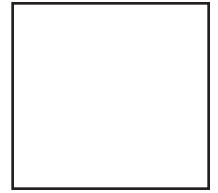


National Indian Child Welfare Association
5100 SW Macadam Avenue, Suite 300
Portland, Oregon 97239



30th Annual

Protecting Our Children

National American Indian Conference
on Child Abuse and Neglect



NICWA

National Indian Child Welfare Association

Call for Presentations





30th Annual

Protecting Our Children

National American Indian Conference
on Child Abuse and Neglect

A special invitation is being extended to you to participate as a workshop presenter during our 30th Annual "Protecting Our Children" National American Indian Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect.

About the Conference Theme

Protecting Our Children, Ensuring Our Legacy

The Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978 was landmark legislation empowering American Indian and Alaska Native peoples to exert their sovereignty over their own tribal members. It is a powerful acknowledgment that "...[there] is no resource that is more vital to the continued existence and integrity of Indian tribes than their children..." (25 U.S.C. § 1901). Thirty-three years later, we are still fighting to ensure that our children receive the best possible protection, services, and resources.

There are thriving traditional and emerging new best practices in urban and rural Native communities that are meeting the needs of children and families across the continuum of services. No one understands the needs of their children better than the communities themselves, and they are creating their own solutions for the challenges they face. Native communities are building the capacity and empowering their own members to become better leaders and advocates at the local, state, regional, and national levels.

For 30 years, NICWA and our national, regional, and local partners have been advocating for and protecting the rights of Native children and communities. Our annual conference is our signature event, and this year we celebrate 30 years of partnership with Native programs and organizations and non-Native allies. To ensure the best services in Native communities and fulfill the promise of the Indian Child Welfare Act, grassroots community representatives, child welfare professionals, and tribal leaders must gather to share information, plan, support one another, and transform the systems and services that will meet the growing challenges facing Native communities. Join us in Scottsdale, Arizona, for NICWA's 30th anniversary conference to protect our children, preserve our cultures, and ensure our legacy.

Conference Goals

- To highlight successful strategies for developing effective services
- To reveal the latest and most innovative child welfare and children's mental health service delivery practices
- To highlight tactics and strategies for financing and sustaining services that impact children
- To showcase strategies for involving youth and families in developing services and policies that lead to systems change
- To create peer-to-peer networks that will assist each other in the work toward permanency for all American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) families
- To share the latest research on the well-being of AI/AN children and effective child welfare and children's mental health services, practices, and policies.

Who Should Respond

All individuals who are committed to serving AI/AN children and their families are encouraged to respond: child welfare workers, directors, and staff from tribal, state, federal, and private programs; tribal leaders; substance abuse staff; health professionals; mental health and psychiatric professionals; law enforcement professionals; court and legal professionals; tribal and public school administrators; teachers, counselors, educators, and staff; grassroots community organizers; Court of Indian Offenses judges and attorneys; BIA and IHS social service staff; private providers; parents, guardians, elders, and extended family members; and other interested people committed to protecting AI/AN children and families.

Workshop Track Descriptions

Advocacy, Collaboration, ICWA Compliance, and Data and Research comprise the different workshop tracks we have created to meet the needs of our broadening national audience. Additionally, NICWA understands the critical role that tribal leadership plays in empowering communities to improve outcomes for their children and families. While preparing your workshop description, please consider how your presentation will address the vital role of tribal leadership.

Advocacy

Understanding the impact of national/state/local policy, strategies for influencing national/state/local policy, restorative justice approaches in child welfare, and the role of standard-setting organizations

Collaboration

Promising practices in building alliances (e.g., urban-tribal, tribal-state, tribal-county, and interagency collaborations; engaging youth in care; elders; tribal leaders; and community members)

ICWA Compliance

Promising practices for ICWA training, monitoring compliance, tribal CASA partnerships, innovative strategies for meeting placement preferences, and tracking active efforts

Data and Research

Current child welfare research, promising practices in information technology, gathering and utilizing data for program improvement, data and funding issues, and sharing data across systems

New Protocol Introduced for the NICWA Call for Presentations

Regarding workshops with content pertaining to historical trauma:

Workshops containing content related to historical trauma, while important, have proven to have a significant and immediate emotional and/or spiritual impact upon some conference attendees. Presenters leading workshops that deal with the issue of historical trauma should be prepared to provide an outline of a plan for responding to immediate emotional and/or spiritual needs, should they arise.

Regarding the presentation of tribal data:

Any proposed research workshop that includes data about a tribal community (whether the community is identified by name or not) should have secured tribal government approval to present the data in advance of submitting a workshop proposal. Any presenters submitting a workshop proposal that includes tribal community data should be prepared to substantiate this approval if they are called upon to do so.

How to Apply

Go to www.nicwa.org/callforpresentations to download the MS Word document, "Workshop Proposal." (If your computer is not MS Word compatible, there is also a PDF version available for download.) Use this form to submit your proposal for a 90-minute workshop, which may repeat once. Submit your workshop proposal via email to NICWA's event manager, Laurie Evans, at laurie@nicwa.org. **Chosen proposals will be highly interactive and relevant to the conference theme and goals.**

Presenters selected will receive a reduced registration rate of \$150. Workshops are limited to three presenters. All presenters will be required to register for the conference.

Deadline: December 1, 2011 (Proposals must be postmarked/faxed/emailed by this date.)

Questions? Contact Event Manager Laurie Evans at (503) 222-4044, extension 124 or laurie@nicwa.org, or visit our website at www.nicwa.org/conference.



Tentative Conference Schedule

<u>Sunday</u> <u>April 22</u>	<u>Monday</u> <u>April 23</u>	<u>Tuesday</u> <u>April 24</u>	<u>Wednesday</u> <u>April 25</u>
3:00 p.m.– 8:00 p.m. Registration	7:30 a.m.– 5:00 p.m. Registration	7:30 a.m.–Noon Registration	8:00 a.m.– 9:30 a.m. Workshop F
4:30 p.m. Presenter Orientation	8:30 a.m.–Noon Opening General Session/Keynote Speaker	8:30 a.m.– 10:00 a.m. 2nd General Session	10:00 a.m.–Noon Closing General Session/Keynote Speaker
6:00 p.m.– 8:00 p.m. Reception/Annual Membership Meeting	Noon–1:30 p.m. Lunch (on your own) 1:30 p.m.–5:00 p.m. Workshops A and B	10:30 a.m.–Noon Workshop C Noon–1:30 p.m. Lunch (on your own) 1:30 p.m.– 5:00 p.m. Workshops D and E 6:00 p.m.– 9:00 p.m. Dinner Banquet	

Hotel Reservations

The conference host hotel is:

Radisson Fort McDowell
10348 North Fort McDowell Road
Scottsdale, AZ 85264

Reservations: (800) 333-3333
Hotel Direct: (480) 789-5300

A block of rooms has been reserved for our participants at \$109.00 per night, plus tax.

When making reservations, individuals must identify themselves as a participant of the NICWA annual conference in order to receive the group rate. Rates are guaranteed until March 22, 2012.

Reservations made after March 22 will be charged at the standard rate.



Conference Image

About the Artist:

Michael J. Marin is a self-taught artist from East Oakland, California, with a BA in film and video from Columbia College Chicago. His professional career began in 1996 with the opening of his t-shirt design business, Redgear Productions. Over the past 20 years, he has designed logos for various organizations, using different techniques and incorporating digital touches into his artwork. Currently, Michael has artwork pending publication in a textbook designed by Urban Explorers Native Sciences Program, funded by the National Science Foundation and housed at the American Indian Center of Chicago.

About the Conference Image:

First drawn on paper using pen and ink, then scanned and colored digitally, this piece represents the protection and nurturing of future generations. The artist incorporated the bear claw, as the bear, in his culture, represents guardianship, strength, and wisdom, which is all encompassing. The eagles represent the ability and courage to dream, to release, and to be free without fear. The artist states that, "Children are our hope for the future, and within them, our dreams lie awake."

More from this Artist:

Michael J. Marin's artwork can be viewed online at Fine Art America (michael-marin.artistwebsites.com) and Society 6 (society6.com/MJMarin).