

15TH NATIONAL INDIAN NATIONS CONFERENCE: NIJ PRE-CONFERENCE INSTITUTE ON RESEARCH IN TRIBAL COMMUNITIES PRESENTER BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES

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Twyla is an enrolled citizen of the Mandan, Hidatsa, & Arikara Nation and President of the [Nueta, Hidatsa, Sahnish College](#) in New Town, North Dakota. She holds a BS degree in environmental geology and technology, earned a MS degree in education general studies, and a PhD in teaching and learning research methodology from the University of North Dakota (UND). Prior to her appointment as President of Nueta Hidatsa Sahnish College, she was the Director of the National Resource Center on Native American Aging based in Grand Forks, North Dakota. While in Grand Forks, she also co-founded the Northstar Council, whose mission is to strengthen and empower indigenous people through research, education, and community development with a focus on the American Indian population of northeast North Dakota. Her work is highly focused on improving quality of life for American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians. Her work runs the gamut of Native consciousness, research, and education. She is involved in groups such as the [American Indian Science & Engineering Society](#) (AISES), of which she is a Sequoyah Fellow and a member of the Board of Directors. AISES is a national, nonprofit organization focused on substantially increasing the representation of American Indians, Alaska Natives, Native Hawaiians, Pacific Islanders, First Nations, and other indigenous peoples of North America in science, technology, engineering, and math studies and careers.

DeeJay Chino, MPA
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DeeJay is an enrolled member of the Navajo Nation. She received her MPA from the University of South Florida and is currently a doctoral student in the [Greenspun College of Urban Affairs at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas](#) (UNLV). In her current position as the National Baseline Study Field Operations Manager at [American Indian Development Associates](#) (AIDA), LLC, she is working on the implementation of a study to examine public health, wellness, and safety of American Indian and Alaska Native women living in tribal communities and Alaska Native villages. Until recently, DeeJay worked on several tribal youth prevention and education programs in Nevada and New Mexico. She has also worked on several tribal youth oriented programs addressing education, policy, and health issues.

Michelle Chino-Kelly, PhD (North Cheyenne/Laguna Pueblo)
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Michelle is an American Indian researcher and educator, currently teaching doctoral level coursework at the [University of Hawaii, Hilo](#). She is also a Professor Emeritus of [Public Health at UNLV](#). Michelle has dedicated her career to promoting health and social justice for American Indians and other indigenous populations. Her work focuses on building community capacity to address the social determinants of health, particularly issues that cross health and justice paradigms, such as environmental justice and violence prevention. Michelle's research has earned her national and international recognition with multiple, prestigious research grants from the National Institutes of Health and other federal grant agencies.

15TH NATIONAL INDIAN NATIONS CONFERENCE: NIJ PRE-CONFERENCE INSTITUTE ON RESEARCH IN TRIBAL COMMUNITIES PRESENTER BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES

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Christine (Tina) is a Senior Social Science Analyst in the Office of Research and Evaluation (ORE) at the [National Institute of Justice](#) (NIJ)—the research, development, testing, and evaluation agency of the United States Department of Justice (USDOJ). Tina is primarily responsible for planning, implementing, directing, evaluating, managing, and reporting on social and behavioral research grants, cooperative agreements, contracts, and studies funded by the USDOJ. She works with other government agencies, non-profit organizations, public and private businesses, and public safety and health agencies to coordinate a broad and enhanced research agenda in the area of violence and victimization. Since joining NIJ in 1998, Tina has directed and managed a number of federal research and evaluation programs and activities. She was the Deputy Director of the former Arrestee Drug Abuse Monitoring program where she managed over 40 drug-testing research sites across the United States. She also has overseen a number of evaluability assessments and evaluations on Indian Country and Alaska programs and initiatives as well as managed numerous extramural and intramural research involving American Indian and Alaska Native tribes and citizens. Currently, Tina is directing a [program of research](#) examining public health, wellness, and safety of American Indian and Alaska Native women living in tribal communities.

Meghan Doughty, MSc

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Meghan is a third-year doctoral student in the [Department of Public Administration at the School of Public Affairs at American University](#) and a second-year [NIJ graduate research assistant](#) working on tribal crime and justice research in ORE. She is currently using mixed methods to incorporate social equity concerns into public administration. She is particularly interested in the ethical ramifications of performance-based innovation and administrative burdens. She hopes to refocus the study of public administration on its inherent governmental functions, rather than the current emphasis on business strategies. She is interested in returning public administration's focus to citizens rather than customers of government. Prior to her doctoral studies, Meghan received her BA from Seattle University in history and literature with University honors, and her MA in human rights from the London School of Economics.

15TH NATIONAL INDIAN NATIONS CONFERENCE: NIJ PRE-CONFERENCE INSTITUTE ON RESEARCH IN TRIBAL COMMUNITIES PRESENTER BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES

Christine Duclos, PhD
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Christine (Chris) is an evaluator/researcher. Her research interests include community-based program planning and intervention, information dissemination, community primary care, human immunodeficiency virus, American Indian health, criminal justice and health interface, teens' and women's health, and suicide prevention and intervention. She also is Chair of the [Colorado Multiple Institutional Review Board at the University of Colorado Denver \(CU Denver\)](#) as well as a panel member and special populations' reviewer (e.g., prisoners, women, decisionally challenged). Affiliated institutions include The Children's Hospital, Colorado Prevention Center, Denver Health Medical Center, Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center, University of Colorado Hospital, and CU Denver. Chris has a BA in sociology and a MPH (Health Administration) from the University of Pittsburgh, and PhD in health and behavioral sciences from CU Denver.

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Steven is a [research assistant](#) in ORE at [NIJ](#), one of two federal scientific agencies at the U.S. Department of Justice. At NIJ, Steven works on NIJ's projects related to tribal crime and justice. Steven previously interned for the [Great Plains Tribal Chairmen's Health Board](#) in Rapid City, South Dakota and currently collaborates with the [Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board](#) in Portland, Oregon on projects related to health communication and violence prevention. Steven is also a certified health education specialist (CHES) and is currently a doctoral candidate in social and behavioral sciences at the [TH Chan School of Public Health at Harvard University](#).

Thomasine Heitkamp, LICSW
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Thomasine is an Associate Provost and Professor of Social Work at the [UND](#) in Grand Forks, ND. She has held a host of academic leadership roles at UND over the past 30 years. Currently, she serves as the Co-Principal Investigator (Co-PI) on a NIJ-funded grant to study the impact of oil development on domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking in tribal communities and counties in the oil patch of North Dakota and Montana. Her work as a researcher and educator has been acknowledged through a myriad of presentations at countless national and international conferences.

Elizabeth Legerski, PhD
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Elizabeth (Liz) is an Assistant Professor of [Sociology at the UND](#). Her areas of research and teaching include social inequality, gender, families, and health and social policy. She has experience in both qualitative and quantitative (survey and secondary data) research methodologies. Her previous research explores the impact of forced unemployment on family well-being, low-income women's access to health insurance, inequalities in birth outcomes, and perceptions of the Affordable Care Act. Her research has been published in journals such as *Gender & Society*, *Social Forces*, *Sociological Forum*, *The Social Science Journal*, and *Women's Health Issues*. She is currently serving as a Co-PI on a three-year grant funded by NIJ titled "[Exploratory Research on the Impact of the Growing Oil Industry in North Dakota and Montana on Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking.](#)"

15TH NATIONAL INDIAN NATIONS CONFERENCE: NIJ PRE-CONFERENCE INSTITUTE ON RESEARCH IN TRIBAL COMMUNITIES PRESENTER BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES

Panu Lucier, BSW (Iñupiaq/
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Panu is of Iñupiaq and French Canadian heritage. Her professional career has included facilitating youth development and empowerment; building cross-cultural understanding and mutual respect among urban and rural middle school students, teachers, families, and communities through the development and implementation of the Rose Urban Rural Exchange; child welfare, and child abuse and neglect prevention; statewide systems development; facilitating meaningful conversations to change the lives of children using the [World](#) and [Community Cafe](#) process, and legislative advocacy to impact policy.

Rita Y. Martinez, BA (Pueblo of
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Rita graduated cum laude from the [University of New Mexico](#) (UNM) with a BA in criminology and a minor in social welfare. She has over 13 years of management and research experience working as a project/business manager for [AIDA](#). As a project manager, Rita provides important coordination, oversight, and support in the implementation of a number of research projects with varying methodologies at tribal locations throughout the United States. As the project manager for the [National Baseline Study](#) and the Tribal Youth Victimization Study she works with tribal research sites to identify interview locations and schedules, recruitment, hiring and oversight of local field interviewers including training, development of research protocols, quality control of data collection, financial oversight, and project reporting to the funding agency. As a field interviewer, she has conducted in-person and telephone surveys for numerous research projects.

Ada Pecos Melton, MPA (Jemez
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Ada is President of [AIDA](#). She has 30 years of experience in the design and management of culturally relevant research and evaluation focused on tribal criminal justice systems and interventions. Currently, she is the Principal Investigator (PI) and Project Director for two national victimization studies (one involving American Indian and Alaska Native women, the other tribal youth) funded by [NIJ](#). Ms. Melton has written numerous project reports, developed instructional and information materials, and authored articles dealing with tribal justice issues. Her public service includes work as a chief probation officer, court administrator, and director of justice-related programs. She holds a MPA and BA in criminal justice, both from UNM.

15TH NATIONAL INDIAN NATIONS CONFERENCE: NIJ PRE-CONFERENCE INSTITUTE ON RESEARCH IN TRIBAL COMMUNITIES PRESENTER BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES

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Captain Merrill is the Commander/Director of the [Alaska Department of Public Safety \(DPS\) Village Public Safety Officer \(VPSO\) Program](#) posted in Anchorage, Alaska. Andrew joined the Alaska State Troopers in 2002 and has been assigned to Fairbanks, Bethel, Nome, and Anchorage. He has worked in various assignments including patrol, investigation, and judicial services. He also supervised the remote Trooper Posts of Nome and Unalakleet as the Sergeant and Post Commander. He was then promoted to the Western Alaska C Detachment Deputy Commander overseeing the area from Kodiak to Kotzebue as well as the Aleutian chain. In his current assignment as the Commander/Director of the DPS VPSO program, he works with partnering non-profits to administer and oversee the VPSO program throughout the State of Alaska.

Captain Merrill is a DARE officer, School Resource officer, Alaska Police Standards Council instructor, hostage negotiator, and fixed wing aircraft pilot. He holds a MPA specializing in justice administration from Wayland Baptist University and a Graduate Certificate in criminal justice education from the University of Virginia. Andrew is also a graduate of the FBI National Academy, where he was selected as the session representative and one of eight distinguished graduates. He was selected by the State of Alaska Chamber of Commerce to be included in the 2015 "Top 40 Under 40," which recognizes 40 individuals across the State of Alaska for exemplary service to the State.

Brad A. Myrstol, PhD
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Brad has been a faculty member at the University of Alaska Anchorage (UAA) [Justice Center](#) since 2009. His recent research addresses both social and criminal justice issues. His recent research has focused on issues of procedural justice and fairness with police and within the courts, the context and consequences of homelessness (including the intersection of homelessness and the criminal justice system), and the criminal justice system's response to domestic violence and sexual assault. Brad completed his undergraduate training at Montana State University, and earned his MA and PhD in criminal justice at Indiana University.

15TH NATIONAL INDIAN NATIONS CONFERENCE: NIJ PRE-CONFERENCE INSTITUTE ON RESEARCH IN TRIBAL COMMUNITIES PRESENTER BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES

Lauree Morton

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Lauree is the Executive Director of the State of Alaska's [Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault](#) (CDVSA). Her work for the anti-rape and battered women's movements started in 1984 at a shelter in rural east Texas. While there, she worked as an advocate and a volunteer coordinator. Prior to being hired by [Tundra Women's Coalition](#) (TWC) and moving to Bethel in 1989, Lauree also worked in a large metropolitan area shelter as a rape crisis counselor and shelter manager. As the executive director at TWC, Lauree gained first-hand experience in working with a Board of Directors, applying for state and federal grants, engaging in political discourse, and complying with the Council's regulations as a grantee. The TWC is an organizational member of the Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault and as TWC's representative Lauree served that agency as Secretary and President of its Steering Committee. Lauree's growing interest in systemic change influenced her decision to leave Bethel and direct service. She moved to Juneau in 1994 accepting the executive director position at CDVSA, serving in that capacity for ten years. One of her primary responsibilities was to act as liaison between the Network and the Council.

The mid-nineties saw sweeping change as the [Violence Against Women's Act](#) passed Congress and the Domestic Violence Act passed the Alaska Legislature. During her tenure at the Network, Lauree established the Legal Advocacy Project and guided Alaska's participation in the national 10 State Health Initiative and the Model Code Project of the [National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges](#). She formed the Network's Training Project and the Network was a successful applicant to participate in the CDC's [Domestic Violence Prevention Enhancement and Leadership Through Alliances](#) (DELTA) prevention project. Lauree left public service and saw her mother through the last stages of Parkinson's disease. In the summer of 2007, she joined the Council again as a grant-writer/special projects coordinator and moved from the program coordinator II position to fill-in as the interim director. Lauree was named Executive Director of the Council on July 7, 2011.

André B. Rosay, PhD

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André is the Director of the [Justice Center at the UAA](#) and was a Visiting Executive Research Fellow at [NIJ](#) from 2012 to 2016. André is the PI for the [Alaska Victimization Survey](#). At NIJ, he worked on the program of research on violence against Indian women living in tribal communities and he was the lead analyst for the [National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey](#). He has tremendous experience working with practitioners to conduct community-based participatory research that influences policy and practice. His substantive areas of expertise include violence against women and juvenile justice. He has worked extensively with tribal communities in Alaska and he previously served on the Board of Directors for the Alaska Native Justice Center.

15TH NATIONAL INDIAN NATIONS CONFERENCE: NIJ PRE-CONFERENCE INSTITUTE ON RESEARCH IN TRIBAL COMMUNITIES PRESENTER BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES

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Sarah is Inupiaq Eskimo and a member of the Native Village of Kotzebue tribe. She is also a shareholder of NANA Regional Corporation, Inc. (NANA) — one of thirteen Alaska Native Owned Regional Corporations in the State, with NANA being the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Corporation for Northwest Alaska. She joined [RurAL CAP](#) in 2008 and is currently the Acting Executive Director; prior to that she served as Deputy Director at [First Alaskans Institute](#). Sarah was also an executive with [NANA](#) for over 20 years. She has done strategic planning with tribal, non-profit and Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) organizations and was a Senate candidate for the Alaska legislature on the Anchorage hillside.

Sarah attended Stanford University and graduated from the University of Alaska, Fairbanks, with a BBA. Sarah has served on a number of boards and committees that impact Alaskans including the Alaska Board of Game, Tundra Times, Alaska Native Heritage Center, Best Beginnings, YWCA, Alaska Federation of Natives Council for the Advancement of Alaska Natives, Resource Basket Advisory Council, and a variety of education and workforce investment boards. She serves in an elected position on her Native corporation board and works with Returning to Harmony, a group of trained professionals in Native family systems whose overriding goal is to restore First Nations people to a place of well-being by reclaiming traditional knowledge and values.

Bernie Teba, BBA (Navajo/Santa Clara Pueblo)
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Bernie is an enrolled member of the Navajo Nation and the Pueblo of Santa Clara tribe. Bernie has been the Native American Liaison for the [New Mexico Children, Youth, and Families Department](#), Office of the Secretary since 2003. Previously, Bernie served as the Interim Cabinet Secretary for the Indian Affairs Department and Executive Director for the Office of Indian Affairs. Bernie also served as Chief Executive Officer for the Eight Northern Indian Pueblos Council, a consortium of the Eight Northern New Mexico Indian Pueblo Tribes from 1995 until 2002. Bernie served as executive director of the Eight Northern Indian Pueblos Council and the Five Sandoval Indian Pueblos, Inc., a consortium of five Pueblo Tribes in Sandoval County, New Mexico. Bernie also served as the Director of the Pueblo of Santa Clara Economic Development Department. In addition, he has served on numerous national and state boards and commissions, including serving 13 years on the Santa Fe Indian School Board, a tribally controlled secondary school in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Bernie also served as a member of the Santa Clara Development Corporation Board of Directors, a wholly owned business of the Pueblo of Santa Clara.