

2020 Conference Report



38th Annual Virtual

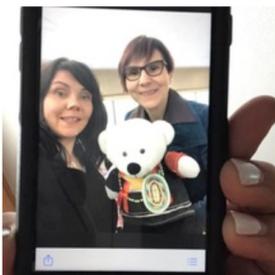
Protecting Our Children

Honoring Our Past, Present, and Future Generations



Rachel Andrews

#NICWA2020 I am so proud and honoured to have our Prevention & Practice Standard Manager Joan Conlon to mentor me here at Carrier Sekani Family Services; I just wanted to mention how excited Joan was to watch Cindy's presentation!!



03/31/2020 12:26 PM
Posted at: Activity Feed



Sarah Wittmann

Leo didnt get the memo that the NICWA Virtual Conference is a dress down event. He's ready to go- will you join him virtually? #NICWA2020



03/30/2020 8:50 AM
Posted at: Activity Feed



Teresa Baldwin

Currently attending NICWA 2020 Keynote by Cindy Blackstock and working on a pair of traditional Inupiaq toddler mukluks! What are some traditional things other people are doing while attending NICWA's Virtual conference? #NICWA2020 #Inupiaq #SpiritBear



03/31/2020 11:49 AM
Posted at: Activity Feed

Thank You!



Alexis Contreras

Fresh cup of coffee for our last keynote Mr. Don Coyhis. #NICWA2020



04/01/2020 11:35 AM
Posted at: Activity Feed

The 2020 Protecting Our Children Annual Conference was groundbreaking. With your support, we went virtual!

On March 11, the NICWA Board of Directors met to decide how we should proceed with our annual conference, scheduled to take place in Denver, Colorado, on March 29–April 1. They made the difficult but necessary decision that we could not convene in person for the conference. Out of a strong desire to provide our training conference and support for our constituents despite the unfolding pandemic, we pivoted and took the event online. With only two and half weeks to plan the virtual conference (while ourselves working remotely), we convened 917 participants from a cross-section of fields and interests, including child welfare, mental health, and juvenile justice service providers; legal professionals; students; advocates for children; and tribal, state, and federal leaders. Thanks to the incredible support from our 46 sponsors, the remote gathering took shape.

The event began on Monday, March 30, with a blessing given by the Honorable Paul Day (*Leech Lake*), chief judge of the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Tribal Court. NICWA's executive director Sarah Kastelic (*Alutiiq*) served as the virtual conference host, welcoming participants to the three-day conference and our annual membership meeting held on a Zoom platform. Terry Cross (*Seneca*), NICWA founder and senior advisor, provided the opening keynote, "Child Welfare as Medicine." The conference theme, "Honoring Our Past, Present, and Future Generations: Living Our Tribal Cultural Values and Beliefs," was woven throughout the three keynote addresses and nine workshops offered.

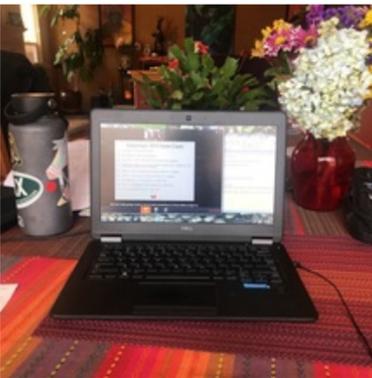
Our sessions included:

- ✳ "Family Healing to Wellness Courts and Active Efforts" (Carrie Garrow [*Saint Regis Mohawk*], JD, and Lauren van Schilfgaarde [*Cochiti Pueblo*], JD)
- ✳ "Working with Substance-Abusing Families" (Terry Cross [*Seneca*], MSW, ACSW, LCSW, DHL)
- ✳ "Promising Practices in Tribal-State Child Welfare Collaborations" (David Simmons, MSW)
- ✳ "The Family First Prevention Services Act: Is It a Tool for Providing Culturally Based Services for Families at Risk?" (Jack Trope, JD, and David Simmons, MSW)



Brett Lee Shelton

#NICWA2020



04/01/2020 9:58 AM
Posted at: ICWA in the Courts and State Legislatures: A Legal Update Covering the Federal Court Challenges to ICWA and Opportunities for State ICWA Laws

Conference By the Numbers

3 full days of content

9 workshop sessions

19 workshop presenters

3 keynote speakers

1 membership meeting

917 attendees

88 newsfeed posts

573 new members

46 sponsors for a total of...

178,700 dollars raised

Your Support Matters

- ✿ “Evaluating Culturally Based Programs: Positive Indian Parenting” (Puneet Sahota, MD, PhD; Deana Around Him [*Cherokee*], DrPH; and DeeAnna (D.J.) [*Crow/Northern Cheyenne*] Personius)
- ✿ “Recruiting and Engaging Foster and Adoptive Families” (Alicia Groh, Rebekah Main [*Wasco and Warm Springs*], and Mary Boo)
- ✿ “ICWA in the Courts and State Legislatures: A Legal Update Covering the Federal Court Challenges to ICWA and Opportunities for State ICWA Laws” (Kathryn Fort, JD)
- ✿ “A Relational Approach to Transcending ACEs and Intergenerational Trauma” (Jessica Elm [*Oneida*], PhD; Jessica Saniguq Ullrich [*Nome Eskimo Community*], PhD; and LaVerne Xilegg Demientieff [*Deg Xit’an, Athabscan*], PhD)
- ✿ “We R Native, Healthy Native Youth, and Celebrate Our Magic: Promoting Inclusivity in Adolescent Health and Well-Being” (Michelle Singer [*Navajo*], Morgan Thomas, and Thomas Ghost Dog [*Burns Paiute, Oglala Lakota*])

Throughout the event, participants connected with one other through the virtual platform’s chat bar, responded to polls, and posed questions to the speakers in the Q&A function. All of the materials were available in the conference app, and participants were encouraged to network with speakers and one another with the contact information in the app. NICWA recognized sponsors in each session.

On the second day, after her keynote address, Dr. Cindy Blackstock (*Gitxsan First Nation*), executive director of the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society, was virtually presented with the annual Champion for Native Children award by Jocelyn Formsma (*Swampy Cree*), NICWA board member and executive director of the National Association of Friendship Centres, and Terry Cross.

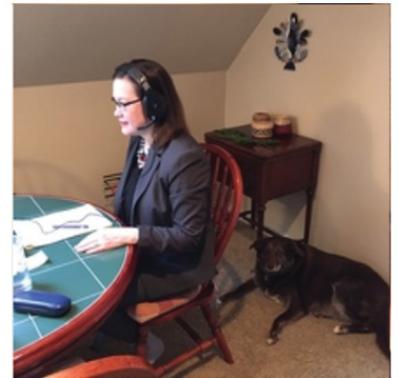
On the third day, White Bison, Inc.’s president and founder Don Coyhis (*Mohican*) gave a closing keynote, and NICWA board member Patricia Carter-Goodheart (*Nez Perce*) offered a blessing to send participants off in a good way.

NICWA’s first-ever virtual conference was a huge success and greatly appreciated by our participants, who all have access to the session recordings for an additional two months. With creativity and nimbleness in shifting to a remote gathering, NICWA was able to host the premiere national event addressing tribal child welfare and well-being, the Protecting Our Children Annual Conference.



Sarah Kastelic

My pup, Moose is ready too!
#NICWA2020



04/01/2020 9:38 AM
Posted at: Activity Feed



Elizabeth Krier

Logging into the virtual conference, view from my backyard in Northern California!
#NICWA2020



04/01/2020 9:38 AM
Posted at: Activity Feed

What attendees are saying

“This was my first conference. I gained an understanding of the issues, technical terms, and history. The heart and inspiration from all the topics motivated and helped me.”

“On Monday I was lamenting about not being face-to-face in Denver. By Tuesday I was really getting into the citations and other helpful info from the audience. Then on Wednesday I became a full-fledged convert of the virtual conference format!”

“The most important thing I gained was how community can come together and bring relevant information during a pandemic.”

“The amount of resources that all of the presenters offered was just wonderful and very, very fulfilling. I have never had input like it was from the “comments” portion of the interactive site. Real time resources and citations and contacts ... it was marvelous!”

Thank you to our generous sponsors!

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