspects of culturally competent social and health services including Tribal TANE, ICWA: Indian Expert Witness, mental health, American Indian traditional medical health, preventive medicine and alcohol and other drug services. Jodene is devoted to working with the American Indians and other minority populations to ensure quality and culturally appropriate services are successfully provided.

## Matt Erb

Matt Erb is a faculty member and clinical supervisor with The Center for Mind-Body Medicine and founder of Embody Your Mind, focused on teaching and consulting in mind-body medicine, integrative medicine and wellness. Trained as a physical therapist, he brings a deep understanding of the inseparability of body and mind and views the body as a fundamental avenue for exploration within each person's psychospiritual process. As a long-time advocate for Native communities and an advisor for Sharing Culture, an Australian non-profit devoted to building awareness of historical trauma and epigenetics in indigenous communities, he brings knowledge of both the scientific and spiritual





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complexities of stress, trauma, and resiliency.

## **Noshene Ranjbar, MD,**

Dr. Noshene Ranjbar is Assistant Professor of Psychiatry at the University of Arizona College of Medicine - Tucson, Director of the Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Clinic and Integrative Psychiatry Clinic at Banner - UMC South. Dr. Ranjbar's interests include integrative psychiatry, health disparities with focus on Native American health, and mind-body medicine. She serves as faculty at The Center for Mind Body Medicine where she is involved in building health promotion programs within Native communities.

## **Donna LaChapelle**

Donna La Chapelle is an Ojibwe-Dakota woman. She is an enrolled member of the White Earth Nation. Donna's passion is to teach and share all that she has learned from her elder's through a Cultural lens that encompasses history, ceremony, song and language. The Elder's gave Donna a foundation to build her life experience and a foundation that is rich in spirit and the value of ancestral knowledge. Donna's education has been life-long in the study of the Healing Arts and American Indian Studies at the University of Minnesota. Donna is a Faculty member for The Center for Mind-Body Medicine, Washington D.C. and carries a Certificate in Aboriginal Focused Oriented Therapy. Donna currently works at the Native American Community Clinic in Minneapolis where she is Elder in Residence.

## **Linda Eagle Speaker**

Linda Eagle Speaker, Elder in Residence for the Minnesota Indian Women's Resource Center, provides cultural support services to American Indian women and families who are experiencing loss of spirituality, loss of culture-connection, and loss of traditional customs as a result of inter-generational trauma. She assists MIWRC management in developing and implementing cultural ceremonies, facility blessing ceremonies and other cultural





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events. Linda is a faculty member for The Center for Mind-Body Medicine, Washington D.C. and she incorporates mind-body medicine (MBM) practice into agency programs, as well as sharing MBM with other urban and tribal agencies. Linda is a traditional teacher and healer from the Blackfoot Confederacy, Blood Tribe.

### **Andrew Kicking Horse**

Kicking Horse is a member of the Choctaw Nation in Oklahoma and is a direct descendant of Chief Pete Maytubby who was a Choctaw Code Talker. Kicking Horse grew up in Oklahoma before moving to Texas in 1963. He was raised by a single-mother alongside his two siblings. He has been imprisoned since 1986, and conducts the Sweat Lodge Ceremonies, he actively advocates for rights of Natives behind bars, and keeps the old beading traditions alive by teaching and educating the brothers who are incarcerated.

### **Carol Robinson-Zanartu, PhD**

Dr. Carol Robinson-Zañartu is Professor Emerita, Department of Counseling and School Psychology at San Diego State University, where she served as department chair for 16 years and has taught for some 30 years. Her work has been devoted to educational equity, with a strong commitment to and emphasis on culturally responsive work with Native American and Indigenous youth. The intersection of healing from historical and intergenerational trauma with culturally affirmative resilience work with youth is central in her current work. She has been awarded numerous federal grants designed to prepare school psychologists and counselors to serve Native American and Indigenous youth and communities, and currently partners with the Kumeyaay Nation, especially the Campo Band, and the public school that serves them. She was awarded the 2015 SDSU Alumni Association Award for Outstanding Faculty Contributions to the University, which emphasized her work with Native communities, and the 2014 NASP Presidential award for collaboration and advocacy. She has published over 50 professional articles and book chapters, primarily related to issues of equity, and made over 120 international, national





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and statewide professional presentations. One of her early (1996) articles, *Serving Native American children and families: Considering cultural variables*, became a standard reading assignment for graduate students in speech therapy. A second (with Majel-Dixon, 1996), *Parent voices: American Indian relationships with schools* is still cited in discussions about discontinuity between Native American and western approaches to schooling. Much of her work is collaborative, such as the co-authored (2009) article (with Mays, Gallardo, and others in the *American Indian Culture and Research Journal*, *Expanding the circle: Decreasing American Indian mental health disparities through culturally competent teaching about American Indian mental health*, and a 2014 collaboration (with Aganza, Gonzalez, Godinez, & Smith), *Using cultural assets to enhance assessment of Latino students*, which also has strong application to work with Native youth. Several are collaborations with NASP's Native American work group leadership (Charley, Dauphinais, Baas, & Melroe); for example: *Using an Indigenous Conceptual Framework in Assessment: A Native American Perspective–Part I* (in press), and a second, *Using the NASP framework for effective practice with Indigenous youth, families, and communities* (2015). She and the presenters are in the process of submitting their current work for publication.

## **Andrew J. (AJ) Newcombe**

AJ is a school psychology intern in Carlsbad, CA. He is completing the school psychology program at SDSU, where he served as a graduate research assistant on the bilingual school psychology project with Dr. Robinson-Zañartu. He is fluent in Spanish, Peruvian Sign Language, and has ancestral roots in Mexico. He has volunteered extensively with youth from challenging backgrounds, is passionate about social justice, and is a co-author on a recent article on work with immigrant students.

## **Nora Neztosie, M.S.**

Nora is currently a school psychology intern, and was previously a special education





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teacher in Tuba City, AZ. She is completing the school psychology program and Native Scholars project at SDSU in May of 2018 and developed innovative curriculum to work with local indigenous youth. Building on her own rich traditional knowledge, and drawing from the teachings of her elders, she adapted lessons to Kumeyaay traditions in order to foster critical thought while building identity and resilience with local indigenous youth.

## **Tiffany Haswood, M.S.**

Tiffany is currently a school psychology intern in Sweetwater Union High School District.

She came to SDSU's School Psychology Program and Native Scholars Project from her work as a special education teacher in Tuba City, AZ, on the Navajo Nation. She completed the school psychology program and Native Scholars project at SDSU in May of 2018 where she began her own decolonizing work, accessing the wisdom of her grandfather, and her tribal mentors. She has been diligent in her learning about local communities to inform her work with local (Kumeyaay) youth, learning to access their culturally based assets in tutoring with them on academics as well as in resilience groups.

## **Breaana Galster, M.S.**

Breaana is currently a school counselor in Cajon Valley, CA, and is a former high school science teacher. She completed SDSU's School Counseling Program and Native Scholars Project in May of 2018, where she developed a strong awareness of the effects of her own challenging past on her path, and the need to heal, calling on her grandmother's teachings as inspiration. She transformed her own powerful personal learning into her creative work on the project with youth, where she worked for two years with Kumeyaay youth, designing and delivering lessons and activities to enhance identity and resilience, and in academic interventions.







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## Priscilla A. Day, MSW, Ed.D

Priscilla is a tenured full professor at the Department of Social Work, University of Minnesota Duluth since 1993. She is Principal Investigator for the Center for Regional and Tribal Child Welfare Studies whose mission is “to advance the well-being of children by strengthening families and communities through social work education, research, and outreach in the region.” She is an advisory board member and consultant on the Children’s Bureau Capacity Building Center for Tribes, and writer and trainer for ICWA and tribal leadership curriculum in Minnesota and nationally. Dr. Day’s area of research is American Indian family preservation. She is the mother of three and grandmother of nine wonderful children.

### Recent relevant publications include:

- Gould, R. & Day, P. (2017). “You are Here Because the Land Called You”: Searching for Vivir Bien/Living Well. *Journal of Indigenous Wellbeing-Te Mauri-Pimatisiwin*, 2 (3).
- Day, P. (2016). *Encyclopedia of Social Work*. “Indigenous Peoples and Cultural Survival”. Frost, P (Ed.), Oxford University Press, New York, NY.
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- Day, P. (2014). *Social Issues in Contemporary Native America: Reflections from Turtle Island*. “Raising Healthy American Indian Children: An Indigenous Perspective”. Weaver, H. (Ed), Ashgate Publishing. Williston, VT.
- Day, P. (2014). *Social Issues in Contemporary Native America: Reflections from Turtle Island*. “Tradition Keepers: American Indian/Alaska Native Elders”. Weaver, H. (Ed).,





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Ashgate Publishing. Williston, VT.

- Day, P.A. (Guest Editor) Spring 2014, Center for Advanced Studies in Child Welfare CW360° “Culturally Responsive Practice”. School of Social Work, University of Minnesota.
- Bussey, B. & Day, P. (Spring 2014). “Dabinoochiwag (For the Children): A University, Tribal and County Partnership-A National Child Welfare Workforce Institute Initiative”. Center for Advanced Studies in Child Welfare CW360° “Culturally Responsive Practice”. School of Social Work, University of Minnesota.
- Day, P. (Spring 2013). The Intersection of Child Welfare and Disability: Focus on Children CW360°. “Gifts from the Creator: Disability in American Indian communities”. Center for Advanced Child Welfare Studies, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN.
- Marcynszyn, L.A., Small Bear, P., Geary, E., Conti, R., Pecora, P.J., Day, P.A., & Wilson, S.T., (2012). Family Group Decision Making (FMGM) with Lakota Families in two tribal communities: Tools to facilitate FGDM implementation and evaluation. Child Welfare, 2 (3), pp. 113-134, Washington, D.C. Tami DeCoteau, PhD

Dr. DeCoteau, a Licensed Clinical Psychologist, obtained a doctorate degree in Clinical Psychology in 2003 from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln with specialization in the cognitive-behavioral treatment of anxiety disorders for adults, adolescents and children.

Dr. De Coteau is a Trust-Based Relational Intervention (TBRI) practitioner. TBRI is a therapeutic model that trains caregivers to provide effective support for at-risk children. She is also trained in various other trauma treatment modalities including EMDR, somatic processing, attachment intervention, NMT (neurosequential model of therapeutics), and TF-CBT. Dr. De Coteau has extensive experience working with patients who suffer from complex trauma, neurodevelopmental disorders, grief, anxiety, depression, and suicidal





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thinking. Dr. DeCoteau has worked in a variety of outpatient settings and with a diverse patient population, including Veterans and Native Americans. She received the Indian Health Service 2009 Health Professional of the Year Award for outstanding service and the American Psychological Foundation 2010 Early Career Award for providing culturally competent practice techniques for Native Americans and for developing training programs in rural, underserved areas. This year Dr. DeCoteau was appointed by a member of the U.S. congress to serve the Commission on Native Children to help address the challenges faced by Native children. Aside from clinical work, Dr. DeCoteau has given numerous lectures on how trauma impacts attachment and brain development, in-school strategies for working with traumatized children, and historical trauma. She is a long-standing member of the American Psychological Association, an enrolled member of the Mandan, Hidatsa, Arikara Nation and a descendant of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa.

## Wolf Diaz



David “Wolf” Diaz, who is of Chiricahua Apache, Hispanic, and Isleta Pueblo ancestry is the Founder and President of “Walk of the Warrior”, an American Indian outreach program addressing substance and alcohol abuse on the reservations. One of the motivating factors for forming this non-profit corporation came out of Wolf’s challenges dealing first-hand and over-coming addictions to drugs and alcohol and he now has 17 years clean and sober.





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Wolf's knowledge extends to behavior modification programs, 12-step format programs, out-patient and residential programs. He has extensive knowledge on the psychological, trauma, and spiritual aspects of addictions and certificates in Prescription Drug Abuse, Gangs and Drugs in Indian Country from Lamar Associates. He has completed a training course on Drugs of Abuse: Identification and Abatement in Tribal Housing Communities from the National American Indian Housing Council. Wolf is a successful grant-writer and also holds a seat on the Substance Abuse Committee which is part of the Southern California Tribal Chairmen's Association. With this knowledge he has taken it to new levels and wanting to be of service and give back to the American Indian communities on a grand-scale. Through his passion, it is Wolf's intention to bring "Walk of the Warrior" in a good and humble way and in a sacred manner from a traditional standpoint. This is the cornerstone of the spiritual program. The vision for Walk of the Warrior came about during a time of serious soul searching and surrendering his life to the Creator's will rather than follow his own. Instead of robbing others to help himself he now robs himself to help others to take his experiences and give-back to his people. The process and this turning point are thoughtfully depicted in his art-work of which he has been able to use as a fundraising tool for operational costs. Equally, Wolf's carpentry skills have funded additional costs. Wolf has written a Children's Book about Trees and is now working on the illustrations for it and when the book is published the proceeds from sales will go to the program as fundraisings. Wolf also does motivational speaking engagements and shares his experience, strength, and hope to inspire others.

David "Wolf" Diaz, President & Founder of Walk of the Warrior

## Contact Info

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Youth Voice



Youth Voice is a multi-generational mentoring, youth leadership program for youth, ages 11 to 24, in partnership with the Mid-City Police Division in City Heights. Partnering with the Juvenile Services Team, community mentors (ex-felons, ex-gang members), interns from Point Loma Nazarene University (criminal justice and social work) and San Diego State University (child, family development), and the leadership team mentor the youth leaders through an ACEs Science (impact of trauma on the brain, biologically on the body, toxic stress, epigenetics, and resilience-building) empowerment model. (ACEs = Adverse Childhood Experiences). Included in all Youth Voice presentations is epigenetics on the ethnohistorical trauma of the genocide of our Native Americans and enslavement of our African Americans. Raising awareness of the structural racism in systems, their call to action is transforming systems from punitive to cultures of care, hope, and healing.

Youth Voice leaders present before and engage with high-level policy and decision makers with a Call to Action and an Ask on Solutions through restorative practices, trauma-informed schools, empathy circles, and restorative justice with systems transformation, cross-sector in a socio-ecological model.

Youth Voice has been flown to Sacramento to present on ACEs Science for the CA Dept. of Public Health before 33 youth-serving agencies in CA, Sacramento to engage with Assemblymembers and Senator aides on Policymaker Education Day, international visitors from 20 countries in the European Delegation, 15 countries in North Africa and the Middle East. Presenting before the City of San Diego Commission on Gang Prevention & Intervention, they've presented before the San Diego Police Dept. Chief and high-ranking Officers, Assistant Chief of San Diego County Probation, Public Defender, National Conflict Resolution Center, CEO of the Burn Institute and been on panels in Orange County and San Diego County.







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**Dana Brown**



Dana Brown is the ACEs Science Statewide Facilitator for Learn4Life and Organizational Liaison for ACEs Connection. Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) is the impact of trauma on the brain neurologically, body biologically, toxic stress, epigenetics, and resilience-building. A social entrepreneur, Dana founded a character development program at Tierrasanta Elementary in San Diego, CA; co-founded Youth Voice and OurSOLES (Our Students of Leadership ~ Empowerment ~ Service), founded Youth Leadership TICS (Trauma Informed Community Schools) and Youth Leadership with McGill School of Success. Dana is a Commissioner on the City of San Diego Commission on Gang Prevention & Intervention and Chair of the Youth Committee. and has been vested with several boards and advisory councils. Presently, she is the co-chair of the San Diego Trauma-Informed Guide Team, on the Advisory Council of University of San Diego's Character Development Center and leadership team of the Clinton Health Matters Initiative. Receiving the Joy McAllister Advocacy Award from Mental Health America in 2014, President Obama's USA Volunteer Presidential Award in 2013 (San Diego Compassion Project), and the City of San Diego's Human Relations Commission Award in 2009, Dana's passion and calling is co-creating, with like-minded individuals, ACEs Science systems change in a socio-ecological model through advocacy, prevention and resiliency building.







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**Craig Beswick**



Craig Beswick is the Vice-President with Learn4Life for Trauma Informed Career & Community Schools,

Career, Technical, Education (CTE), and Trauma-Informed Division. Learn4Life has created a trauma-informed division in an individualized learning model on behalf of 45,000 students in California through integrating ACEs Science with at-promise, highest need students in a transformational school culture. ACEs Science is the impact of trauma on the brain neurologically, body biologically, toxic stress, epigenetics, and resilience-building. (ACEs = Adverse Childhood Experiences)

Learn4Life is the education provider and ACCESS provider with the San Pasqual Academy, the first non-native education provider, engaged with the Soboba reservation in High Desert and through their mobile learning lab, vested with the Pala reservation. Learn4Life is communicating with CA Indian Manpower Consortium on partnership with workforce development on with Native American communities.

Developing ACEs Science train-the-trainers to build capacity and replicate throughout California through Wellness Committees comprised of: Yoga teacher, Meditation teacher,





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SOURCE (Students of United Respect, Consciousness, Energy), Counselors, Restorative Justice, Alumni (peer to peer who are graduated youth from Learn4Life). Learn4Life students become Alumni Ambassadors who are funded positions of peer to peer mentoring in schools, events, and academic tutoring.

## Blue Eagle Vigil

Blue Eagle Vigil (Viejas Band of Kumeyaay) 26, has two beautiful children Eagle & Lovely. He is the son of Diana & Orlando Vigil. For the past four years, Blue has been putting his heart & soul into learning traditional BirdSongs,  
“I’m just doing my part to help our community.”

## Anthony R. Pico, PhD



Anthony R. Pico served as chairman of the Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Indians for 26 of the last 30 years. He is nationally recognized as an authority and leader on American Indian sovereignty, self-governance, Indian gaming and tribal economic development. He has been a strong voice for Indian self-reliance, economic development, and diversification of reservation economies. He was a driving force and spokesman in the landmark California ballot initiative in 1998-2000 that brought economic growth to many of California’s federally recognized tribes. Anthony served as Co-Chair of the Proposition 1A Initiative





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to amend the California Constitution enabling tribes to engage in gaming on tribal lands. Anthony has received numerous international, national, state, and regional awards for leadership achievements, business, and as a humanitarian. He has been an influential spokesman for gaming, sovereignty, and self-governance issues. He has been the subject of a number of documentaries such as Frontline, Forefront and German and Dutch Public Television. He has been featured in Fortune Magazine, USA Today, and Business Week, International Gaming & Wagering Magazine, and Casino Executive Magazine. Anthony Pico has an Associates of Arts Degree from Grossmont College where in 2000 he received the honor of Outstanding Alumni. He has an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters from Long Island University, New York. Anthony is very proud of his military record where he served in Vietnam as an Army Paratrooper in the infantry, where he received a number of distinguished service medals. He is married to his beautiful wife Diana. He has two sons of whom he is very proud, John Elliott, who is serving in his 11th year as Tribal Councilman of The Manzanita Band of Kumeyaay Indians, and Tommy Pico, an author who resides in Brooklyn, New York. He is currently Chairman of the California Native American Adult Treatment Committee which has been tasked by the Southern California Tribal Chairman's Association to create a healing center for those who suffer from substance abuse addictions. The committee is made up of the Chief Executives of the Southern Indian Health Council, the Indian Health Council of Northern San Diego County, the San Diego Indian American Health Council of Urban San Diego and the Riverside San Bernardino County Indian Health, Inc. along with the SCTCA Subcommittee on Substance Abuse. Anthony has been researching what he considers the most important and profound issue facing Native Americans today, childhood trauma. His passionate research has been a healing journey for himself and he hopes the beginning of a healing journey for our people through awareness of childhood trauma, how it affects us as adults, and what can we do to significantly mitigate or wipe out years of painful experiences that almost all Native Americans suffer from today. To learn more about childhood trauma go online to [www.acesstudy.com](http://www.acesstudy.com).





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## Barbara Leo

Barbara Leo (Capitan Grande Band of Mission Indians, Viejas group- mother, grandmother) “Viejas Mountain, when I was a child the chaos of violence & alcoholism would take me to the mountain- I would often day dream about the mountain. It comforted me with its look of peacefulness; it-looked safe to me; a place where I could see everything.”

## Prosper Waukon

Prosper is an accomplished businessman, indigenous leadership facilitator, Indian youth specialist, management/employee team development, program & community coalition building, organizational strategist, human resources diversity consultant. He has held 17 directorships for 17 different organizations in the public and private sectors, the majority of which have been with Indian programs. He has served as an officer on 22 community, city and state boards. He incorporated and was the President/CEO of four profit making businesses and founding member of five non-profits. Prosper has over 40 years of leadership & management experience, 28 years of those years, managing, restructuring, and transforming Indian organizations and businesses into peak performing self-managed teams. Prosper comes from a long line of Hocak (Winnebago) hereditary leaders from the Thunderbird Clan (tribal leadership clan). As a single father, he supported his family and put himself through college while working 2 part-time and 1 full-time jobs, graduated with a degree in Business Administration from the University of St. Thomas, St. Paul, Minnesota. He was hired by Honeywell, Inc., and with his considerable management and negotiating skills, he rose quickly through the ranks to assume the role of principal advisor/negotiator for Honeywell in a Black Hills land dispute between the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, the Cowboy and Indian Alliance, Honeywell, and the state of South Dakota. Prosper was successful in negotiating a win-win situation for all parties concerned.

He later returned to the University of St. Thomas to work on his MBA graduate studies.





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After Honeywell, Prosper ran his own award-winning business in some of the most economically deprived and troubled neighborhoods of the inner city, where he trained and employed the hardest-to-hire, local neighborhood residents and gang members. In 1994, his company, Prosper Industries, Inc. (PPI) won the Minnesota Minority Supplier of the Year and was later awarded the Regional I National Minority Supplier of the Year in Washington, D.C. PPI had a workforce of over 480 employees located at three sites doing contract manufacturing for the commercial sector and U.S. Department of Defense prime military contractors.

In 2002 Prosper returned to live and work on the Winnebago Indian Reservation in Nebraska where he grew up and to raise his two grandchildren, Takotah Spirit (10 mos.) and Ciarrah Reine (4.5 yrs.). Prosper restructured his tribes three youth programs, preventing state and federal termination for non-compliance, established four new programs for the reservations public high school: Strengthening Families Program; Communities Mobilizing for Change on Alcohol Use; Protecting You, Protecting Me, and developed the Transcendental Meditation Technique TM as part of the school's regular curriculum for grades 5-12. Prosper formed the Ho-Chunk & Hope Coalition, a coalition of tribal organizations, chartered the first Boys & Girls Club for tribe, developed the Project Step-Up program, a technical and educational career development program, and assisted in tribal planning, reporting directly to the tribal chair.

This move also re- connected him more deeply with his tribe's traditional knowledge and values—and with his life's calling: to bring forward the indigenous perspectives of our multi- dimensional universe. Prosper serves as a guide through intersections of modern times and past generations, the empirical and the intuitive worlds, the seen and unseen worlds, and the Sacred and the Profane. During this same time, Prosper worked as a consulting Director to the David Lynch Foundation and was awarded the “Custodian of Natural Law” for the Winnebago Tribe and the whole of Indian Country by the foundation. He was also the consulting Co-Director to the Maharishi Foundation U.S.A. Inc. and was





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awarded the esteemed Maharishi Award by the Maharishi University of Management. Additionally, Prosper worked as consultant to the Sac & Fox Nation, Reserve, Kansas for coalition building, grant writing and fundraising, the World Council of Elders, Boulder, Co for organizational strategy, program development and fundraising, and consultant in contract manufacturing to Urban Ventures, one of the largest non-profits in Minneapolis.

In August of 2012, Prosper and his wife Jan Waukon, along with their two grandchildren, Takotah and Ciarrah relocated to Oracle, Arizona where Prosper formed a business with partner Rick Turner to incorporate, The Pros-Turn HVAC Consulting, L.L.C. Prosper was hired by Gila River Indian Community, Employment & Training Department as a trainer for a pilot program, Career Pathways. He was later hired as a TERO (Tribal Employment Rights Ordinance) Compliance Officer for the tribe. Prosper currently resides in Tucson and has recently retired from the Gila River Indian Community in Sacaton, Arizona.

Prosper currently does consultant work for Indian programs.

## Dr. Tria Blu Wakpa

Dr. Tria Blu Wakpa is an Assistant Professor of Dance Studies in the Department of World Arts and Cultures/Dance at UC Los Angeles. She earned her Ph.D. and M.A. in Ethnic Studies from UC Berkeley and an M.F.A. in Creative Writing from San Diego State University. Her research and artistic interests are in: Native American education, incarceration, and embodied practice; Indigenous contemporary dance and martial arts; North American Hand Talk (sign language); Native American literature and theory; and creative writing. Blu Wakpa has received major fellowships from the Ford Foundation and Fulbright. She has taught a wide range of interdisciplinary and community-engaged courses at public, private, tribal, and carceral institutions. Blu Wakpa is of Filipina, European, and tribally-unenrolled Native American ancestries. She is married to Dr. Makha Blu Wakpa (Cheyenne River Sioux) and the mother of their two children, Hante and Azilya.







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## Henry Quintero

Henry Quintero teaches literature for the Department of English and is the editor of RED INK, an International Journal of Indigenous Literature, Arts & Humanities. The journal is just one part of a larger initiative by the same name to enhance access to higher education for Indigenous communities, as well as global access to Indigenous creative and intellectual expression and discourse among native and non-native communities on indigenous issues. Henry is also integrating Indigenous pathways to healing through traditional food understandings & practice. Mr Quintero host indigenous food network gatherings in AZ every year emphasizing the value of indigenous food as a modality of healing

Education: Ph.D. Arizona State University 2010

## Chef Nephi Craig

Chef Nephi Craig is working in areas to assist community resiliency through Cafe Gozhoo; creating jobs, promotes professional development and equips individuals with job skills as part of a long-term support system from social recovery from historical trauma. Café Gozhoo is an edible education in Indigenous Resurgence in Western Apacheria.

## Sylvia Sherbert

Sylvia Christman- Sherbert is an elder and a resident of the Iipay Nation of Santa Ysabel. She is the daughter of Elizabeth La Chappa from Santa Ysabel and Ral Christman from the La Huerta Village of Kumeyaay Natives. She graduated from Granite Hills High School. Sylvia was married for a short time. Determined to be self-supporting and understanding the value of an education, she went to Grossmont College and worked at San Diego Wholesale Credit, a commercial credit reporting agency and collection bureau.





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Her hard work paid off; within six years Sylvia was promoted to the Assistant of the Legal Coordinations Manager. With her knowledge of Credit, Collections, Bankruptcy and Civil Litigation Sylvia went on to work in the banking industry. She enjoyed a career in banking that lasted over 45 years. Her last job was with San Diego County Credit Union where she audited real estate loans. She retired two years ago. Sylvia used to have to get up at 5:00 am to leave the house at 6:00 so she could be to work by 8:00. She allowed 2 hours to get to work so she would never be late. She continued to take classes through the Institute of Financial Education to gain knowledge of Credit and Banking and to enhance her career. Her lifelong goal was to provide a stable and nurturing environment for her son, Cedar Sherbert. Cedar graduated from the University of Southern California. She received his Bachelor's and Master's Degrees and Teaching Credentials. Cedar Sherbert is a film editor, director, screenwriter and film producer. Like his mother Cedar is strong and resilient, his goal is to produce narrative works that not only speak to Native and non-Native viewers from within our culture, but to challenge long held stereotypes concerning Native life.

Since her retirement she has become an activist. She is a member of AIM (the American Indian Movement) and "The Longest Walk, War on Drugs and Domestic Violence." She has been to Standing Rock 5 times protesting the Dakota Access Pipeline. She always welcomes an opportunity to stand up for her fellow Native Americans. She is a respected elder and member of the Native American community and is looked up to by many for her strength and determination.

**Beverly Means**

**Alex Laky**

Alex Laky is the Founder and Principal of ARCHSOL, LLC. With more than 25 years of experience dedicated to healthcare, Alex plays a vital role in integrating strategy into design. His passion for complex projects, technical challenges, and creative solutions





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developed into a firm specialized in bringing architectural solutions to clients. He is an expert in the design of healing environments and has a deep appreciation for the health and wellness of each individual impacted by the built environment. Alex has a Bachelor of Architecture Degree from the University of Arizona, is a member of the American Institute of Architects, National Council of Architecture Registrations Boards, and National Trust for Historic Preservation. Alex was recently honored to present along with Mr. Ken White, CEO of Native Healthcare Solutions LLC, the Traditional Healing Circle, an architectural design that combines western medicine with traditional healing in to service facility for Native American populations, The Calling Upon the Warrior Spirit to Heal Historical Trauma Conference and Ceremony was held at the Gila River Indian Community in Sacaton, Arizona in April 2018.

## ARCHSOL, LLC

ARCHSOL – The Architectural Solutions Team is a firm focused on customer service and finding solutions to meet our client's goals and ambitions. Our performance is based on successful architectural solutions that add clarity, purpose and value not simply in design, but also throughout construction, occupancy and beyond. We have grown with our clients by becoming partners and providing total project stewardship.

Services include master planning, project management, space planning and programming, regulatory compliance reviews, construction administration, site development feasibility assessments, building assessments, and other specialty services. Our team's experience includes the design of new construction, tenant improvement, and renovation projects. Complexity varies from single phase to multi-phase projects. Projects include all types of acute care (inpatient) and ambulatory (outpatient) healthcare projects, administration office buildings, education centers, parking garages, data centers, and other project types.





### **Firm Recognition**

2018 Healthcare Leadership Award Finalist – Outstanding Achievement  
in Healthcare Design

2018 AZRE 15 Companies to Watch – Architects/Builders/Developers

2017 AZRE RED Award Winner – Best Healthcare Project

2017 ENR Southwest Best Project – Healthcare

2017 ENR Southwest Best Project – Excellence in Safety Award

2017 ENR Best of the Best Project – Excellence in Safety Award

2017 AzASLA Award Winner for Landscape Design

2014 Top Architecture Firms: As Published in Phoenix Business Journal

2014 Ranking Arizona: Voted Top Ten for Mid-Sized Architectural Firms

2013 ENR Award Winner for Best Interiors/Tenant Improvement Project

### **Richard Taliwood**

Richard is a Dine' (Navajo) originally from White Cone, Arizona now living and working in Gallup, New Mexico. He is formally credentialed as a Certified Peer Support Worker (CPSW) by the State of New Mexico Board of Behavioral Health and a graduate of





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Haskell Indian Nations College. He has a vast background of education and experience in counseling Native American populations impacted by various forms of trauma. He is proud to state he is a recovered alcoholic and has been alcohol free for five years. He also has recovered from a traumatic brain injury. He is a member of Alcoholics Anonymous and the San Juan Independent Traumatic Brain Injury Program where he shares his professional counseling skills and life experiences with others. His interests include learning about Native American culture and history from his family and relatives through attending traditional healing ceremonies. Richard is the son of the great Native American artist, the late Richard Taliwood Sr.

## **Anya Ashley**

Anya is a graduate student at San Diego State University studying Multicultural Counseling. She is a proud member of the Navajo Nation from Tuba City, Arizona. Ms. Ashley is interested in helping Indigenous populations through innovative services and programs when she graduates.

## **Karen Waconda-Lewis**

Karen is from Isleta Pueblo, New Mexico: She is currently in the process of obtaining a M.S degree in Community Health, at the University of New Mexico. She has obtained her B.S. in Nutrition & Community Health, at University of New Mexico. She has been an Initiated Medicine Healer for over 21 years. She has performed ceremony and has deep knowledge and understanding of and in minerals, crystals, sweat lodge ceremonies, flower and mineral essence, and herbal tinctures. She has also conducted ceremonies for death and dying, marriage, initiation, Talking Circle and Blessings. Karen is also the owner at Wa’Kanda Retreat and Spa and was a Health Educator for the Pueblo of Laguna for 2 years She currently serves at the Appointed Volunteer Facility, University of New Mexico, School Of Medicine, Community and Family Medicine and is an Appointed Admission Committee Member, BA/MD, UNM, School of Medicine.





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## **Karen's interests are:**

Planning, development of healthcare systems

Connecting, networking and strategic planning in community development  
in healthcare issues

Program development and evaluation

Increase productivity in staff development in utilizing stress management and relaxation

Integrative healing and connecting Western Medicine and complementary medicine to  
enhance and support traditions and culture

Family and community connection and communication

## **Tamara Strohauer**



Tamara Strohauer is an Associate Clinical Social Worker, Certified Addictions Treatment Counselor, Lecturer at San Diego State University, School of Social Work, SERVE: Indigenous Social Workers for Change, Southern Region Project Coordinator and has







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been active in the Roundtable on Native American Trauma-Informed Initiatives since June of 2017. As SERVE Project Coordinator, Tamara works with eleven Southern California Schools of Social Work, from UCLA to CSU San Bernardino to SDSU, supporting and recruiting Native American students interested in Bachelor and Master of Social Work Title IV-E Programs. Tamara is also passionate about de-colonizing social work curriculum and educating all social work students, on California Indian History, historical trauma, ACEs, cultural humility and ICWA. Tamara provides presentations to future child welfare workers and behavioral health MSW students across Southern California, and is certified as an ICWA Core Curriculum Trainer. Along with her two SERVE colleagues in Central and Northern California, Tamara works to build relationships and partnerships with Tribal communities and agencies to establish internships and future employment for social work students and seeks to support youth and return adult students interested in any discipline in getting to college. In 2010, at 44 years of age, Tamara as a wife and mother of two daughters enrolled at San Diego City College as a first generation college student, nearly 27 years after graduating from high school. She received her AA degree in Psychology in 2012, then transferred to SDSU where she received her BA in Psychology with a Minor in American Indian Studies (AIS) in 2014, and her MSW in 2016. She was a teaching assistant for an AIS history and government professor at SDSU for three and a half years while getting her BA and MSW degrees. Tamara remains actively engaged with the SDSU AIS Department and the Elymash Yuuchaap Indigenous Scholars and Leaders Program. Tamara also worked as a Clinical Counselor at the Central DUI Program, and provided SBIRT in SDSU Health Center. Her clinical and research interests are in co-occurring mental health and substance use concerns and the neuroscience of trauma and addiction. Tamara has presented her research at multiple conferences and is attaining her clinical hours for licensure as a therapist. Having come from a family laden with intergenerational trauma of domestic violence, alcoholism, suicide and mental health issues, she has spent her life finding her way through “what happened” in her own family and healing childhood trauma.





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Strategies for Work with Involuntary Clients, 3rd Edition; “Bringing up what they don’t want to talk about”

Contributing Author, Chapter on SBIRT

Strohauer, T. L., Ranier, M. (2018, April). Shifting perceptions: Impacts of colonization and honoring resilience in California’s Indigenous Communities. Oral presentation for the 2018 CalSWEC Title IV-E Summit, San Mateo, California.

Strohauer, T. L. (2016, October). The relationship between cultural identity and co-occurring depression and substance use among American Indian adolescents. Oral presentation for the 31st Annual California Indian Conference, San Diego, California.

Barker, M., Reily, K., Strohauer, T. L., Hohman, M. (2016, August). Women in DUI Programs: Demographic, Alcohol Use, Trauma, and Cultural Needs. Oral presentation for Substance Use Disorders, 2016 Statewide Conference, Orange County, California

Strohauer, T. L., Hohman, M., Finnegan, D., Barker, M., & Min, J. W. (2016, March). Relationships of Trauma, PTSD, Mental Health, and parental Alcohol Use Patterns to BAC Among Female DUI Offenders. Oral presentation for San Diego State University Student Research Symposium.

Strohauer, T. L., Mills, S.D., Fox, R.S., Malcarne, V. L., & Sadler, G. R. (2014, March). Relationship of acculturation and fatalism to knowledge and attitudes about clinical trials among Hispanic Americans. Oral presentation for San Diego State University Student Research Symposium

Malcarne, V. L., Mayes, M. D., Assassi, S., Fox, R. S., Gholizadeh, S.,  
Gottesman, K., Harcourt,





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D., Kwakkenbos, L., Jewett, L. R., Mendelson, C., Mills, S. D., Rumsey, N., Strohauer, T. L., Williamson, H. & Thombs, B. D. (2014, February). Developing an Intervention for Body Image Distress in Systemic Sclerosis: An Update from the Scleroderma Patient-centered Intervention Network (SPIN). Accepted for poster presentation at the biennial meeting of the Systemic Sclerosis World Congress, Rome, Italy.

Strohauer, T. L., Mills, S.D., Fox, R.S., Maricarne, V.L., & Sadler, G.R. (2013, September). Relationship of acculturation and fatalism to knowledge and attitudes about clinical trials among Hispanic Americans. Oral paper presented at American Association for Cancer Education International Conference, Seattle, WA.

**In Loving Memory of Kenneth White Sr**

