2023 Doing Research in Indigenous Communities
The Sober Living Home Crisis: Collaboration for Community Action
Panelist, Guest Speaker, and Moderator

Biographies

**Agnes Attakai**, MPA, Dine (Navajo) Nation, was raised on both the Dine homelands in Arizona and the urban California suburbs. She currently works as the Director of Health Disparities Outreach and Prevention Education for the Arizona Center for Rural Health at the University of Arizona Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health. Within the College of Medicine, is Program Manager for the AZ Indians into Medicine program at the American Indian Research Center for Health and Co-Investigator for the Environmental Health Sciences for Indigenous Student Engagement (EHS-RISE). Agnes has a Master of Public Administration degree and a Public Health Training Certificate for American Indian Health Professionals from Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. She has a broad background in community health, public health education, health communication, health promotion/disease engagement, and STEM mentoring specifically in rural/frontier American Indian communities.

**Christina C. Bell Andrews** was appointed to Executive Director of the Wassaja Carlos Montezuma Center for Native American Health, under the College of Medicine, at the University of Arizona, on June 1, 2023. The Wassaja Center is an Indigenous-led framework to empower and heal Indigenous families using a culturally appropriate holistic approach. Indigenous knowledge and data will be protected through law and policy. It envisions engagement and understanding between European Centric and Indigenous systems to advance health and social justice outcomes for Indigenous peoples.

Andrews is Hia-Ced O’odham (‘Sand People’) and a member of the Tohono O’odham Nation (‘Desert People’). Her professional experience has been in government, health and human services, and education at the Tribal, state, federal, and international levels. Andrews was a former tribal leader for the Tohono O’odham Nation, whose reservation consists of 2.8 million acres and whose 75-miles borders Mexico.

Andrews is a Participant Ambassador for the All of Us Research Program under the National Institute of Health (NIH). The All of Us Research Program’s mission is to accelerate health and
medical breakthroughs, enabling individualized prevention, treatment, and care. The project aims to collect genetic and health data from one million volunteers across the United States. Additionally, Andrews serves on the University of Arizona Community Action Council Committee of the American Indian Research Center for Health, where she serves to ensure that Tribal and urban AI/AN (American Indian/Alaskan Native) people have meaningful participation in the development of relevant programs and priorities. This does not supplant the government-to-government consultation that the University of Arizona undertakes. Additionally, Andrews was a Site Manager for the Child Welfare and Juvenile Law Tribal-State Justice Partnerships program to build on the exceptional 85-year history of improving courts and systems’ practice and promoting national policies that improve the lives of our nation’s children and families, at the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ). In this role, she worked primarily with tribes/tribal courts but also with other types of courts (e.g., dependency, delinquency, juvenile drug courts, dual status).

Andrews is knowledgeable about tribal sovereignty and humble cultural engagement. She is a graduate from the Sandra Day O’Connor College of Law at Arizona State University, where she received her J.D. and her certificate in federal Indian law. Andrews attended the University of Arizona, where she received a B.A. in Spanish and Portuguese, an M.A. in English, and an M.P.H. in policy and management. She also holds an M.B.A. in international business.

**Jolyana Begay-Kroupa**, is originally from Ts’ililiyessiitah (Rabbitbrush) near Fort Defiance, AZ. She is Navajo (Dine) born into Tachii’ni (Red Running into the Water People) and born for Tsi’naajinii (Black Streak Wood People). Her maternal grandfather’s are Ti’áashchi’i (Red Bottom Cheek People) and her paternal grandfathers are Ye’ii Dine’e Tachii’ni (Giant People of the Red Running into the Water People). Begay-Kroupa honorably served as the 50th Miss Navajo Nation (2001-2002) and currently resides in the Phoenix-Metro area where she is a director of development for Phoenix Indian Center specializing in language and culture revitalization. In addition to her work at Phoenix Indian Center, she currently teaches Navajo language classes at Arizona State University and Stanford University. She has also taught for Harvard University and Yale University. Language is her passion and she is an advocate on the importance of language revitalization.

**Maria Dadgar** is the Executive Director in Inter Tribal Council of Arizona (ITCA). Maria Dadgar is an enrolled member of the Piscataway Tribe of Accokeek, Maryland. Maria has worked in the fields of Higher Education, Non-Profit Executive Management and Tribal Economic Development for more than 20 years. Throughout her career, Maria has been involved in advocating for public policies and legislation on behalf of tribal nations regarding Economic Development, American Indian Health Policy, Environmental Justice and American Indian Education.

Maria holds the position as Executive Director of the Inter Tribal Council of Arizona (ITCA), which is one of the oldest and largest inter tribal organizations in the United States. ITCA is a tribal consortium of 21 of the 22 tribes in Arizona. ITCA’s Board of Directors are the highest elected officials for each of its Member Tribes. ITCA has an annual operating budget of approximately $20M and over 50 employees and focuses its
work on health, research and environmental quality.

Maria launched her career in non-profit management as Co-Founder/National Program Coordinator of Washington Internships for Native Students (WINS) at American University in Washington, D.C. During the 1990s and under Maria’s direction, WINS was selected as one of “America’s Best Practices,” by President Clinton’s Race Relations Commission for outstanding Educational/Work experience opportunity for American Indian college students.

Maria holds an Associate Degree (AA) in Journalism/Mass Communications from Prince George’s Community College in Largo, MD, a Bachelor of Arts (BA) degree in Liberal Studies w/an emphasis on Communications from American University in Washington, D.C., and an MBA from Grand Canyon University in Phoenix, Arizona.

Mary Descheeny-Reyna, MSW works within the Navajo Nation Division of Social Services, within the Office of the Executive Director Thomas Cody. She has been actively involved since the inception of the Navajo Nation’s Operation Rainbow Bridge, which is the Incident Command Post stood up in response to the State’s AHCCCS fraudulent billing scheme that has affected hundreds of Indigenous people in the State of Arizona. She oversees the ICP headquarters here in the Phoenix valley.

Mary takes every opportunity to spread awareness to the efforts of Operation Rainbow Bridge and its Mission:

The name “Operation Rainbow Bridge” is inspired by Navajo cultural history that sees rainbows as paths of light traveled by warriors overcoming adversity. The Operation exemplifies a modern-day battle, utilizing social services, legal resources, and public safety personnel to assist Navajo citizens who have been victims of Medicaid fraud. The Operation seeks to ensure a safe journey for our people away from dangerous facilities and toward reputable behavioral health centers or the loving arms of family.

Dr. Kathy Dill, an enrolled member of The Chickasaw Nation, is the Compliance Officer for the Phoenix Indian Medical Center (PIMC). PIMC provides direct health care services to urban and rural tribal members. Dr. Dill entered federal service in 2014 with the Indian Health Service and was selected as PIMC’s Compliance Officer in 2021. She is an alumnus of Arizona State University, having received Bachelor’s Degrees in Microbiology and Nursing and a Master’s Degree in Health Services Administration. Dr. Dill received her Doctorate in Business Administration from Columbia Southern University in 2022.
Valaura Imus-Nahsonhoya, MMIP Coordinator, Tribal Affairs, Office of Governor Hobbs. Founder and Executive Director of Honwungsi Consulting Services, LLC. Previous Director of Community Engagement, ASU Research on Violent Victimization, Associate with the National Criminal Justice Training Center of Fox Valley Technical College, and Study Coordinator for the Arizona State Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples Task Force. She earned her Bachelor of Science in Health Promotion from Northern Arizona University and Masters in Criminal Justice with an Emphasis in Legal Studies from Grand Canyon University. With over 20 years of progressive experience augmented by a strong background in victim service program development and implementation, including policy development. Grant proposal writing and financial management. Effective in coordination and collaboration of major events. Subject matter expert, educator, and trainer on victim service implementation, human trafficking, domestic violence, sexual violence, Missing & Murdered Indigenous People, and other related topics. Her partnerships expand throughout the United States, Canada, and Alaska to assist with improvements of advocacy, health and wellness of Indigenous People.

Jerome Kasey III, Tlohk’aa’Dogain (Row of White Corn People) born for Iyahaiye (Mesquite People) Having Roots in Carrizo and raised in Whiteriver, was elected to his first term of District IV Council in 2014. Is now serving his second term on the White Mountain Apache Tribal Council as Vice Chairman. Went to school at Northland Pioneer College and Northern Arizona University Studied Music Education and Psychology and is a member of Kappa Kappa Psi National Honorary Band Fraternity. He is also an Honorable Discharged member of the United States Marine Corps and is also a Founder and Board Chairman of the Apache Youth Programs. He also is an active member of his church where he serves as a Youth Pastor and works to help his community and is very active with our people with outdoor activities and recreation. He firmly stands on the Word of God and is reminded daily “I can do all thing through Christ who Strengthens me”. Vice-Chairman Kasey is up for re-election in 2026.

Hosava Kretzmann is an enrolled tribal member of the Navajo Nation. However, his family roots extend to a small village on the Hopi Reservation called Hotevilla. He earned a bachelor’s degree in public health with a minor in molecular biology from Fort Lewis College. At Fort Lewis he competed for the Men’s Cross Country Team and continues to compete at the elite level. Hosava currently works for Northern Arizona University, under the Office of Vice President for Research as an Evaluation Associate. He has over six years of experience working with several tribal communities in Arizona. Credentials: Fort Lewis College, Durango, CO. Public Health and Cellular/Molecular Biology, B.A. 2018 Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff, AZ, Public Health with a Focus in Indigenous Health, M.P.H. 2021.

Governor Stephen Roe Lewis was raised in Sacaton, “Gu-u-Ki”, on the Gila River Indian Community. His parents are Rodney and Willardene Lewis. His paternal grandparents are the late Rev. Roe Blaine and Sally Lewis. His maternal grandparents are the late Willard and Catherine Pratt. Governor Lewis has an eighteen year old son, Daniel currently a freshman at Arizona State University.

Stephen Roe Lewis graduated from Arizona State University with a Bachelor of Science degree and pursued graduate studies at John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

Governor Lewis has served the Community as a Gaming Commissioner for the Gila River Gaming Commission, as a member of the Board of Directors for the Gila River Telecommunications, Inc., and as a member of the Board of Directors for the Gila River Healthcare Corporation.

Governor Lewis has worked on numerous political campaigns and organizing projects throughout Indian Country including Native voter organizing and Native voter protection in 2002 and was selected as an Arizona delegate and Co-Chairing the Native American Caucus for the 2012 Democratic National Convention in Charlotte, North Carolina and a Arizona delegate to the 2016 Democratic National Convention in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Currently Governor Lewis serves on the Board of Directors for the Native American Rights Fund (NARF), the Executive Board for the National Indian Gaming Association (NIGA) and the Board of Trustees for the Heard Museum of Phoenix.

Governor Lewis currently oversees the stewardship and implementation of the Community’s Water Settlement of 2004 (the largest water settlement of its kind in United States history). His stewardship includes implementation of the settlement and oversight of the Community’s efforts to use its water resources with a long term perspective for the Community and the State, as well as development of an innovative water storage program on the Reservation to bring back the flow of the Gila River to the Community’s lands.

In his first term, Governor Lewis expanded services for Community Veterans by creating the Community’s first Veteran’s and Family Services Department, committed more resources to protect the Community’s children by creating the Community’s first Family Advocacy Center, advocated for the protection of the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) both at home and nationally, held the First Education Summit, and the Job Fair to promote the
hiring of Community members, and actively defended the Community’s sovereignty against the expansion of the 202 Loop and encroachment on our lands and our historic and sacred sites.

Governor Lewis previously served the Community as Lieutenant Governor before being elected Governor in 2014.

Dr. Matt Meier is a Clinical Associate Professor in the Department of Psychology at Arizona State University. He serves as the director of the MS in Addiction Psychology and Graduate Certificate in Addiction programs, as well as the Co-Director of Clinical Training for the Clinical Psychology PhD program. Dr. Meier is a Licensed Psychologist and Licensed Independent Substance Abuse Counselor, with expertise in the treatment of co-occurring mental and substance use disorders. He provides training and supervision in evidence-based and empirically-supported treatments, and his research program focuses on program development and implementation. He is the PI for a HRSA-funded Graduate Psychology Training Grant that focuses on Integrated Health and Addiction Treatment, through Telehealth, for Native Americans. He is also funded through ASU Foundation and the Glen Swette Estate to develop a telehealth addiction practicum to increase access to addiction treatment services in rural Arizona. He recently completed a 5-year term on the Arizona Board of Psychologist Examiners.

Jacob Moore is responsible for the intergovernmental affairs between ASU and tribal nations and communities. Previously, Jacob Moore was managing partner for Generation Seven Strategic Partners, LLC, and also worked as an Economic Development Analyst and Special Assistant on Congressional and Legislative Affairs for the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community.

Jacob previously served as a member of the Arizona State Board of Education. Mr. Moore is currently on the board of directors for the Arizona Community Foundation, ASU Morrison Institute, WestEd, Arizona Minority Education Policy Analysis Center (AMEPAC), and Tohono O’odham Gaming Enterprise. Mr. Moore earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Finance and an Executive MBA from the Arizona State University’s W.P. Carey College of Business and is a citizen of the Tohono O’odham Nation.
Sally C. Morton is the executive vice president of Arizona State University’s Knowledge Enterprise, which is responsible for the University’s research and economic development ecosystem. Morton advances research priorities, oversees ASU’s transdisciplinary institutes and initiatives, and drives corporate engagement and strategic partnerships, technology transfer, and international development. She is a professor in the School of Mathematical and Statistical Sciences and the College of Health Solutions.

Morton’s career has spanned both higher education and industry including being dean of the College of Science at Virginia Tech, chair of biostatistics at the University of Pittsburgh, vice president for statistics and epidemiology at RTI International and head of the RAND Corporation’s Statistics Group. She is internationally recognized in the use of statistics and data science to help patients, their families and providers make better health care decisions. Morton received a PhD in statistics from Stanford University.

Shaandiin Parrish is the Chairwoman of the 25th Navajo Nation Council Budget and Finance Committee. Chairwoman Parrish was selected to serve on the 25th Navajo Nation Council by the communities of Chilchinbeto, Dennehotso, and Kayenta within the Western Agency of the Navajo Nation. Prior to her role as a Navajo Council Delegate, Chairwoman Parrish worked in the Arizona State Senate, the Office of the Arizona State Treasurer, and in the legislative and executive branches of the Navajo Nation government. Ms. Parrish also served as the first two-year Miss Navajo Nation from 2019 to 2021, the 55th Miss Indian Arizona, and Miss Indian Arizona State University from 2013 to 2014. Chairwoman Parrish is a two-time alumna of Arizona State University; she holds a bachelor’s degree in political science and a master’s degree in business management.

Michael Yudell, PhD, MPH, is Vice Dean and Professor at the College of Health Solutions, Arizona State University. Michael is a public health scientist whose work focuses on the history and ethics of public health and medicine. He received his PhD and MPH in Sociomedical Sciences from the Mailman School of Public Health at Columbia University and is the author of several books, including Race Unmasked: Biology and Race in the 20th Century and Welcome to the Genome: A User’s Guide to the Genetic Past, Present, and Future. Along with Dr. Samuel K. Roberts, Yudell edits the Columbia University Press Series Race, Inequality, and Health. He has also conducted research on autism and ethics, including a National Science Foundation project examining the ethics of community-engaged autism research. With Dr. Emery Lucey, Yudell is writing A Way of Being Human, a history of autism spectrum disorders (Columbia University Press, forthcoming). On a lighter note, Yudell performs at the Crossroads Comedy Theater in Philadelphia in the long-running improv/storytelling show Study Hall, and, more recently, at the Neighborhood Comedy Theater in Mesa, Arizona.
Agnes Attakai, MPA, Dine (Navajo) Nation, was raised on both the Dine homelands in Arizona and the urban California suburbs. She currently works as the Director of Health Disparities Outreach and Prevention Education for the Arizona Center for Rural Health at the University of Arizona Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health. Within the College of Medicine, is Program Manager for the AZ Indians into Medicine program at the American Indian Research Center for Health and Co-Investigator for the Environmental Health Sciences for Indigenous Student Engagement (EHS-RISE). Agnes has a Master of Public Administration degree and a Public Health Training Certificate for American Indian Health Professionals from Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. She has a broad background in community health, public health education, health communication, health promotion/disease engagement, and STEM mentoring specifically in rural/frontier American Indian communities.

Vina Begay (Diné Nation) is the Assistant Librarian for the Fletcher Labriola at ASU West. She graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Theater. Before professionally working as a Librarian and Archivist, Vina worked in the Theater profession for 16 years, including low budget student films. Vina graduated with Master of Business Administration and Master of Library and Information Science with a specialization in Archival Studies and Digital Information Management. Vina has dedicated her career to safeguarding, preserving, and advocating the implementation of the Protocols of Native American Archival Materials within western institutions to ensure proper care and management of Indigenous Information of traditional knowledge. Additionally, Vina has served as a Tribal Archivist consultant for Tribal communities in assistance with establishing Indigenous Archival Centers within their community, including developing archival practices tailored to the Tribe’s cultural beliefs, practices, and governance structure.
Turquoise Devereaux

I’m a part of the Salish and Blackfeet tribes and grew up in a very small town on the Flathead Indian Reservation in Western Montana. I was raised by my grandparents who always supported me and emphasized the importance of education. I graduated with my Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) from the University of Montana in 2016 and my Master of Social Work (MSW) focusing on Policy, Administration and Community Practice from Arizona State University in 2019.

Marisa Duarte researches problems of information, knowledge, and technology in Native American and Indigenous contexts, specifically Native and Indigenous peoples uses of social media, construction of large-scale digital infrastructures, and interfaces that allow for the circulation of Indigenous ways of knowing. Her work requires understanding of Western and Indigenous philosophies of science and technology, as well as Indigenous concepts of justice.

My name is Priscilla “Aumaqpaq” Frankson. I am from the northern arctic community of Tikigaq (Point Hope), Alaska. I come from the Iñupiaq people on both my mother and father’s side. For the first 14 years of my life, I lived in my community and the other 14 years I spent living in Anchorage and now in Tempe, Arizona where I attend Arizona State University. I am in the second year of my masters in American Indian Studies with a focus on tribal leadership and governance. My work focuses on many different local and federal policies that have both protected and hindered our rights as Alaskan Natives to hunt and subsist as we have done for millenia. It is very important to me that community members have a seat at the tables where policies are started and implemented and I hope to be a voice that allows for Alaskan Native recognition across the board.
Hannah Nockideneh, Diné, is Kinyaa’aani (Towering House Clan) and born for Tódich’iiní (Bitter Water Clan) from Wide Ruins, AZ. She is currently a student at Arizona State University pursuing a double major in Physics and Mathematics. Hannah has interned in two labs, one with Dr. Kirian at ASU studying microdroplet systems for BioXFEL and the other at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory with BELLA, characterizing gas densities for gas jets for the Laser Plasma Accelerator. Outside of her studies, she is involved with numerous organizations including the Miss Indigenous ASU Pageant Committee, Society of Physics Students, American Indian Science and Engineering Society, Alliance of Indigenous People coalition, and Office of American Indian Initiatives. Hannah found a passion in working with American Indian communities and promoting higher education, especially in the STEM field. Upon completion of her Bachelors degree, she plans to continue her education in High Energy Physics and hopes to offer her education, skills, and work experience to serve her community.


Hosava Kretzmann is an enrolled tribal member of the Navajo Nation. However, his family roots extend to a small village on the Hopi Reservation called Hotevilla. He earned a bachelor’s degree in public health with a minor in molecular biology from Fort Lewis College. At Fort Lewis he competed for the Men’s Cross Country Team and continues to compete at the elite level. Hosava currently works for Northern Arizona University, under the Office of Vice President for Research as an Evaluation Associate. He has over six years of experience working with several tribal communities in Arizona. Credentials: Fort Lewis College, Durango, CO, Public Health and Cellular/Molecular Biology, B.A. 2018 Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff, AZ, Public Health with a Focus in Indigenous Health, M.P.H. 2021.
Cecilia Marek is a Gender Studies PhD student at Arizona State University. She is from Lapwai, Idaho and Flagstaff, Arizona. She is Dził t'ahnnii (Diné/Navajo), born for Nimiipuu (Nez Perce). Her maternal grandfather was Hopi and her paternal grandfather was Bohemian-Italian. She holds two B.S. degrees in Applied Indigenous Studies and Political Science, and a Graduate Certificate in Ethnic Studies from Northern Arizona University. Cecilia earned a master’s degree in American Indian Studies - Indigenous Rights and Social Justice from ASU in 2020. Her research interests include Indigenous feminisms, Indigenous women’s leadership in activism and resistance movements, and Indigenous resurgence and futurities.

Alycia de Mesa’s lineage is as a fourth generation of Arizona and a mixed-race American of Mexican, Apache of Chihuahua, MX, Japanese, British-German descent. She is a PhD candidate in Human and Social Dimensions of Science and Technology in the School for the Future of Innovation in Society, a Senior Global Futures Scholar for the Julie Ann Wrigley Global Futures Laboratory, UNESCO Inclusive Policy Lab expert, and Indigenous Education Specialist for the Melon Foundation funded Firekeeper’s Initiative (Firekeepers: Building Archival Data Sovereignty through Indigenous Memory Keeping) through Labriola, National American Indian Data Center at ASU.

Alycia is pursuing her Human and Social Dimensions of Science and Technology (PhD) doctoral degree from ASU School for the Future of Innovation in Society, where she is exploring the ethics and boundaries of Indigenous storytelling and counter mapping in context to emerging technologies and smartphones for traditional ecological knowledge restoration within borderlands Indigenous communities.

Jacob Moore is responsible for the intergovernmental affairs between ASU and tribal nations and communities. Previously, Jacob Moore was managing partner for Generation Seven Strategic Partners, LLC, and also worked as an Economic Development Analyst and Special Assistant on Congressional and Legislative Affairs for the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community.

Jacob previously served as a member of the Arizona State Board of Education. Mr. Moore is currently on the board of directors for the Arizona Community Foundation, ASU Morrison Institute, WestEd, Arizona Minority Education Policy Analysis Center (AMEPAC), and Tohono O’odham Gaming Enterprise. Mr. Moore earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Finance and an Executive MBA from the Arizona State University’s W.P. Carey College of Business and is a citizen of the Tohono O’odham Nation.
Darryl Reano is an assistant professor in the School of Earth and Space Exploration. Reano's research is focused on creating culturally relevant educational environments using Indigenous research frameworks. Before joining ASU, Reano was a postdoctoral associate in the STEM Transformation Institute at Florida International University.

Heaven Sepulveda, an enrolled member of the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, is in her second year in the Leadership and Innovation program in the Mary Lou Fulton Teachers College at ASU. Her research focus is on language revitalization and culture preservation of the O'odham and Piipaash. Researching within the Salt River Schools district, Heaven will create an innovation that will cater to non-Native educators working with Native students to incorporate language and culture within their classrooms. As a parent to two children that were within the Salt River School District and a current board member of Salt River Schools, Heaven is deeply committed to the youth of Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community.

Christopher Sharp, M.S.W, M.P.A, is a Clinical Assistant Professor and the Director of Office of American Indian Projects, within the School of Social Work at the Arizona State University. He is of the Mohave tribe, descendant of the Frog Clan (Bouh'th) and a citizen of the Colorado River Indian Tribes. He teaches courses as a professor, serves as a field liaison to students in Tribal and urban American Indian-serving field placement settings, and is the advisor for the American Indian Social Work Student Association. He earned his B.S. in American Indian Studies, Master of Social Work, and Master of Public Administration at ASU. Chris serves on the National Advisory Committee for the FRIENDS CB-CAP technical assistance center, the Governing Council of the Indigenous and Tribal Social Work Educators Association, as Secretary of the Native American Connections Board of Directors, and is a member of the Council on Social Work Education and National Indian Child Welfare Association.
Elishua Shepherd is a senior undergraduate student majoring in Earth and Space Exploration (Geological Sciences). His main goal is to become a tenured professor of geology at a tribal college after working in research or industry. In his time off, he enjoys playing guitar and spending time with his family.

Jessica Solyom is an Assistant Research Professor in the School of Social Transformation. She is Affiliate Faculty at the Center for Indian Education where she has helped co-direct and co-design culturally relevant, respectful, and responsive education programs and research for Indigenous communities. Dr. Solyom brings with her a wealth of knowledge about Indigenous education, sovereignty and self-determination, culturally respectful research practices, critical culturally responsive education, and team building. Her research focuses on equity, belonging, and education justice particularly for Indigenous, Latino, and other historically underserved student populations and has been featured in various academic journal outlets including the Journal of American Indian Education, Theory into Practice, the American Journal of Education. She is the co-author of Postsecondary Education for American Indian and Alaska Natives: Higher Education for Nation Building and Self-Determination (San Francisco: Jossey-Bass).

Previously Dr. Solyom served as Associate Director of the Center for Gender Equity in Science and Technology (CGEST) where she helped direct and design culturally responsive research and programming to increase DEIB in STEM for girls of color - particularly Indigenous learners in the US. Currently, she serves as Assistant Research Professor in the School of Social Transformation where she teaches doctoral-level courses for the Women & Gender Studies program and Master in Indigenous Education Program. She is the co-creator of CGEST’s CompuGirls: Cybersecurity Warriors program which prepares Indigenous girls in the U.S. and Hawaii to become thought leaders in STEM. Dr. Solyom earned her Bachelor of Science and Master of Arts degrees in Interpersonal Communication and Critical Cultural Studies from the University of Utah.
Alex Soto (Tohono O'odham) is director of the Labriola National American Indian Data Center at Arizona State University (ASU) Library. Under his leadership, the Labriola Center has developed and implemented culturally informed library services, expanded its personnel four-fold, and re-established its physical locations as culturally safe spaces for Indigenous library users. Alex co-authored ASU Library’s first land acknowledgement statement, is the recipient of the Society of American Archivists 2022 Archival Innovator Award, and recently was awarded a $1 million grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation for “Firekeepers: Building Archival Data Sovereignty through Indigenous Memory Keeping,” a three-year project to preserve Indigenous knowledge through community-based participatory archival partnerships with Arizona’s Tribal communities. Alex’s journey to librarianship comes after years of success as a touring hip-hop musician and activist.

Dalavai Surveyor is an undergraduate student attending ASU and is in her third year of the Biochemistry bachelor’s program, and has begun work in her two minors: Criminology and Criminal Justice and Biological Sciences. She is from the Navajo, Hopi, and Cheyenne Arapaho tribes, and grew up in the Four Corners. Before attending Arizona State University, she was a student at Estrella Mountain Community College and Mesa Community College in Phoenix. She has done work with several native-led organizations that focused on the future of native youths and higher education. As of 2023, she is continuing her work in the Research on Violent Victimization (ROVV) Lab at ASU led by Director Kate Fox to disseminate information on the MMIP/MMIW epidemic and will continue to do so.