

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.

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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.

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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.



## American Indian Development Associates, LLC

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### **Who are we?**

*American Indian Development Associates*, (AIDA) LLC, is an American Indian owned small business that provides research, evaluation, training and technical assistance services to tribal, state, and federal agencies, service providers, and community members seeking resources and information related to tribal justice, victimization, health and wellness, and community development issues in American Indians (AI) and Alaska Natives (AN) communities.

### **What is our challenge?**

More and focused research on violence and victimization affecting young AIs and ANs is needed to address the gaps in national studies and to learn the best study methods to obtain information from this population. AIDA received a research award from the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) to conduct the *Tribal Youth Victimization Methods' Study (TYVS)*.<sup>1</sup>

### **About the Study**

The purpose of the study is to develop and pilot test the tools and methods for conducting a future national level study on violence and victimization experienced by AI and AN youth and young adults (12-20 year olds) in tribal communities and other settings (e.g., boarding school and tribal colleges). This project builds on the work of the U.S. Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) and Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) previous work, existing AI and AN youth studies, and NIJ's Indian Country research initiatives.

The study and the survey process will be designed to measure experiences of violence and victimization that young people are exposed to or encounter as witnesses, victims, and offenders as well as measure a range of risk, resiliency and protective factors. The survey and the methods will reflect the cultural and community context and seek to understand how youth interact with cultural and community resources and services. Before the study team engages tribal partners, they will obtain input from stakeholders, review existing instruments and research, and develop TYVS instrument and implementation protocols.

In partnership with NIJ, AIDA, and several tribal communities and organizations in four regions of the country, the study team will conduct cognitive testing with 48 tribal youth to ensure comprehension. A pilot test of the final instrument will be administered with 375 youth.

### **What is the study goal?**

Our goal is to develop a research strategy and survey instrument for collecting information on the violence and victimization experiences of AI and AN youth living on and off tribal lands throughout the United States. Based on the method study findings, recommendations for a future study will be provided to NIJ, OJJDP, and OVC.

### **What type of feedback would we like?**

#### Compensation for participation in the study

1. To what extent do you feel compensation and incentives facilitate recruitment?
  - a. Does the type of compensation impact participation?
  - b. Does the amount of compensation increase participation rates?
2. What tribal/community considerations should we think about in providing or not providing compensation?

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<sup>1</sup> NIJ Award Number 2014-MU-MU-K001.

3. Do you feel the use of compensation raises any ethical concerns?
4. What do you feel are reasonable compensations based upon the complexities, inconvenience, and sensitiveness of the study?
5. What do you feel are youth and young adults' motivations in participation in a study of this kind?
6. What if compensation is not offered, what would be the estimated impact on the study?
7. What do you feel are the forms of compensation that would be most appropriate for youth and young adults?

#### Engagement of Tribe/Community, Parents/Guardians, and Youth and Young Adults

1. What are the best ways to approach tribal communities and their leadership knowing that this study is on very sensitive topics that involves tribal youth and young adults?
2. What are the best ways to engage parents/guardians to inform them about the study to determine if their child/guardian should or should not participate?
3. What are some ways to engage youth and young adults?
4. Are there specific factors the research team should keep in mind when working with all three groups (1) tribe, 2) parents/guardians, and 3) youth and young adults)?

#### Modes of Survey Administration

1. What modes do you think would work best with youth and young adults (12-20 year olds) and why?
2. Do you think the modes used should differ by age group and if so, why?
3. Do you think each age group would have access to computers for administration?
4. What types of settings should interviews take place? What types of settings should not be used for interviewing and why?

#### Survey/Interview Content

1. Which topics should be made a priority knowing we cannot ask everything we would like to?
2. What do you feel is the maximum length of the survey/interview?

#### **Potential Impact of the Study**

The primary outcome of this project will be a foundation for future research on this topic. If funding becomes available, a national level study of violence and victimization experienced by AI and AN youth and young adults could be conducted. As a result of this project:

- Tribes and researchers will have the tools needed to measure and understand issues such as exposure to abuse, neglect, sexual offenses, property crimes, hate crimes, bullying, peer and school assault, and exposure to domestic and community violence.
- Tribes and researchers will be confident that the measures are appropriate for AI and AN populations.
- Tribes and researchers will know the best ways to collect this kind of information from young people living in tribal communities and settings.
- Tribes and researchers will be able to compare tribal data with mainstream population data.

#### **How can you help us achieve our goal?**

We welcome all opinions and ideas. Any and all feedback will be greatly appreciated and thoroughly considered as we move forward with this study. If you have any suggestions, feedback or questions, please contact us at [info@aidainc.net](mailto:info@aidainc.net)



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Dear Colleague:

American Indian Development Associates, (AIDA) LLC will be holding a listening session during the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) pre-conference institute at the [15<sup>th</sup> National Indian Nations Conference](#) entitled *Together We Can Solve Problems – A Listening Session on Youth Violence Research* on Wednesday, December 7, 2016, from 3:00 to 4:30 PM PST at the Renaissance Palm Springs Hotel in the Ventura Room. The goal of this session is to obtain input from tribal leaders, researchers, evaluators, program personnel, and citizens on a NIJ funded methods study to design and test a survey examining violence and victimization experienced by young American Indian (AI) and Alaska Native (AN) youth and young adults (12-20 year olds).

There is a dire need for a better understanding about violence and victimization experienced by young AI and AN people. National level studies seldom include AI and AN youth and young adults or examine the unique issues they face. Often AI and AN communities lack the time and resources to identify and understand the problem. Ultimately, this survey, study materials, and protocols will be available for AI and AN tribes and communities to use to gather their own data and/or to support a national level study. For this effort to be meaningful to AI and AN populations, input is needed on various aspects of the research design, community engagement, and participation.

The areas of inquiry include:

***Compensation for Participation in Research*** – The use of compensation is a controversial topic in research. Some believe compensation should be used and some believe it should not for various reasons. We need your input on this issue.

***Engagement of Tribes Communities, Parents/Guardians, Youth and Young Adults*** – It is important that tribes and communities, parents, guardians, youth and young adults know about the research to be able to make an informed decision about participation. We need your input and thoughts on how to communicate and promote interest and engagement in the research process, especially with parents/guardians, youth, and young adults.

***Modes of Administration*** – Testing of the survey instrument will include multiple ways to administer the survey such as pencil and paper and computer-assisted systems with and without audio support. We would like your thoughts on the most appropriate methods to give youth and young adults this survey.

***Survey*** – The survey will include questions on: 1) Respondent Characteristics (e.g., age, gender, tribal affiliation); 2) Health and Wellness (e.g., social support, mental health, sexual behavior); 3) School, 4) Household Makeup; 5) Community Environment; 6) Exposure to Violence (e.g., self, friends/peers, family); 7) Substance Use & Other Behaviors; 8) Respondent's Victimization Experiences; 9) Respondent's Perpetration of Violence; and 10) Resiliency (e.g., cultural identity and activities, faith/spirituality, future aspirations). Your input is needed to ensure we ask the questions in the right way.

Some framing questions that we are particularly interested in getting your feedback on are:

- What tribal/community considerations should we think about in providing or not providing compensation?
- Based on best practices or experience within your community, what are some ways to engage parents/guardians, youth, and young adults in participating in the research process?
- How should the survey be administered with youth and young adults (12-20 year olds) and why?
- What are the best ways to ask important but often sensitive questions, particularly among different age groups?

We hope you will be able to attend this listening session and share your input with us and with other stakeholders. The feedback we receive will be *essential* to the success of the Tribal Youth Victimization Methods Study. All input will be considered carefully and greatly appreciated as we continue to plan and implement this study. If you are unable to attend this session, please provide any suggestions and feedback by emailing us at [info@aidainc.net](mailto:info@aidainc.net).

Sincerely,



Ada Pecos Melton,  
AIDA President

**15TH NATIONAL INDIAN NATIONS CONFERENCE:  
NIJ SPONSORED R&E PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS**

9:00 AM – 4:30 PM	<b>Wednesday, December 7, 2016   Renaissance Palm Springs Hotel   Ventura Room</b>		
9:00 AM – 10:30 AM <b>(90 minutes)</b>	<b>Pre-Conference Institute: NIJ R&amp;E Workshops</b>	<p><b><i>NIJ Research Initiatives in Indian Country &amp; Alaska Native Villages: Opening Remarks &amp; Introductions</i></b> 9:00 AM to 9:15 AM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Christine Crossland</b>, Senior Social Science Analyst, National Institute of Justice</li> </ul> <p><b><i>Tribal Research Stakeholder Guidance</i></b> 9:15 AM to 10:00 AM   Panel Discussion   45 minutes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Rita Martinez, Brad Myrstol, Panu Lucier, Twyla Baker-Demaray, &amp; Thomasine Heitkamp</li> <li>▪ Research in tribal communities and Alaska Native villages requires active and meaningful involvement and input by tribal leaders, communities, and citizens. This session will present what the researchers role is in 1) identifying tribal stakeholders and 2) gaining perspectives and input at varying levels—government, community and citizens. The session will also present the possible roles and responsibilities of stakeholders linked with research: 1) review of research proposals, designs, methods and approaches, 2) possible challenges, 3) participation in analysis of findings and publications, and 4) dissemination strategies.</li> </ul> <p><b><i>Community Engagement Strategies for Sensitive Research Studies</i></b> 10:00 AM to 10:30 AM   20-minute presentation   10 minutes Q&amp;A   30 minutes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Christine Crossland, Ada Pecos Melton, &amp; DeeJay Chino</li> <li>▪ This session will provide guidance and highlight successful strategies for implementing sensitive research on public health and safety issues in tribal communities. Information will include: 1) obtaining tribal approval and research limitations; 2) creating study samples; 3) obtaining and maintaining tribal community involvement; 4) community education and awareness; 5) explaining direct and indirect benefits to tribes; 6) responding to stakeholder concerns for privacy, confidentiality, and respondent distress; and 7) overcoming negative past research experiences. The session also will share lessons learned in governance and challenges with incorporating community participatory research into a national study.</li> </ul>	
10:30 AM – 10:45 AM		<b>Morning Break</b>	
10:45 AM – 12:00 PM <b>(75 minutes)</b>		<p><b><i>From Periphery to Center: Stakeholder Input As Data</i></b> 10:45 AM to 11:15 AM   20-minute presentation   10 minutes Q&amp;A   30 minutes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Brad Myrstol, Panu Lucier, &amp; Andrew Merrill</li> <li>▪ Presenters will discuss the centrality of conceptualizing – and using – tribal stakeholder “input” as data in their study of Alaska’s Village Public Safety Officer (VPSO) program and its impacts on the criminal justice response to violence committed against Alaska Native women in Alaska’s tribal communities.</li> </ul> <p><b><i>From Science to Practice to Policy: Effective Strategies and Tools for Messaging Research Findings to Tribal Communities by Community Members and Stakeholders</i></b> 11:15 AM to 12:00 PM   30-minute presentation   15 minutes Q&amp;A   45 minutes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Lauree Morton &amp; Bernie Teba</li> <li>▪ The presenters will share strategies used by different organizations and communities to incorporate culturally relevant and appropriate services for Native American populations and communities, including the use of research data and evaluation results to improve service delivery, enhance policy, consultation, and agreements with and for tribal nations and citizens. Real life examples will be shared on how to message research findings effectively to tribal communities and stakeholders.</li> </ul>	

**15TH NATIONAL INDIAN NATIONS CONFERENCE:  
NIJ SPONSORED R&E PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS**

12:00 PM - 1:15 PM	<b><i>Lunch On Your Own</i></b>
1:15PM - 2:45PM (90 minutes)	<p><b><i>Impact of Violence Against American Indian and Alaska Native Women and Men</i></b> 1:15 PM to 1:45 PM   20-minute presentation   10 minutes Q&amp;A   30 minutes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Steven Hafner &amp; André Rosay</li> <li>▪ Results from the National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS) show that most American Indian (AI) and Alaska Native (AN) adults are victims of violence. NISVS findings will be summarized, including disclosure and service utilization. Results will provide information that can inform future interventions and policy to support victims of violence.</li> </ul> <p><b><i>The Impact of Oil Development on Perceptions of Interpersonal Violence among Members of the Fort Peck Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes</i></b> 1:45 PM to 2:15 PM   20-minute presentation   10 minute Q&amp;A   30 minutes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Elizabeth Legerski &amp; Thomasine Heitkamp</li> <li>▪ The presenters will summarize findings from an exploratory study regarding community perceptions of the impact of oil development on interpersonal violence among the Fort Peck Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes, which are located in northeastern Montana along a corridor into the heart of the Bakken oil patch, during 2014-2015.</li> </ul> <p><b><i>The Impact of Oil Development on Interpersonal Violence among Members of the Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara Nation</i></b> 2:15 PM to 2:45 PM   20-minute presentation   10 minutes Q&amp;A   30 minutes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Twyla Baker-Demaray &amp; Thomasine Heitkamp</li> <li>▪ This session will present findings from a mixed-method exploratory study that examines the impact of oil exploration on domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking in 33 counties located in the Bakken Oil Patch of North Dakota and Montana. This presentation will provide an overview of findings specific to the Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara (MHA) Nation in North Dakota. Summary themes include perceptions regarding: (1) jurisdictional issues that create problems in addressing crime; (2) new forms of drug abuse that exacerbate problems with interpersonal violence; and, (3) a significant increase in risks for children living in homes where violence and drug abuse is occurring. The impact of oil development on community structures in place to address interpersonal violence will also be described.</li> </ul>
2:45 PM - 3:00 PM	<b><i>Afternoon Break</i></b>
3:00 PM - 4:30 PM (90 minutes)	<p><b><i>Together We Can Solve Problems – A Listening Session on Youth Violence Research</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Michelle Chino-Kelly, Christine Duclos, &amp; Sarah Scanlan</li> <li>▪ The goal of this session is to obtain input from tribal leaders, researchers, evaluators, program personnel, and citizens on a methods study to design and test a survey examining violence and victimization experienced by young AI and AN youth and young adults (12-20 year olds).</li> </ul>
	<b><i>End of Pre-Conference Institute</i></b>

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### **Christine Crossland, MA**

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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.



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**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.](#)"

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**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  
Laguna)  
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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  
Pueblo)  
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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.

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**Captain Andrew T. Merrill, MPA**  
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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.

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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.

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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.