

# MONTANA NATIVE WOMEN'S COALITION

## 2019 Spring Conference Speakers



### **DENISE ARMSTRONG – EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF BIG SKY SENIOR SERVICES**

Denise joined Big Sky Senior Services as the Executive Director October 2009. Previously she worked in the marketing field for banks and credit unions. Denise also served on the Senior Helping Hands Board of Directors for 15 years and the Prevention of Elder Abuse Board for 10 years. She graduated from Montana State University – Billings in 1996 with a BS in Business Administration.



### **KAREN ARTICHOKER**

Karen (Oglala/HoChunk) has spent her lifetime advocating for women and families, and is known for developing resources, programs, and strategies in response to violence against women and children. She is a founding mother of Cangleska, Inc., an award-winning model for tribal domestic violence response and Sacred Circle, National Resource Center to End Violence Against Native Women, the original resource center that has now evolved into the National Indigenous Women's Resource Center. In addition to working in the area of domestic violence and sexual assault, Karen has experienced working in the fields of mental health and substance abuse. She was a counselor at the Rosebud Sioux Tribe's methamphetamine treatment center, and worked as a care coordinator with Tiwahe Glu Kini Pi, a children's mental health program on the Rosebud Sioux Reservation. Karen brings this well-rounded career in her work to end violence. She has a BA from the University of Colorado-Boulder in addition to graduate clinical mental health and alcohol/drug studies coursework from Sinte Gleska University. She is a mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother, and lives in Rapid City.



**LINDA BEARCRANE COUTURE, MSW**  
**SUPERVISORY VICTIM SPECIALIST, BIA OFFICE OF JUSTICE**

A Crow tribal member, Linda graduated from MSU-Billings in 1995 with a BS in Human Services with an emphasis on crime control, social problems and addiction. She began her career at the Yellowstone County Attorney's Office and developed its domestic violence program in the early 1990's. In 1995, she was hired as a victim witness assistant where her main caseload consisted of violent crime including felony sexual assault victims and crimes against children.

Linda began her career in federal service as a victim witness specialist in September, 1999, for the US Department of Justice in the US Attorney's Office, District of Montana. Linda was responsible for federal criminal cases where victims were identified, and which included Indian country cases. Much of her caseload consisted of child abuse, internet crimes against children, violent crimes in Indian country, and white-collar crimes. While still continuing to provide services to victims of crime within the US Department of Justice, Linda earned a Masters in Social Work degree in August, 2006.

In September, 2008, Linda began working for BIA-Office of Justice Services, as BIA's first Victim Services Coordinator in District V (Billings, Montana) under the Division of Drug Enforcement. Linda developed BIA's first victim assistance program and continues to assist in the development of this program. In addition, Linda is a part-time adjunct instructor for Walla Walla University's (Billings campus) Masters in Social Work Clinical Program.



**GEORGETTE BOGGIO - ATTORNEY WITH ELK RIVER LAW OFFICE**

Georgette is located in Billings, Montana. She currently serves as a Guardian Ad Litem in Youth in Need of Care Actions in Yellowstone County, Montana. Prior to joining Elk River Law Office, Ms. Boggio served as the elected Big Horn County Attorney for two terms, where she was instrumental in forming a Multi-Disciplinary Team to improve the prosecution of sexual and violent crimes against children.

Prior to this, Ms. Boggio was a deputy county attorney in Yellowstone County Montana, and prosecuted a variety of crimes, including partner/family member assault. She worked for Montana Legal Services under their VAWA grant, and provided legal representation to victims of domestic violence. Georgette began her legal career at California Indian Legal Services, where she was responsible for assisting low-income individuals and tribes in a variety of areas. Georgette graduated from Bryn Mawr College and Stanford Law School.

Ms. Boggio has sat on the Boards for the Montana Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence and The Children's Alliance of Montana. She is currently a member of the Montana Attorney General's Native American Fatality Review Team. She is an enrolled member of the Crow Tribe.



**RENEE BOURQUE - PROGRAM MANAGER FOR THE TRIBAL RESOURCE TOOL FOR THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR VICTIMS OF CRIME**

Renee is a citizen of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation of Oklahoma. Renee previously served as the Supervisory Victim Specialist (SVS), Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Office of Justice Services (OJS), Great Plains Region (District I), overseeing the BIA-OJS- District I, Victim Assistance Program throughout North and South Dakota and Nebraska. Renee has held previous positions as a sworn police officer in Oklahoma (tribal and state), tribal domestic violence/sexual assault advocate. Renee is a contract/adjunct instructor with the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center and has traveled across the nation to provide training and technical assistance to law enforcement agencies regarding victim issues.

Renee has over 15 years of experience dealing with victims of crime in Indian Country, working on several different reservations including Oklahoma's complex checkerboard jurisdiction. She has extensive knowledge and experience of assisting victims of violent crime, with an emphasis on crimes of domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking; in tribal, state, and Federal court settings. Renee's experience as an advocate and law enforcement officer, provides a unique perspective on systems response in addressing victim's needs. Renee hopes to use her experience and perspective to raise awareness of the unique issues facing victims in Indian country.

Renee holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminal Justice from St. Gregory's University, Shawnee, OK and a Master of Science Degree in Human Resources (Criminal Justice) from East Central University, Ada, OK. Renee has worked on projects such as the Maze of Injustice with Amnesty International and has been one of the leading voices for Native victims in Oklahoma. Renee has held several different positions on many community and national boards, and has also received letter of acknowledgment from the South Dakota United States Attorney's Office for work conducted on Pine Ridge Reservation. One of the highlights of Renee's career was to receive an honoring ceremony from the Oglala Sioux Tribal Prosecutor, Tatewin Means and Oglala Lakota Children's Justice Center for service to victims on Pine Ridge Reservation.



**DR. CYNTHIA BREWER – MEDICAL DIRECTOR SANE PROGRAM  
BILLINGS CLINIC, DEPT OF FAMILY MEDICINE**

Cynthia grew up in Helena and completed her undergraduate studies at MSU-Bozeman. After medical school she returned with her family to Montana in 2009. She is employed at Billings Clinic in the Department of Family Medicine. She started a sexual abuse clinic about 4 years ago which has now expanded to include physical abuse as well. In this role, she participates in the multi-disciplinary team for the Yellowstone Valley Children's Advocacy Center.

Dr. Brewer is the Medical Director of the SANE program and is happy to share information about what we are doing as a community to help victims of trauma.



### **PAULA CASTRO-STOPS – ACTIVIST FOR MISSING NATIVE WOMEN**

Paula is a member of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe and is married to Nathan Stops. She is the mother of six children, the oldest of who would have been 26 years old and the youngest child who is now 5 years old. Paula is married to Nathan Stops and the family lives in Lame Deer. Paula's third child is her daughter Henny Scott who went missing in December, 2018. Henny was found in late December by a volunteer search party composed tribal members.

The tragic loss of Henny has necessitated Paula to attend to the grieving of her surviving children while trying to cope with her own grief. The loss has also required Paula to learn about the need for systematic improvements when persons are reported missing. It is now Paula's mission to help find a solution for those improvements and help families be heard.



### **MARIA CAMPBELL – CO-FOUNDER OF MMIW MOVEMENT**

Maria is an oral historian, writer, playwright, filmmaker and activist. She has worked as a volunteer with women and children in crisis for over 45 years and until ten years ago she had a volunteer Safe House for children and youth in her home. She is the National Advising Elder for Walking With Our Sisters

(WWOS)

Maria has published seven books, her first book, Halfbreed was published in 1973 and is being re-released this November. A new book, Keetsahnak, Our Missing and Murdered Indigenous Sisters, co-edited with Kim Anderson and Christi Belcourt, was published last spring (2018) and is available in all bookstores. Maria is currently working on a new book on the history of violence against Indigenous women based on the research she did during her three-year Trudeau Fellowship with the University of Ottawa. She is working on a new play, a collective titled The Inquiry, with Director Yvette Nolin, Law professor Marilyn Poitres and Historian Cheryl Troupe.

Maria is the Elder in Virtual Residence at the Centre for World Indigenous Knowledge and Research, Athabasca University, Edmonton, Alberta. The Cultural Advisor for the College of Law at the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. and for The Gwenna Moss Teaching Centre also at the University of Saskatchewan. She has received numerous awards and honors among them a National Aboriginal Achievement Award, A Trudeau Fellowship, a Stanley Knowles Scholarship and she is an Officer of the Order of Canada.

Maria is a mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. She speaks Cree, Saulteaux and Michif.



**TIFFANY DEAVER – SEXUAL ASSAULT NURSE EXAMINATION CLINIC COORDINATOR**

Tiffany BSN, RN SANE-A ,was introduced to Forensic Nursing in 2015, and discovered how much of an influence healthcare staff, first responders, law enforcement, advocates, and the court of law affect sexual assault victims.

She is currently the Sexual Assault Nurse Examination Clinic Coordinator, as well as SANE nurse for Billings Clinic. She works to mentor and train the SANE team consisting of up to 15 nurses and advanced care professionals. Billings Clinic provides medical evaluations, SANE nurse evaluations with inclusion of evidence collection, as well as referrals to Dr. Brewer's office. Individuals who seek treatment/evaluation within 120 hours of a sexual assault are considered to fall within the acute time frame. These individuals are evaluated and treated as per their request and comfort level. An assault victim will never be forced into anything they are uncomfortable with. A patient may always come into the emergency room to seek treatment and be evaluated, however if the assault has occurred outside the 120hour/5 day time frame the SANE specific portion of the exam will be performed in a follow up examination by Dr. Brewer in the outpatient setting.

Tiffany has been a registered nurse since 2006, and a forensic nurse since 2015. Prior to coming to Billings, she was an emergency room nurse at Physicians Regional Medical Center in Naples, Florida. She has served in other nursing positions throughout her career.



**STEPHANIE IRONSHOOTER – OFFICE OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION AND MEMBER OF NATIVE FATALITY REVIEW TEAM**

Stephanie comes from the Sicangu Lakota Oyate of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe located on the Rosebud Indian Reservation in Rosebud South Dakota and the White Clay People located on the Fort Belknap Indian Reservation in Montana.

She is currently the Caring Schools Coordinator for the Montana Office of Public Instruction (MT OPI) facilitating the MT OPI Systems of Care Tribal Wraparound Project funded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) serving Native American Youth and families across Montana.

Ms. Iron Shooter has sat on the Montana Governor's State Suicide Mortality Review team and currently sits on the Montana Attorney General's Native American Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team.



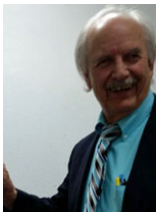


### **MALINDA HARRIS-LIMBERHAND – AWARENESS ACTIVIST**

Malinda is an enrolled member of the Northern Cheyenne tribe, born and raised in Lame Deer, MT. on the Northern Cheyenne Indian reservation. Her Cheyenne name is Sacred Water Woman. Malinda is the mother of two girls named Rosie and Hanna, and one grandson. Malinda's oldest daughter, Hanna was murdered on the Northern Cheyenne reservation on July, 4, 2013. Hanna's son Jeremiah was only 6 months old.

In Hanna's case, with no many missing native women and girls, local law enforcement was unwilling to launch a search for Hanna after she had been missing overnight. They ignored her family's insistence that Hanna would not leave her still breastfed baby, unless something bad happened to her. The family organized their own search and days later finally found her murdered.

Malinda has been a beacon of strength to her family and the community in the aftermath of Hanna's murder. She organizes walks and attends speaking engagements, and meetings with congressional delegation to raise awareness about the lack of adequate response when native women go missing. Through her advocacy, May 5<sup>th</sup> has been designated National Day of Awareness of Missing and Murdered Native women and girls. Malinda was diagnosed with cancer in September 2017 and went through 6 rounds of chemotherapy and major surgery. She is a cancer survivor



### **ROBERT LAFOUNTAIN - ATTORNEY AND LEAD PROSECUTOR FOR THE CROW TRIBE**

Robert LaFountain is a member the Turtle Mountain Chippewa Tribe of North Dakota. He is also part of the Metis Nation, receiving the highest award from them for services to the Nation for achievement in preserving Metis cultural and traditional heritage. Robert is a Montanan originally from Lewistown and served in the U.S. Navy from 1964-1968 and is also a U.S. Army veteran serving in the Guard from 2002-2005. He graduated from MSU in 1972 and then went on to graduate in 1975 from the Loyola University School of Law in Los Angeles. Robert's interest in civic service inspired him to run as a write-in candidate for the mayor of Lewistown, the eighth largest town in Montana. Robert won the election and served as its mayor from 1977-1981. He was also the city manager from 1981-1984 for Saratoga, Wyoming.

Robert has been in the practice of law for nearly 40 years and during his legal career, he has served in the capacity of tribal attorney and legal counselor for Montana tribes. In addition, Robert was a special tribal judge, tribal judge pro tempore, and acting chief tribal judge because of his knowledge and experience of tribal court systems. Robert has always been engaged in the general practice of law, including federal Indian law, and represented organizations and individuals in tribal, federal, and state court systems as well as in administrative hearings. He is presently the attorney/prosecutor for the Crow Tribe and has performed that role for the past six years. Robert and his wife Trenea have five children and 16 grandchildren.



**MICHAEL LAVALLEY - LIAISON WITH INDIAN TRIBES FOR  
SENATOR TESTER**

Michael LaValley is Blackfeet on his mom's side and Gros Ventre on his dad's side. His Blackfeet name is Apita-Sue-Ah, Eagle Warrior. Mr. LaValley is the State Tribal Liaison for US Senator Jon Tester out of the Great Falls office, a position he's held since fall 2016. He works on the Senator's behalf to improve government-to-government relations, enhance federal Indian policy, and facilitate constituent services for Montana's Tribal Nations.

Michael was raised in Missoula, MT, attended MSU-Northern in Havre, MT on basketball and academic scholarships, and graduated with honors in 2014. He participated in the George Washington University's Native American Political Leadership Program where he interned for Senator Tester in Washington, DC, then participated in the Wilma Mankiller Fellowship program at the National Congress of American Indians.

Michael is driven by the hard work and support of his parents and siblings, as well as by the teachings of his grandparents - Robert "Smokey" and Darnell Rides At The Door, who are revered elders, historians, keepers of orthodox traditions, and Medicine Bundle holders for the Blackfeet People.



**KATHLEEN LITTLE LEAF – BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COORDINATOR AT  
THE BILLINGS URBAN INDIAN HEALTH AND WELLNESS CENTER**

Kathleen holds a Master's in Social Work degree and is a Licensed Addictions Counselor. She is an enrolled tribal member from the Blackfoot/Blackfeet tribes. Kathleen has worked within Indian Health Services providing Mental Health and Addiction Treatment, Prevention and Recovery for over a decade. Kathleen worked at the YWCA in Missoula, Montana for three years as a Domestic Violence advocate and provided culturally based interventions and therapy for a Native American Women's Healing Circle addressing domestic violence issues. Kathleen has experience in working within Jail Diversion and implemented Jail Diversion Cultural Programming in Missoula county, Addiction programming, and Research.

Kathleen is passionate about the importance of utilizing Native American culture as a mode or modality or therapeutic approach in healing within different areas of need within Indian Country such as the Criminal Justice system, Domestic Violence and Behavioral Health and Addictions.



**JADI JO LONGMIRE – STUDENT, PURDUE UNIVERSITY  
NALAXONE TRAINER**

Jadi has a strong heritage of the Blackfeet, Piikani, Salish, and Pend d’Oreille nations. She was born to a Blackfeet mother and adopted into a Salish and Pend d’Oreille family prior to her first birthday. Jadi jo was raised on the Flathead Indian Reservation in the town of Polson and on the west shore of Flathead Lake. Her parents continue to live in Polson and Jadi jo and her fifteen year old daughter now live in Billings.

Jadi jo had a challenging teenaged life and early adulthood which included addiction and time in jail. In hindsight, she recognized that her addiction was used to deal with historical trauma and to numb pain. She understands that this was done at the expense of her physical, emotional and mental health. Just as importantly, Jadi jo understands that the relationships in her life also suffered due to the addiction. Eventually, Jadi jo realized that she wanted to create a better life for her daughter and herself. The road to this better life included returning to school, going to college and ultimately earning three degrees in fine arts, pre-nursing, and psychology with the goal of becoming a psychiatric nurse. Jadi jo is currently in the Master’s program for clinical psychology at Purdue University in addition to becoming an expert on substance abuse disorder.

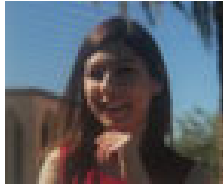
Jadi jo has also become a Master Level trainer about the proper use of naloxone, a medication used to help prevent fatalities resulting from drug overdoses. As a naloxone trainer, Jadi jo teaches first responders, law enforcement officers, and jail staff in holding facilities how to administer naloxone. Consequently, Jadi jo is passionate about the work she does and her personal mission to save lives.



**IVAN AND IVY McDONALD - FILMMAKERS**

Ivan and Ivy are Blackfeet and Shoshone filmmakers who have been documenting missing and murdered indigenous women. In this session, they will show film clips from the documentary they are working on, entitled “When They Were Here” and lead a conversation about their work and this crisis.





### **DR. JENNIFER E. MILLER - PROFESSOR OF MORAL THEOLOGY**

Jennifer is Cajun by birth, completed graduate degrees at the Pontifical Universities of the Angelicum and the Gregorian, studying as well at the John Paul II Pontifical Institute for Studies on Marriage and Family in Rome. In 2013, she obtained her doctorate from the Pontifical University of the Holy Cross in Rome. Her thesis was on Catholic social doctrine, which combined her love of the family with her strong desire to better address poverty. Former coordinator of studies at "The Markets, Culture and Ethics Research Centre," she has taught and published in English and in Italian. Dr. Miller is currently a professor of moral theology at Notre Dame Seminary, Graduate School of Theology in New Orleans. Along with courses on Catholic Feminism and Gender Identity, Dr. Miller also works to raise awareness on sex trafficking in New Orleans and to help educate young women in Nicaragua. She is presently engaged in pioneering Scriptural and cultural research for a book on "a theology of masculinity and femininity."

**TOPIC:** CREATED TO BE LOVED: UNDERSTANDING WOMAN'S DIGNITY.

Many women struggle with believing that they are worthy of love. This is especially true of women who have been abused, assaulted, or trafficked. By examining their lives in the light of being created to be loved, survivors and victims have been able to better understand their own dignity.

Quote: "You were created to be loved."



### **CARMEN O'LEARY - DIRECTOR OF NATIVE WOMEN'S SOCIETY OF THE GREAT PLAINS**

Carmen is a citizen and a resident of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe where she has gathered her experience and expertise to develop programs that serve native women experiencing violence. Carmen is a trainer on advocacy for those experiencing sexual assault and domestic violence. She is a certified trainer with the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center for Law Enforcement on Domestic Violence. Carmen has worked at providing insight on Tribal Codes in relation to sexual assault, domestic violence and the issuance of protection order.

During the year 2000 she worked as a consultant for the State Court Association in providing training on full faith and credit to Judges and court state on the VAWA provision. She has worked as a Social Services aide in a hospital setting, as a Child Protection Worker, and as the coordinator for the Women's Shelter for seventeen years. Carmen is a Tribal Legal Lay advocate for the Cheyenne River Tribal court and has served as a part time magistrate for Tribal court. She has facilitated reeducation classes for Domestic violence Offenders and also for Women's support groups and Adults Molested as Children. Carmen has served on the VAWA 904 Research Task Force, is the regional representative for the National Indigenous Women's Resource Center where she is the Vice Chair, and is on the Sacred Heart Center board, a local program that governs the women's shelter and an adolescent program. Carmen volunteers as a Guardian Ad Litem for children in the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribal court.



### **MARILYN POITRAS - CO-FOUNDER OF MMIW MOVEMENT**

Marilyn is Michif-Irish from the prairies. She is a student of Indigenous legal traditions and has worked on issues of ancestral domain or traditional territory and traditional law for much of her career.

Marilyn has worked and taught with many traditional teachers, Cree, Dene, Saulteaux, Michif and Inuit within Canada and the Pueblo and Navajo in the USA. She works within community to create, discuss and design opportunities for Indigenous participation in the Canadian politic, in rural and urban issues and on inclusion of Indigenous voice, philosophy and laws in as many places as possible.

Marilyn received her J.D. from the University of Saskatchewan and LL.M. from Harvard Law School. She worked at the University of Saskatchewan from 2004-2018 in Agriculture and in Law. In 2017 she stepped down as a Commissioner to the National Inquiry for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls created by the Canadian government.



### **PENNY RONNING – BILLINGS CITY COUNCIL WOMAN**

Having lived and traveled throughout the world, Penny's commitment to the arts, social justice, and protecting wildlife habitat is reflected in her more than 30 years of professional and volunteer service. She has initiated and helped secure more than \$20 million dollars in combined monetary, pledged, and other sponsorship acquisitions for multiple nonprofit organizations. As a business owner and resident of Livingston, MT, she successfully served as the president of the Livingston Downtown Association and has served on the Board of Advisors and Development Committee of the Missoula, MT based Vital Ground Foundation since 2005.

In 2004, she created and co-founded HATCH, a non-profit organization based in Bozeman, MT dedicated to creating a better world through collaboration and mentorship in the arts. She is the co-founder and co-chair of the Yellowstone County Area Human Trafficking Task Force, serves as both a volunteer Peer Coordinator and Advocate for CASA of Yellowstone County, and in 2013, founded OPERATION: Billings Child, a holiday gift program for homeless children and youth enrolled in Billings School District 2.

Penny is a filmmaker and nature photographer. She has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Film, a Master's degree in Business Administration, and enjoyed law school. Penny grew up in Billings, MT and, in 2017, she was elected to a four-year term on Billings City Council.



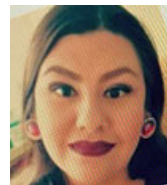
**DEBORAH RUSSELL, LCSW - HEALTH ADMINISTRATOR FOR BILLINGS  
URBAN INDIAN HEALTH AND WELLNESS CLINIC.**

Deborah is an enrolled Northern Cheyenne who is half Gros Ventre and grew up in Lame Deer, MT. Ms. Russell has been a Licensed Clinical Social Worker since 2002 and has been helping Native people since she graduated with her Masters of Social Work in 1995. Ms. Russell served as the Domestic Violence Task Force team leader from 2003-2015 and was an active SART member at the Crow/Northern Cheyenne hospital. She and her team successfully lobbied Crow legislators for a Domestic Violence law on the Crow reservation which passed in 2005. Ms. Russell also provides Behavioral Health Integrated services to individuals referred to her from BUIHWC Primary Outpatient Care and BUIHWC Chemical Dependency program. Deborah is an experienced clinician who helps individuals empower themselves to achieve success. She believes that every problem is an opportunity to better yourself!



**SHERYL SMART- PROGRAM MANAGER FOR  
PREVENTION OF ELDER ABUSE**

Sheryl graduated from MSU-Billings in 1997 with a BS in Human Services. Since then, she has been employed within Yellowstone and surrounding counties including the Cheyenne and Crow reservations. She has served as Case Manager for HRDC, Rimrock Foundation and Second Chance Homes. In addition, she has worked in the banking industry. Her education and experience allowed her to become the Program Manager for Prevention of Elder Abuse. She enjoys being Representative Payee and Program Manager for seniors as well as individuals with disabilities. She is also confident that all programs within Big Sky Senior Services serve their clients with integrity and respect.



**RIAN ST. PIERRE - CASE MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR, YWCA BILLINGS**

Rian works with individuals from Gateway Shelter and the community helping clients connect to other resources with hopes in finding foundational stability in their lives. Rian graduated from Montana State University Billings with a B.S. in Sociology and a minor in Native American Studies, May of 2017. Rian works diligently to help individuals with financial support to fund job training or educational training through the YWCA's Employment and Training Center.