

NICWA NEWS

Quarterly Newsletter • Spring 2022



The **LATEST**
INSIDE

*Celebrating Those Who
Serve Native Children*



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The National Indian Child Welfare Association (NICWA) is a nonprofit, membership-based organization dedicated to the well-being of American Indian and Alaska Native children and families. Headquartered in Portland, Oregon, NICWA serves tribes, individuals, and private organizations throughout the United States and Canada by serving as the most comprehensive source of information on American Indian child welfare and acting as the only national Native organization focused on building tribal capacity to prevent child abuse and neglect.

Our Mission

The National Indian Child Welfare Association is dedicated to the well-being of American Indian and Alaska Native children and families.

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Founder and Senior Advisor

Terry Cross (*Seneca*)

Executive Director

Sarah Kastelic (*Alutiiq*)



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NICWA News is the quarterly newsletter for members and donors of the National Indian Child Welfare Association. Membership is available in multiple levels starting at \$35. For reprint requests, additional copies, or other information, contact us at info@nicwa.org

Message from the Executive Director

Dear NICWA Members, Sponsors, Donors, and Friends,

Welcome to the spring issue of *NICWA News*. This issue embraces the theme of celebrating those who serve Native families. I'm casting a wide net here. When I think about those serving Native families, I'm thinking of everyone from the formal child welfare program and huge array of family support services to those community and culturally based supports focused on prevention and family well-being to relatives and neighbors who check in when they see a family struggling to offer help or support. According to our traditional beliefs and values, raising and nurturing children is a collective responsibility. I think of it as an "all hands on deck" enterprise. Especially given the challenging circumstances families face today, parents and children could use support in lots of different contexts, and there are lots of opportunities for each of us—no matter our formal role or relationships—to offer support.

As you'll read about in this issue, we're on the heels of our incredibly successful 40th annual conference held virtually in April. We engaged virtually with 1,346 of you in workshops, plenary sessions, talking circles, and our National Day of Prayer for Native Children. Our conference is a powerful reminder of the commitment and impact of the workers in our tribal and state helping programs and systems. Thousands of you have dedicated your careers to serving Native families and strengthening their well-being, intervening to stop the intergenerational transmission of trauma and creating a place for families to heal. Thank you for your hard work and for your heart for Native families.

In this issue of *NICWA News*, we celebrate those who serve Native families. We offer appreciation and gratitude for your sense of community-mindedness; the reinforcement of our connectedness to one another, including the families we serve; and your commitment to keeping children and their families together whenever it's safe and possible to do so.

With gratitude for your service to Native children and families,

Sarah F. Kastelic

Sarah Kastelic, PhD, MSW
(Alutiiq)



PROTECT ICWA

Protect ICWA

United States Supreme Court Preparing for Review of *Brackeen v. Haaland*

On February 28, 2022, the U.S. Supreme Court issued an order accepting review of the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals en banc decision in the [Brackeen v. Haaland](#) Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) case. Four of the parties to the case filed petitions with the Supreme Court asking for review of the decision by the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals, including the federal government, four intervenor tribes, the State of Texas, and private parties (adoptive and foster care parents). The Court chose to consolidate the petitions and will consider all of the questions that were before the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals. The case will be argued before the Court sometime after their new term starts in October of 2022. The briefing schedule in the case is as follows.

Briefing Schedule

- Texas and private parties briefs are due Thursday, May 26
 - Amicus briefs in support of these ICWA challengers are due Thursday, June 2

- Department of Justice and tribal intervenors' briefs are due Friday, August 5
 - Amicus briefs in support of these ICWA defenders are due Friday, August 12

Amicus Brief

Protect ICWA Campaign partner the Native American Rights Fund as well as Dentons law firm are partnering with tribal and ICWA legal advocates to develop an overall amicus brief strategy and will reach out to tribes and Indian organizations about the opportunity to sign on to a tribal and Indian organization amicus brief this summer. We strongly encourage all tribes and Indian organizations to sign on to the tribal amicus brief. For more information on how to sign on to the tribal amicus brief, please email icwa@narf.org.

About the Protect ICWA Campaign

The Protect ICWA Campaign was established by four national Native organizations: NICWA, the National Congress of American Indians, the Association on American Indian Affairs, and the Native American Rights Fund. Together, the Campaign works to serve

and support Native children, youth, and families through upholding ICWA. The Campaign works to inform policy, legal, and communications strategies with the mission to uphold and protect ICWA.

House Committee Holds Hearing on Bill to Establish Indian Boarding School Commission

On May 12, the House Committee on Natural Resources held a hearing to receive testimony on the "Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies in the US Act" ([H.R. 5444](#) and [S. 2907](#)). The [hearing](#) was held before the House Natural Resources Subcommittee for Indigenous Peoples of the United States and witnesses included tribal leaders, boarding school survivors, a tribal college president, and the National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition (NABS).

The legislation would establish a commission to facilitate public hearings on the policies and impact of boarding schools in the United States and develop recommendations on how to address issues resulting from the boarding school experience.

NICWA provided [written testimony](#) regarding the legislation: "*The passage of this legislation will not only further the process of healing for Native communities, but it also opens doors to acknowledging and addressing other ways in which government policies and practices have evolved over time and continue to perpetuate harm, including the current state of disproportionate treatment of AI/AN children in the child welfare system.*"

What Can You Do? Contact your congressional members and ask them to sign on as a co-sponsor to the Senate and House bills and urge their passage this calendar year. Visit www.nicwa.org/boarding-schools/ to find a list of resources related to Indian boarding schools in the U.S. and healing resources.

We need your help. As we head towards oral arguments before the Supreme Court this fall, the Protect ICWA Campaign will share calls to action, educational resources, events, and social media tools to rally in support of ICWA and grow the advocacy and collaboration we need to shut down this challenge. Go to NICWA's website and sign up for the Campaign's newsletter. Follow @ProtectICWA on Twitter and Instagram.

Meet NICWA's Newest Board and Staff

The 2022 NICWA Board of Directors election closed on May 31, 2022, and NICWA's members voted to accept the slate nominated at the annual membership meeting that took place during the Protecting Our Children conference. Current board members Patricia Carter-Goodheart (*Nez Perce*), Angela Connor (*Choctaw*), Aurene Martin (*Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa*), Mary Tenorio (*Santo Domingo Pueblo*), and Teresa Baldwin (*Inupiaq*) were elected to new three-year terms. Additionally, two new members were elected to join the NICWA Board of Directors, Brad Earl (*Colville descent*) and Justine Bautista (*Northern Cheyenne*). Please welcome NICWA's newest board members, Brad Earl and Justine Bautista, and NICWA's newest staff, Tara Reynon (*Puyallup*)!



Brad Earl (*Colville descent*)

Board Member

Brad Earl is the assistant superintendent of operations for the Medford School District in southern Oregon and has a background in finance, administration, and nonprofit board service, including board development work. He currently serves on the Board of Directors and chairs the Finance Committee for Access, a food bank in Medford. For more than a decade, Brad has served as an advisor to the NICWA Board of Directors on financial matters and annually as a member of the board's Audit Committee. Brad is passionate about seeing children learn and grow while valuing and protecting culture and community.



Justine Bautista (*Northern Cheyenne*)

Youth Board Member

Justine Bautista is NICWA's newest youth board member. She lives in the Portland, Oregon, metro area and makes frequent trips to the Northern Cheyenne reservation in Lame Deer, Montana, to connect with her family and tribe. Justine works for the Native American Youth and Family Center in Portland, where she also volunteers extensively, and is a fancy dancer who has always participated in pow wows. Justine's lived experience in the foster care system has inspired her to serve on the NICWA Board of Directors as well as pursue a career in social services in order to be a voice for Indigenous youth—to let them know that she has been in their position and that they are being heard.



Tara Reynon (*Puyallup*)

Child Welfare Director

Tara Reynon joined NICWA in May of 2022 as child welfare director. Tara is a member of the Puyallup Tribe of Indians and has served tribal communities for over 24 years. As a passionate advocate of Indian child welfare, Tara has dedicated her career to serving tribal children and families. In 2014, Tara became a part time lecturer at the University of Washington, Tacoma where she developed and taught the Indian Child Welfare Course Curriculum for master of social work students. Most recently, she served as the tribal community wellness division manager at the Puyallup Tribe. There she oversaw over 15 social service programs where she helped bridge communication gaps between departments, broke down silos, and built a tribal system that works collaboratively and cohesively in meeting members' complex needs. Tara is excited to utilize this knowledge and expertise at NICWA as we work together in serving children and families nationwide.

Celebrating Those Who Serve Native Children

What Does *Being of Service to Community* Mean to You? Essay Contest

The following excerpts are from the three individual winners from NICWA's essay contest for social workers. In the last issue of *NICWA News*, and throughout the months of April and May, we asked current students of social work and experienced social workers to write to inspire and encourage others to join the profession. Thank you to all the contributing essayists for sharing your words and for your service to our children, families, and communities every day.

Hon. Daisy May Barrera (*Orutsararmiut Native Council*), Tribal Judge

Service to community means to me, "Ikayucaraq," to be a partner, a team player, and to be of service to all Native and American Indian children regionally, locally, and nationally. As an Alaska Native woman, I attained my bachelor's degree in the field of social work. Three years later, I graduated with my Paralegal law degree. At the age of 21 years old I participated in the development of the Indian Child Welfare Act, along with twelve other Alaska Native social service directors. Today, to be 68 years old, within my scope as a tribal judge, I prioritize all efforts to implement the Indian Child Welfare Act. The mentors in my life to date are my "Tegaaneqs" or elders who consistently encourage, guide, and assist in my field. The best advice given to me has been to treat each individual as a human being and to carry your field with a kind, loving, understanding heart with patience. To this day, I'm honored to be a part of consistently encouraging the changing of mindsets to all walks of the earth. Our children belong within their own family unit and their community. "Where there is a will, there is a way" to make all things become a reality. •

Tina Burns (*Seminole Nation*),
Seminole ICW Worker

I see how important we as social workers are for the families and foster families. We want the very best for our kids, and we do all we can to provide that to them.

I was given advice at the beginning of my career from an individual that I had worked with. She had stated something along the lines of, "Don't take things so personally; this is not about you. The way people talk to you and treat you

is about them. Think about what they are going through. For them, they are taking out their anger on you because they see you as the enemy. You just have to show them that you are in this with them, that you understand what they are saying, and that you are on the same team." At first, I didn't understand. I could not understand how a person could talk to me as they did and how not to take it to heart.

As the year turned into the next, I started to understand the words that were spoken to me. I realized the meaning. I took that advice and use it to this day. I want my clients to see me as an equal and to see me as being a part of their team. I want to work with the client and continue to try and make a difference in their life. I want to help them get on the straight road and help them become better people for themselves and their children. I want to be able to give them a chance to see who they are and who they can be. I want them to see just how important they are and help them understand they have a meaning and purpose in this world. They do not have to continue down the path they are on. They can change, and they can be different.

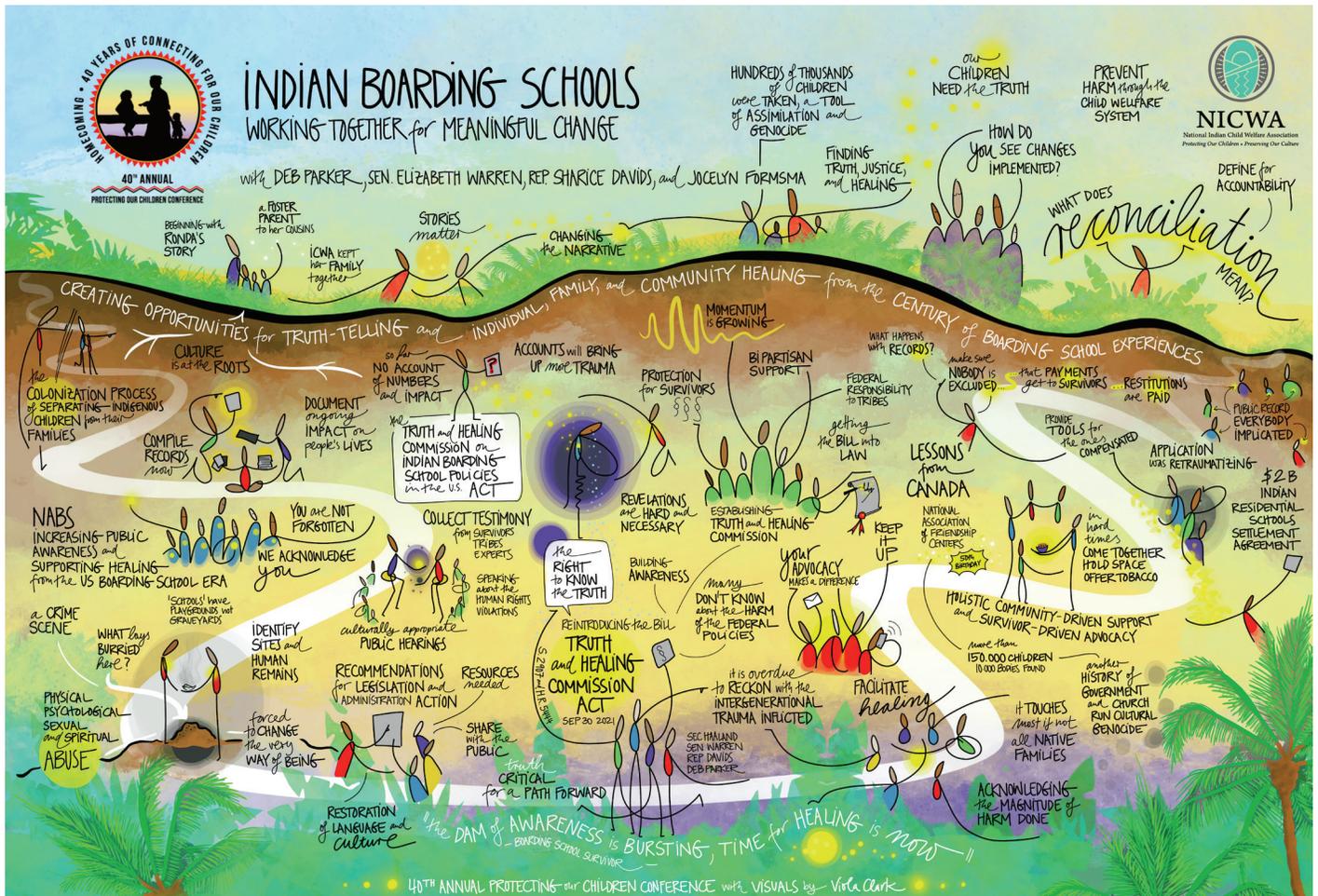
There are so many individuals that just need someone to believe in them, see them, and help guide them. As a social worker, I have learned so much throughout the years. As a social worker, I have seen and experienced the importance of the work that we do for our people and the state. I have been able to provide comfort, understanding, and support to our families. I have been able to give hope to them, and I have been able to reunite children with their parents and siblings. When a child is taken out of their home and placed in foster care, they are confused, sad, angry, and feel lost. They do not understand why they

are with others they do not know. A lot of times these children lose out on the valuable teachings their families could provide for them: knowledge of their culture, ethnicity, and race. By helping these families, we give the families hope and stability. We do all we can to keep families together.

As social workers in the field, we are advocates for our children and parents. We are sometimes the only stable person in the lives of children. Children need people that care for them, understand them, and help them. We, as a community, work together to give these children and parents what they need. We help provide services to the parents and children. There have been times that we have been the ear for them just so they have someone to talk to. We help guide them, and we do all we can to help them be successful in their time of need. •

Sue Van Zante-Peiser, Graduate
Student at University of Michigan

We are called "The Seasoned Ones" in graduate school for social work. Those of us over 50 years old may have started our careers before many of our classmates were born. Spice is our passion. If we look at how a spice can change the flavor of one roast chicken, we can choose to be paprika, black pepper, or even garlic... We try to guide people with grace and empower them to have agency over their lives, spicy or bland. It is not our choice. We are here to support them with their goals. It does not matter to me how long it took me to answer the call to social work. It matters that I am still breathing and can offer kindness. To do that with cultural humility, empathy, and curiosity is a way for me to sleep better at night. •



Pictured above is the graphic art created by Viola Clark to capture the spirit of the closing general session, "Indian Boarding Schools: Working Together for Meaningful Change," of the Protecting Our Children conference.

Champions for Native Children



This year, at our virtual 40th Annual Protecting Our Children Conference, we were pleased to announce our Champions for Native Children. This year, we awarded an individual as well as an organization winner.

Cristi Heath (Choctaw)

Cristi Heath has worked for the Oklahoma Department of Human Services for over 17 years, where she supervises Oklahoma's shelter team and several group homes, oversees a portion of the intellectual disability process, and participates in a multidisciplinary team. Cristi's primary focus is kinship, and her passion is to re-establish Native youth with family whenever possible and at every stage of a case.



Carrier Sekani Family Services

For 30 years, Carrier Sekani Family Services (CSFS) has offered culturally relevant services to children and families of 11 member nations in northern British Columbia. They operate through a community-based model that works with First Nations leadership to meet the needs of Carrier and Sekani peoples as well as non-Indigenous peoples who live in the vast region of Northern British Columbia. CSFS is renowned for its development and provision of culturally responsive and accessible services that promote the well-being and self-determination of the nations it serves.

Congratulations to our 2022 Champions for Native Children! We are grateful for your service and dedication to Native children and families.

Programs



Join the Grandfamilies & Kinship Support Network

Kinship and grandfamilies are formed out of love and necessity when relatives and friends take on the responsibility of raising children whose parents are unable to do so. Research shows that children are more likely to thrive in kinship and grandfamilies than in non-kin foster families. However, many kinship and grandfamilies lack the support they need. Too often, state and tribal systems and policies are aimed at parents and do not consider or respond to the strengths and needs of kinship and grandfamilies.

The Grandfamilies & Kinship Support Network (Network) is the first-ever national technical assistance center for those who serve kinship and grandfamilies. The Network exists, free of charge, to support state and tribal government agencies and nonprofit organizations to collaborate and work across jurisdictional and systemic boundaries—all to improve supports and services for grandfamilies and kinship families.

With funding from a five-year cooperative agreement with the U.S.

The Network exists, free of charge, to support state and tribal government agencies and nonprofit organizations to collaborate and work across jurisdictional and systemic boundaries—all to improve supports and services for grandfamilies and kinship families.

Department of Health and Human Services' Administration for Community Living, Generations United operates the Network with four partners: National Indian Child Welfare Association, National Caucus and Center on Black Aging, USAging, and ZERO TO THREE. A fifth partner, Child Trends, evaluates our work.

The Network will create lasting change for families around the country by connecting and supporting:

- Leaders in elder/senior/aging services, child welfare, disability, education, housing, nutrition, Medicaid and Medicare, and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families government agencies in states and tribes;
- Kinship navigators; and
- Leaders of community and faith-based organizations.

While the Network is not designed to help individual kinship or grandfamilies with their specific cases, they will be at the core of our work, guiding and informing it. By targeting those organizations and providers that directly

serve the families, the Network can help guide systemic reforms to support kinship and grandfamilies now and into the future.

Join the Network, and you can learn from a nationwide network of your peers and access seamless support and resources from renowned experts with a wide range of subject matter knowledge—doctors, lawyers, caregivers, social workers, and policy and program experts across an array of fields.

Participants will have the opportunity to access virtual convenings; learning collaboratives and information dissemination; targeted, specialized support; and a centralized resource hub. [Sign up](#) to access all of these supports, including interactive learning opportunities, a monthly newsletter, and other resources. You will learn from others, share your knowledge, and help create seamless kinship supports in your community—all free of charge.

Look for a summary of the June 7 virtual tribal convening for agencies and organizations to learn from their peers, create action plans to improve collaboration and effectiveness, and share promising practices and programs in the next issue of *NICWA News*.

Oregon Community Foundation PIP Grant Update

NICWA is at the halfway mark of a project to update its Positive Indian Parenting (PIP) curriculum. PIP, the leading culturally specific parent training curriculum in Indian Country, has been in continuous publication and use since 1987. The lead author, Terry Cross, is now updating the curriculum manual. The original manual consisted of two major parts including five chapters on parent training, followed by an instructional guide for eight sessions. These sections were followed by resource lists. The curriculum is culturally based both in its methodology for how to train parents as well as its content about Indian parenting approaches. PIP was last updated in 2016 when a new appendix of resources was added. To date, Terry Cross has added three training related chapters, specifying delivery approaches and guidance for in-home instruction, virtual instruction, and local adaptation. PIP trainers Lorraine Brave and Alexis Contreras are providing invaluable input on updating instructional techniques and strategies. The next step is to revise outdated discussion questions and exercises and to add exercises specifically designed to use for in-home and virtual instruction. The updated curriculum will be piloted this fall and available for use by the end of the year.

NICWA Partners with Oregon Department of Human Services Office of Tribal Affairs

On April 26, the Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) Office of Tribal Affairs conducted its first ICWA/ORICWA Summit, entitled Healing and Restoring Through the Relational Worldview Model. The core team planning the event were Adam Becenti, director of tribal affairs for ODHS, and Ashley Harding, senior ICWA manager. Both are former staff of NICWA. Terry Cross of the National

Indian Child Welfare Association and Jillene Joseph of the Native Wellness Institute were the instructors for this six-hour virtual summit. The summit was made possible by a grant from the Collins Foundation to NICWA, reaching approximately 150 participants. Terry Cross presented three 90-minute sessions on the Relational Worldview Model as a basis for child welfare practice and illustrated how the American linear worldview-based state child welfare system falls short of meeting the diverse and complex needs of American Indian and Alaska Native families. The presentation demonstrated the continuing need for ICWA and the value of having state ICWA legislation such as [ORICWA](#). The model helps workers understand why active efforts are more than a box to check—they are a vital practice to help families heal from the historical and structural challenges that contribute to child maltreatment. Jillene Joseph closed the day with a session on healing the healer, acknowledging the difficult work that direct line staff and others do daily to keep children safe.

NICWA Values Lived Experience

At NICWA we value having people with lived experience at the table. Those with lived experience—parents, youth, and caregivers who have been involved with the child welfare system—are the ones who know best about what is working well and what is not. They are the experts in their experience and have a lot of insight and expertise to offer to improve services and policies for all Native children and families; many times, they just need the invitation to the table to share their perspectives and experience. NICWA does this whenever possible, including holding panels at conferences and convenings and bringing on a new youth board member with lived experience.

As Native people we may share a history and even have similar experiences, but the paths that our journeys take are unique and give us diverse perspectives.

Adults with child welfare system involvement: At our virtual 40th annual

conference, Lukas Angus (*Nez Perce*), Kendra Mylnechuk (*Lummi*), and Daryle Conquering Bear Crow (*Oglala Lakota*) joined a panel to discuss their lived experience as children with the child welfare system and their homecoming journeys. Each had a very different experience which contributed to a rich conversation facilitated by NICWA Board Member Stephanie Weldon (*Yurok*).

Native youth: NICWA welcomed new youth board member Justine Bautista (*Northern Cheyenne*) to the board this spring. Justine is a young person with passion for her culture and helping others. She also has lived experience in the foster care system. You can read her bio on page 5.

Grandfamilies: At our June 7 virtual tribal convening sponsored by the Grandfamilies and Kinship Support Network, we invited a group of grandfamilies, or kinship caregivers, to share their experience with navigating systems that often do not offer much support to families raising their relative children. The goal was for tribal service providers and system leaders to be informed by those with lived experience so they could strengthen collaboration between systems and improve their ability to serve kinship care providers and their relative children better.

Services, programs, or policy that are supportive of and healing to Native families need to be developed in partnership with people that know those systems firsthand.

Trainings and Events

Upcoming NICWA Trainings

2022–2023 Schedule	Training Topic	Early-bird Rate
July 25–28, 2022 Virtual	Positive Indian Parenting	\$495
August 22–25, 2022 Virtual	Positive Indian Parenting	\$495
September 12–15, 2022 Virtual	Positive Indian Parenting	\$495
September 20–22, 2022 Niagara Falls, New York	Positive Indian Parenting and Understanding the Indian Child Welfare Act	\$495
January 31–February 2, 2023 Portland, Oregon	Qualified Expert Witness and Cross-Cultural Skills in Indian Child Welfare	\$495
April 2–5, 2023 Reno, Nevada	41 st Annual Protecting Our Children Conference	\$500
April 6–9, 2023 Reno, Nevada	Positive Indian Parenting and Understanding the Indian Child Welfare Act	\$495

Here at NICWA, we know that raising and nurturing children is a collective responsibility and an honor. To support you in your work with Native children and families, we offer a variety of in-person and virtual learning opportunities to meet your needs. We are excited to share our learning opportunities with you! In addition to our training institute, we also offer a newly updated, self-paced online Working with Substance-Abusing Families course as well as Introduction to ICWA. For more information or to register for these exciting opportunities, please visit www.nicwa.org/training-institutes.

“Overall, what I enjoyed most was the connections I made with other facilitators. It’s important to know we aren’t alone in this work.

The Positive Indian Parenting curriculum allows communities to tailor to fit our unique needs and cultural values. I would recommend this training in-person or virtual to anyone working with Native families.”

Celebrating Judge Jose Izquierdo and Seminole Tribe of Florida

For more than 15 years, the Seminole Tribe of Florida has partnered with NICWA as a Host Sponsor of the Protecting Our Children conference. NICWA’s executive director Sarah Kastelic noted, “I am honored by the continued generosity of the Seminole Tribe of Florida. In 2006, the tribe became a tribal member of NICWA and has grown as the tribe has become one of our strongest contributors as Host Sponsor. It is the support of sponsors that makes NICWA’s annual conference possible.”

This year, we are excited to celebrate the Seminole Tribe’s collaboration with 17th Circuit Court Judge Izquierdo.

Dependency Judge Jose Izquierdo has worked in tandem with the Seminole Tribal Court to ensure

ICWA is upheld and the tribe’s sovereignty is respected. One step was to schedule ICWA hearings at the Tribal Court on the Seminole Tribe Reservation. Conducting the hearings on the reservation was very significant in that it provided tribal members a level of comfort being in familiar surroundings at their tribal courthouse. As Judge Izquierdo points out, “Dependency court is therapeutic in nature and has as its goal the reunification of children and their families.”

Managing ICWA cases is one of the Seminole Tribal Court’s main responsibilities, and the tribe has had a relationship with the 17th Judicial Circuit Court of Florida for several years—specifically its dependency division—to do that. Dependency cases include situations with children who are abused, abandoned, or neglected and might be removed from parents. Outcomes can result in reunification with family members or adoption. This relationship began after a discussion about the hardships tribal families face in navigating court systems outside the tribe and going before judges who aren’t familiar with Seminole culture or customs or ICWA provisions. While dependency cases are ultimately decided through the 17th Circuit, such cases could eventually be transferred exclusively to the tribe.

“One of my long-term goals is to forge relationships like the one with the 17th Circuit in other counties in the state. We also hope for dependency cases to eventually be transferred exclusively to the tribe,” said Stan Wolfe, director, Seminole Tribe of Florida Tribal Court. “The information state and tribal child welfare workers learn at this [Protecting Our Children] conference is invaluable.”

Thank you, Judge Izquierdo, for your service to Native families, and thank you, Seminole Tribe of Florida, for your ongoing support of NICWA.



Seminole Tribe of Florida Judge Izquierdo (left) and Seminole Tribe of Florida Tribal Court (right)

Celebrating Nebraska Indian Child Welfare Coalition

2022 NICWA Member of the Year

This spring, NICWA celebrated the work of the Nebraska Indian Child Welfare Coalition (NICWC) during the Protecting Our Children conference by awarding the organization as NICWA's 2022 NICWA Member of the Year.

In Nebraska, the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) was not consistently applied, so in 2015 Nebraska strengthened the provisions of the federal ICWA through amendments to the Nebraska ICWA. NICWC works to ensure respect for, understanding of, and compliance with the law for all Native American children and families in Nebraska. As a grassroots collective—tribal, legal, social work, and other professionals—they have met consistently since 2008. To amplify their impact, in 2019 they incorporated as NICWC, Inc., a Native-led nonprofit organization. The mission of NICWC is to educate, advocate, and bring people together to protect Indian children's rights, preserve their cultural connections, and ensure that ICWA is respected for Nebraska children.

NICWC provides training topics that include trauma-informed care, qualified expert witnesses, cultural compassion, domestic violence and sexual assault, ICWA, worker safety, trainings for foster parents/relative caregivers, and many



NICWC
NEBRASKA INDIAN CHILD
WELFARE COALITION

more. Their main goals are to identify issues with ICWA compliance, support each other and build relationships, and improve awareness of ICWA and compliance issues.

In 2021, NICWC was awarded the Springbrook Prize to develop a culturally specific program to help tribal youth aging out of foster care access the available services and financial support

to aid their transition into adulthood. Congratulations, and thank you for your good work, NICWC! We look forward to continuing to work together in serving families. Learn more about NICWC at <https://nicwc.org/>.

Consider Including NICWA in Your Estate Plans

When you make a charitable bequest to NICWA in your will or consider other options such as IRA charitable rollovers and charitable gift annuities, you are providing lasting support for an organization whose mission you cherish while potentially enjoying tax and financial benefits. Talk to your trusted advisor today or contact Elizabeth Brando, NICWA's development director, at (315) 412-8539 or elizabeth@nicwa.org.



NICWA News

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