

MINNESOTA INDIAN WOMEN'S SEXUAL ASSAULT COALITION'S

RESTORING THE SACRED TRAILS OF OUR GRANDMOTHERS

18TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE



SEVEN GENERATIONS ENDING SEXUAL VIOLENCE

April 22-24, 2025

CROWNE PLAZA HOTEL | BLOOMINGTON, MN



MIWSAC
Minnesota Indian Women's
Sexual Assault Coalition





On behalf of the Minnesota Indian Women's Sexual Assault Coalition, I am honored to welcome you to our annual statewide conference: Restoring the Sacred Trails of Our Grandmothers: Seven Generations Ending Sexual Violence.

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month, and this year, we are uplifting our voices to end sexual violence in Minnesota. We look forward to connecting and learning from all of the incredible presenters and participants. This conference is a collaborative effort of the Minnesota Indian Women's Sexual Assault Coalition and Men As Peacemakers. Many hours of hard work go into the planning and preparation of this event, and I want to express my most heartfelt gratitude to the everyone who participated in the planning of this event! I am also deeply grateful to the Circle Keepers, the volunteers, the MIWSAC staff, and the presenters for taking the time to help us make this conference a success.

The theme of this year's conference is *Seven Generations Ending Sexual Violence*. We are excited to have presenters and attendees from many different communities and movements as we learn about lessons and new ways of using our voices to respond to and end sexual violence in tribal communities. We hope you learn something new, take home some new tools and strategies, make new connections, and leave feeling renewed and refreshed.

The first night of the conference you will enjoy a night of fun and laughter at our Self-Care Carnival; which will be a fun and entertaining "Be The Star You Are!" themed event hosted by the Men as Peacemakers team. On our second night, we are excited to dance with all of you at our Annual Pow Wow, where we honor victims of sexual and domestic violence, survivors of trafficking, and our Murdered and Missing Indigenous Relatives. While you are here, please spend some time talking with somebody new, catching up with friends, and learning from one another. Our best ideas and support come from one another, and we are so glad you are here!

Nicole Matthews

MIWSAC Executive Director



MIWSAC

Minnesota Indian Women's
Sexual Assault Coalition

**Creating Safety
and Justice for
Native Women
Through the
Teachings of Our
Grandmothers**

The Minnesota Indian Women's Sexual Assault Coalition (MIWSAC) is a statewide Tribal coalition and national Tribal technical assistance provider. MIWSAC has worked since 2001 to end gender-based violence and enhance Tribal, state, and federal responses to sexual violence and sex trafficking.

MIWSAC uses culturally based training, technical assistance, strategies, resources, tools, and a wide range of events and activities to engage and support survivors of sexual violence, advocates, service providers, community, and allies that are working to end sexual violence and sex trafficking across Minnesota's 11 federally recognized Tribal Nations, urban Native bases, and Tribal communities across the country.

39

**Membership
Programs in
Minnesota**

94

**Individual
Coalition
Members**

**40-Hour
Native-Focused
Sexual Assault
Advocacy
Training**

- Annual Statewide Conference & Pow-Wow Honoring Survivors
- Annual Aligning Our Vision Gatherings
- Sustaining our Advocacy Advocate Retreats
- Annual Membership and Quarterly Coalition Meetings
- Native Mens' Sexual Violence Prevention Toolkit
- Solidarity Shawl Project
- Annual February 14th MMIWR March
- National MMIWG/R Day every May 5th
- MIWSAC Sacred Sisters Tea Blend
- Webinars, Trainings, and Virtual Gatherings
- Culturally-specific Public Service Announcements
- Publicly available culturally meaningful resources
- Collaboration and Engagement with communities



**NEWSLETTER
SIGNUP**

WWW.MIWSAC.ORG



MEMBERSHIP@MIWSAC.ORG

**570 N. Asbury St.
St Paul, MN 55104
651-646-4800
1-877-995-4800**



MIWSAC CIRCLE KEEPERS

Tara Lewis, Keeper of Traditional Ways | **Sarah Curtiss**, Keeper of Records

Kimberly Bollig | **Jolene Crosswhite** | **Kaitlyn Grenier** | **Anne Haines Holy Eagle**

Crystal James | **Guadalupe Lopez** | **Kateri O'Keefe**

Circle Keeper Responsibilities:

Embody and Cultivate the Matriarchy:

Uphold the highest standard of attendance, timeliness, and adherence to tribally grounded decision making, where each voice matters, is heard and respected.

Circle Keeper Leadership and Development:

Support and engage in decolonizing strategies and liberatory practices to end gender-based violence. Participate in planning and approving long-range plans with Staff and Membership.

Hiring and Supervision of the Executive Director:

Hire the Executive Director. Evaluate their performance annually. Support the Director in maintaining a healthy organization.

Financial Oversight, Care and Compliance:

Work with staff to prepare financial reports, budgets, and ensure sound fiscal oversight, adherence to tribal, state and federal laws, and responsibility to MIWSAC.

Culturally Honoring Ambassadorship:

Represent MIWSAC as a Native woman-led, survivor-centered organization in the community, with funders, tribal leadership, and other stakeholders.





MIWSAC STAFF

Administration

Nicole Matthews | Chief Executive Officer
Linda Thompson | Chief Operations Officer
Kathy Sullivan | Finance Director
Jennifer Scoggin | Operations Coordinator
Morgan Hawes | Data, Grants, & Knowledge Coordinator
Annabel Young | Marketing & Communications Director

State Tribal Coalition

Cristine Davidson | Prevention & Education Director
Naida Medicine Crow | State Policy & Outreach Coordinator
Lisa Iyotte | Membership & Program Services Coordinator

National Training & Technical Assistance

Becki Jordan | National Projects Director
Shayla Beaumont | T/TA Coordinator
Stephanie Bridwell | T/TA Coordinator
Deb Bush | T/TA Coordinator
Afton Delgado | T/TA Coordinator
April Russell | T/TA Coordinator
Ingrid Anderson | National Policy Director
Melissa Skeet | MMIP Project Coordinator



CONFERENCE

GENERAL INFORMATION



Check-In and Registration

Attendees should check-in at the registration table outside the AiRES Ballroom to receive name badges and other materials on **Tuesday, April 22 from 7am-8:30am**. MIWSAC Staff and Conference volunteers will be available at the registration table throughout the conference for additional questions or needs for assistance that may come up.

Safe Persons

The topics addressed and the content shared during this conference may trigger unexpected or overwhelming emotional responses from participants. For that reason, safe persons have been identified and will be available to assist throughout the conference.

If you want to talk with a safe person please seek out individuals with a YELLOW RIBBON attached to their name badge and they will meet with you privately and confidentially.

Conference Evaluations & Door Prizes

Please complete an evaluation form at the conclusion of each workshop and/or keynote presentation and give them to the room moderator or leave them on your table. We sincerely appreciate your feedback as it helps us in our planning for future conferences and events. Each participant will be given a ticket on the last day when they turn in their overall evaluation, and there will be drawings for various donated items. You must be present to win.

Cell Phones

As a courtesy to presenters and conference attendees, please turn your cell phones to vibrate or silent for the duration of the conference.

Vendors

Vendor booths are located in Ballroom V, and will be open throughout the conference.

Self-Care Carnival

There will be a “Be The Star You Are!” themed Self-Care Carnival in the AiRE Ballroom on Tuesday evening from 7pm-10pm in the AiRE Ballroom. Dress up in what makes you feel like your best self, and join us for an evening of fun and relaxation!

Pow Wow

There will be a Pow Wow to Honor Survivors in the AiRE Ballroom on Wednesday evening from 7pm to 10pm. Registration will begin at 6pm. We will have an Honor Song for Native victims and survivors of domestic and sexual violence, victims of trafficking, and Murdered and Missing Indigenous Relatives. All are welcome!

Photos & Media

We will be taking photos and video throughout the conference. You should have signed a media release when registering. If you did NOT sign the media waiver, and do not wish to be in photos or video, please notify MIWSAC staff.

POLICY ON CREATING A SAFE AND SUPPORTIVE SPACE FOR THOSE GATHERING AND/OR WORKING TO END SEXUAL VIOLENCE



This policy is grounded in the mission and philosophy of MIWSAC and is guided by the diverse tribal traditions and voices represented in the coalition. It provides a guideline on how to respond when known or suspected harm-doers are identified at MIWSAC events.

MIWSAC understands that most sexual violence is perpetrated against women, children, and other targeted groups such as our Two Spirit/LGBTQIA+ relatives, and folks with visible or invisible disabilities.

Perpetrators of sexual harm can be anyone; law enforcement, tribal council members, spiritual practitioners, or other professionals. Perpetrators can also be our sons, brothers, uncles, grandfathers, fathers, or cousins. They can be strangers, or neighbors, or someone we know. Less frequently, they can be women relatives or other females. Harm-doers can also be someone the community holds in high regard, and it can be difficult to believe they would cause harm, particularly because they do not hurt every person around them. They tend to blame the victim, deny that a sexual assault occurred, claim it was consensual, or attempt to discredit the victim(s) and their supporters. MIWSAC does not support this.

Regardless of who they are, committing an act of sexual harm is a crime, an act of violence upon our community, and it is the philosophy of MIWSAC to always believe the victim.

MIWSAC recognizes that harm-doers can be everywhere, and we cannot know the background of every individual that attends our events. We will however, make good faith efforts to protect victim safety at all MIWSAC events.

Policy Steps:

1. MIWSAC will include language in conference or event materials that states: “MIWSAC reserves the right, due to victim safety, to ask somebody to leave.”
2. A response team of three people (Staff, Circle Keeper, and/or coalition member) will be identified to respond if a situation arises. One alternative will also be identified.
3. The team will talk with the hotel/event staff prior to any event to inform them of our policy in the event that security is needed.
4. If a known or identified offender/perpetrator/harm-doer attends or attempts to attend a MIWSAC event, they will be immediately asked to leave by the team.
5. If they are unwilling to leave, security and/or law enforcement will be called to assist.
6. If the harm-doer is a relative of one of the members of the identified team, they will be replaced with the alternative team member.
7. The incident will be documented, adhering to confidentiality of the victim(s).
8. A debrief will be held afterward to review how the process can be improved.
9. MIWSAC places high value on transparency with the event participants and community, and we welcome all feedback.

RESTORING THE SACRED TRAILS OF OUR GRANDMOTHERS

**ORIGINAL DREAM & VISION BY:
ARLENE DOWNWIND-WHITE**

2007

IN SEARCH OF SAFETY FROM SEXUAL VIOLENCE



2008

COMMUNITIES HEALING FROM SEXUAL VIOLENCE



2009

COMMUNITIES DEMANDING JUSTICE FROM SEXUAL VIOLENCE



2012

**STRENGTHENING OUR CIRCLE
TO END SEXUAL VIOLENCE**



2013

**SEEKING SOLUTIONS TO
END SEXUAL VIOLENCE**



2017

BUILDING A LEGACY OF STRATEGIC ACTIVISM



2018

PATHWAYS TO ENDING GENDER BASED VIOLENCE



HERSTORY OF OUR CONFERENCE THEMES & ARTWORK

2010

**COMMUNITIES MOBILIZING
AGAINST SEXUAL VIOLENCE**



2011

**RETURNING TO OUR TRADITIONS
TO END SEXUAL VIOLENCE**



2014

**OPPRESSION INFORMED STRATEGIES
TO END SEXUAL VIOLENCE**



2015

**IGNITING THE COMMUNITY FIRE
TO END SEXUAL VIOLENCE**



2016

**FEEDING THE 10 YEAR FIRE TO
END SEXUAL VIOLENCE**



2019

**WEAVING OUR WISDOM TO END
GENDER BASED VIOLENCE**



2023

**EMERGING WITH NEW VISIONS TO
END SEXUAL VIOLENCE**



2024

**RAISING OUR VOICES TO END SEXUAL
VIOLENCE**



**2020 & 2021 CANCELLED DUE TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC
2022 - TENDING TO OUR ROOTS (VIRTUAL)**

WWW.MIWSAC.ORG

ABOUT THE ARTIST



JUANITA BLACKHAWK

Juanita Steenerson Blackhawk was born in the Ada Hospital in Ada Minnesota. She is one of four children—two sisters and 1 brother—and she is the youngest of the four. Juanita and her siblings were separated and raised in different homes. Juanita was in Halstad, MN up until the age of 4—she was adopted and moved to Washington State with her adoptive parents at the age of 14. Juanita left them at the age of 15 and lived in 3 foster homes. She kept in contact with the 3rd set of foster parents all these years.

When she was 18, Juanita moved back to Minnesota and would alternate her living between Washington state and Minnesota for many years. In 1985, she overcame a heroin addiction and in 1990 she let go of alcohol. She has been involved in the Midewiwin lodge and has made spiritual life apart of her everyday being. Juanita has been an active AIM member since she was a young woman and remains active today.

A survivor of family violence, the foster care system and adoption and sexual violence she has used her survival and healing to support and help many other people. She has been an advocate before there was organized and funded programming and services. On April 28th 2003, she participated in the “Vagina Monologues” and has been a part of the Minnesota Indian Womens Sexual Assault Coalition since 2003!

Juanita uses her artistic talent as a way of healing expression— her work has been displayed throughout Indian Country. Her pride and joy is her children as she is the proud mother to one son, and her bonus children include two more sons, and two daughters— she is also the grandmother to eleven grandchildren and the beloved cherished auntie to many people.





HONORING SURVIVORS TRADITIONAL POW-WOW

RESTORING THE SACRED TRAILS OF OUR GRANDMOTHERS:
SEVEN GENERATIONS ENDING SEXUAL VIOLENCE

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23, 2025

CROWNE PLAZA HOTEL
3 APPLETREE SQUARE
BLOOMINGTON, MN 55425

6:00pm: Registration
7:00pm: Grand Entry
10:00pm: Traveling Song

HOST DRUM: SOUTHERN BOYZ
EMCEE: CROW BELLCOURT
ARENA DIRECTOR: HOKIE CLAIRMONT
HEAD MAN DANCER: DENNIS GILBERT
HEAD WOMAN DANCER: HOLLY HENNING

Featuring Red Solidarity Shawls with purple and teal fringe to honor survivors of domestic and sexual violence, folks who have been trafficked or used in prostitution, and those who are missing and murdered across Turtle Island.

DANCE SPECIALS

**POWWOW COMMITTEE
SPECIAL**

POTATO DANCE:
1ST PLACE \$40
2ND PLACE \$20
3RD PLACE GETS POTATOES!



THIS IS A SAFE SPACE HONORING SURVIVORS OF VIOLENCE. ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND.

Be The Star You Are!

a self care carnival by:



MEN AS PEACEMAKERS

**AIRE
BALLROOM
7-9PM**

**APRIL
22ND**

**FOOD
GAMES
CRAFTS
& MORE**

**DRESS IN WHAT MAKES YOU FEEL
LIKE YOUR BEST SELF!**

CONFERENCE

AGENDA AT A GLANCE



MONDAY, APRIL 21, 2025

TIME	ACTIVITY	ROOM/LOCATION
3pm	Participants can check in to rooms	
7pm-10pm	Conference Registration	AiRE Ballroom Foyer

TUESDAY, APRIL 22, 2025

TIME	ACTIVITY	ROOM/LOCATION
7am	Conference Registration	AiRE Ballroom Foyer
8:30am	Traditional Welcome Conference Opening & Welcome	AiRE Ballroom
9:15am	Opening Plenary	AiRE Ballroom
10:45am	BREAK!	
11am	Morning Workshops	Rooms vary by workshop. See full conference agenda



CONFERENCE

AGENDA AT A GLANCE



TUESDAY, APRIL 22, 2025

TIME	ACTIVITY	ROOM/LOCATION
12:30pm	LUNCH (on your own)	
12:30pm	BREAK!	
2pm	Afternoon Workshops	Rooms vary by workshop. See full conference agenda
3:30pm	BREAK!	
3:45pm	Afternoon Plenary	AiRE Ballroom
5pm	DINNER (on your own)	
7pm	Self-Care Carnival!	AiRE Ballroom



CONFERENCE

AGENDA AT A GLANCE

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23, 2025



TIME	ACTIVITY	ROOM/LOCATION
9am	Morning Plenary	AiRE Ballroom
10:45am	BREAK!	
11am	Morning Workshops	Rooms vary by workshop. See full conference agenda
12:30pm	LUNCH (on your own)	
2pm	Afternoon Workshops	Rooms vary by workshop. See full conference agenda
3:30pm	BREAK!	
3:45pm	Afternoon Plenary	AiRE Ballroom
5pm	DINNER (on your own)	
7pm	Honoring Survivors Pow-Wow	AiRE Ballroom



CONFERENCE

AGENDA AT A GLANCE

THURSDAY, APRIL 24, 2025

TIME	ACTIVITY	ROOM/LOCATION
8am	Morning Movement	AiRE Ballroom
9am	Closing Plenary	AiRE Ballroom
	Return Evaluations/Door Prizes	AiRE Ballroom
11am	Traveling Song and Closing	AiRE Ballroom

**PARTICIPANTS MUST CHECK OUT BY 11:00AM*

SAFE JOURNEYS AND THANK YOU ALL FOR JOINING US!



FULL CONFERENCE AGENDA



DAY ONE	TUESDAY, APRIL 22, 2025
7am - 8am	Conference Check-in & Vendor Booths Open
8:30am - 9:15am AiRE Ballroom	Traditional Welcome Conference Opening and Welcome Nicole Matthews (Anishinaabe), <i>MIWSAC</i> Sarah Curtiss (Anishinaabe), <i>Men as Peacemakers</i>
9:15am-10:45am	Opening Plenary: Panel of the Founders of MIWSAC
Panel of the Founders of MIWSAC: How to Get Things Done! AiRE Ballroom	Bonnie Clairmont, Eileen Hudon, Sandy Davidson, Marcia Kitto The Minnesota Indian Women's Sexual Assault Coalition- the 1st coalition to focus specifically on sexual violence against Native women and children- became a 501c3 in 2001, but the groundwork had been done for many years by Native women Advocates who were frustrated by poor responses to victims, and the non-existence of culturally meaningful services or resources. This Panel of powerful grandmother Advocates will share the journey of MIWSAC, the power of the matriarchy, and the importance of ongoing survivor-centered grassroots advocacy.
10:45am-11am	BREAK
11am-12:30pm	MORNING BREAKOUT SESSIONS - DAY ONE
Weaving Grandmothers Rug AiRE Ballroom	Esther Humphrey (Leech Lake) Have you ever wondered what you can do with all of your old t-shirts, bedsheets, or scrap fabrics? Join this workshop and learn a skill Grandmothers worldwide have been doing for centuries. Learn to make a rag rug. Weaving or braiding a rag rug will breathe new life into something old. It is also a good way to repurpose items instead of throwing them away.

FULL CONFERENCE

AGENDA



	MORNING WOKRSHOP OPTIONS - DAY ONE
<i>Sexual Abuse of Children: What Advocates Need to Know</i> Wright	Linda Thompson Wettlin (Bois Forte) This workshop will provide basic information to be able to advocate on behalf of children who have been sexually assaulted/abused. Topics include; laws that protect child sexual abuse victims, identify needs of child abuse victims, learn how to file a mandated report for child abuse, understand how various systems intervene, and identify strategies for systems and social change.
<i>On a Healing Journey</i> Runway	Brenda Roth (Lakota and Blackfoot) I have a story to tell about how a 2 yr old first met a real live monster, how the ones I trusted the most neglected and took advantage of me. Join me as I walk through my early childhood, and the steps that I took to not only survive, but to thrive and grow from the roots of violence.
<i>When We Get it Wrong: Intimate Partner Violence, Homicides and the Criminalization of Victims</i> Apollo	Nikki Engel, Meggie Royer Violence Free Minnesota will present information on two areas of our coalition's ongoing work: 1) 36 years of intimate partner violence homicide data in Minnesota, and 2) addressing the criminalization of victim/survivors in Minnesota. This presentation will cover an overview of the coalition's homicide tracking efforts, with a focus on the overrepresentation of Native women in these homicide numbers and the addition of a new reporting category: suspicious deaths. We will also share about our ongoing efforts to bring attention to the issue of victim/survivor arrests, charges, and prosecutions in connection with their own abuse in Minnesota, and our hopes for change in this area.
<i>Sex Trafficking 101</i> Humphrey	Lori Quist Sex trafficking 101 is a comprehensive training that assists community members, law enforcement, probation, and corrections personnel in understanding the scope of sexual exploitation and sex trafficking within the state of Minnesota. This training discusses legislature, laws, common terminology, and victimology with audiences. Furthermore, this training shares a look at the structure of trafficking rings, their connections to victims, and the scope of the problem.

FULL CONFERENCE

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12:30pm-2pm	LUNCH (on your own)
2pm-3:30pm	AFTERNOON WORKSHOP OPTIONS - DAY ONE
<p><i>Weaving the Fabric of a Thriving Community</i></p> <p>AiRE Ballroom</p>	<p>Sarah Curtiss (Anishinaabe), Sylvia Houle (Turtle Mountain Band of Ojibwe)</p> <p>When gender-based violence rends the fabric of a community, our interconnection is the only thing that can repair that damage. In connected communities, all threads are needed. Each thread contributes uniquely to the creation of a violence-free future where everyone can thrive. In this experiential workshop, participants will use storytelling and art to collectively create a weaving that represents this future.</p>
<p><i>Lower Sioux Youth Panel:</i></p> <p><i>Youth Leading Awareness of Addiction and Grief</i></p> <p><i>Dear Mama, Ride For You, Why Nona</i></p> <p>Wright</p>	<p>Brittany Miller, with Adrian Dow, Beatrice Pendelton, Skye Foxe</p> <p>A program was created through Lower Sioux to help youth find healthy coping for their grief of loss and loss from addiction. Each of these young people have lost someone dear to them. They were given the opportunity to be mentored by Sean Ferguson to write music and record music videos. After that project finalized, these brave youth partnered with WRAP to be mentored to share and spread their message with you. The impact that these leaders have inspired compassion, understanding, and have encompassed what youth voices and leadership truly means. The music speaks for itself.</p>
<p><i>A Survivors View of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives (MMIR)</i></p> <p>Runway</p>	<p>Jessica Gidigaakoons Smith (Bois Forte)</p> <p>While working on my Bachelors degree, I started creating a report on the intersections of violence as it relates to MMIR. This workshop will include storytelling and group discussion.</p>
<p><i>Decriminalization and Healing: An Indigenous Lens on Sex Work Reform</i></p> <p>Apollo</p>	<p>Celena Martinez (Taino)</p> <p>This presentation explores how decriminalizing sex work can enhance safety and healing for Indigenous communities. It examines the impact of historical trauma and advocates for reform that prioritizes Indigenous self-determination and addresses root causes of vulnerability.</p>

FULL CONFERENCE

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Traditional Medicine and Spiritual Self Care

Humphrey

Lana Garcia (Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa)

In this interactive workshop, explore the ancient practices of traditional medicine and spiritual self-care, learning how to cleanse and balance your energy, your home, and your workspace. Through the use of sound, herbs, feathers, crystals and flowers, you'll discover simple yet powerful tools to restore harmony and vitality. I will demonstrate various techniques for energy clearing, and then guide participants to practice the new tools in pairs.. Whether you're seeking to refresh your personal space or rejuvenate your own aura, this workshop offers practical insights into nurturing both mind and spirit through the wisdom of traditional self-care practices.

3:30-3:45

BREAK

3:45-5pm

Afternoon Plenary: Weaving Ancestral Healing and Womb Healing for Survivors

Weaving Ancestral Healing and Womb Healing for Survivors

AiRE Ballroom

Comfort Dondo (Zulu), Stacey Constante (Kichwa)

This workshop explores the intersection of trauma healing and cultural wellness, offering practical tools rooted in ancestral knowledge and community-based practices. Participants will engage in storytelling, mindfulness, and holistic healing techniques to foster resilience, empowerment, and collective well-being. Join us in reclaiming wellness through culturally relevant approaches.

5pm-7pm

DINNER BREAK (on your own)

7pm-10pm

AiRE Ballroom

HOLLYWOOD SELF CARE CARNIVAL!

***Please join us for an evening of fun, laughter, and self-care.
Come dressed as your favorite Hollywood character, or what
makes you feel like your best self!***

FULL CONFERENCE

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DAY TWO	WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24 2024
9am-10:45am	Morning Plenary: It's That Easy, an Intergenerational Guide to Communication as Violence Prevention
It's That Easy, an Intergenerational Guide to Communication as Violence Prevention AiRE Ballroom	Icarus LaDuke Lott (White Earth), Tara Fineday-Voight (Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe) Educators from the Indigenous Programs Team at Planned Parenthood North Central States will share culturally-specific adaptations from Its That Easy: A Guide to Raising Sexually Healthy Children (ITE). ITE helps parents connect with their children, share their family's values and engage in meaningful conversations about sex, sexuality and relationships.
10:45am	BREAK
11am-12:30pm	MORNING WORKSHOP OPTIONS - DAY TWO
Positivity Portrait Facilitator Training AiRE Ballroom	Sylvia Houle (Turtle Mountain Band of Ojibwe) In this experiential and interactive workshop, participants will learn how to facilitate the Positivity Portrait session in their own community contexts. Positivity Portraits help youth and adults identify their gifts and strengths through art. Participants will make their own portraits and receive a Positivity Portrait Facilitator Guide.
Moving Towards Kindness Wright	Marcia Kitto (Fond Du Lac) Through storytelling, group participation and discussion, considering community feedback, we will brainstorm responses and solutions to challenging situations and interactions.

FULL CONFERENCE

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Support Group Facilitator Training Runway	Bonnie Clairmont (HoChunk Nation) <p>This workshop will provide key elements of planning for a sexual assault support group in a tribal community. The workshop will include planning, key considerations such as type of participants appropriate, type/name of support group, length of time group meets, support group facilitator role and facilitator techniques, topics for support group, bringing in Native crafting ideas to engage participants, exit interviews.</p>
Understanding Human Rights Apollo	Jen Owens (African American) <p>In this workshop, you will learn about human rights violations happening to women in America, we will study the book Captive to Courage written by presenter, Jen Owens. Check out: www.authorjenowens.com</p>
Open Eyes Little Bear and Gentle Action Theory Humphrey	Carma Corcoran PhD (Chippewa Cree) <p>Calling upon the life and teachings from Open Eyes Little Bear: Imparting the ways of a Cree Grandmother. A key learning objective is to look to our grandmother's wisdom and teachings. We all have specific tribal practices of learning and doing. In both discovering and applying the ways of our grandmother's we can apply those teachings and practices to address Sexual Violence in our communities and beyond, into society as a whole. Applying Gentle Action Theory as method that melds well with Traditional Ways of Knowing and Being can provide us with the methods to address the issue.</p>
12:30-2pm	LUNCH (on your own)
2pm-3:30pm	AFTERNOON BREAKOUT OPTIONS
Teachings, Traditions and Wisdom of Our Grandmothers in Responding to and Ending Violence in Indian County AiRE Ballroom	Sandra Pilgrim Lewis (Lakota), Stacey Ettawageshik (Little Traverse Bay Band of Odawa Indians), Melissa McGeshick (LacVieux Dessert Tribe of Chippewa Indians) <p>Utilizing interactive engagements, expand knowledge of: teaching, traditions, and wisdom our grandmothers bring to responding, ending and healing in relation to violence against our relatives. We'll share and honor our historical practices and differences utilizing our shared and diverse traditions as opportunities for creating culturally honoring responses and opportunities.</p>

FULL CONFERENCE

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<p><i>A Day in the Life of a Noojimo Advocate</i></p> <p>Wright</p>	<p>Penelope Sanchez (Standing Rock Sioux), Cheyenne Hindsley (St Croix Ojibwe, Menominee, and Ho-Chunk), and Angela Barnes</p> <p>MIWRC's Noojimo advocates will discuss the different aspects of "boots on the ground" advocacy during Forensic Exams, Crisis Response, Law Enforcement Interviews, and Individual and Group Emotional Support. Advocates will also discuss the joys and challenges of direct support services and the importance of peer support and teamwork.</p>
<p><i>Violence Interventions Through Community Connections & Prevention</i></p> <p>Runway</p>	<p>Tawny Lee Savage (Pyramid Lake Paiute), Lailah Cloud (Red Lake Nation), Aaron Johnson (Leech Lake)</p> <p>The session will examine the connection between the crisis of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives (MMIR) and intimate partner violence. Youth prevention curriculum and resources will be shared. Additionally, the Division of Indian Work programs and educational resources that aim to enhance safety within the community will be outlined.</p>
<p><i>No More Being Silent, Family Or Not</i></p> <p>Apollo</p>	<p>Leanne Auginaush (White Earth Anishinaabe)</p> <p>Overcoming childhood sexual abuse trauma by speaking up no more being silent. Breaking them cycles bestowed upon our indigenous people from the boarding schools.</p>
<p><i>The Impact of Trafficking on Youth</i></p> <p>Humphrey</p>	<p>Jane Straub</p> <p>This session will discuss the intersecting crimes for trafficked youth, and the needs of victims. We will also share strategies for serving trafficked youth. Research tells us that youth who are trafficked are more likely to have risk factors such as childhood trauma, involvement in child welfare, substance use/misuse, homelessness or running away. Most states have identified these minors as victims; however they may be subject to other criminal charges that impact disclosure, cooperation, or leaving the life. Disparities in charges, criminal records and legal representation are immense. Forced Criminality may include shoplifting, drug use, dealing or distribution, engaging in recruitment, facilitation and trafficking of additional victims to name a few. Awareness and identification are imperative to understand the true scope of victimization and services needed.</p>
<p>3:30pm</p>	<p>BREAK!</p>

FULL CONFERENCE

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3:30pm	BREAK!
3:45pm	Afternoon Plenary: Preventing Sexual Violence: How Do We Do It?
Preventing Sexual Violence: How Do We Do It? AiRE Ballroom	<p>Desiree Uhrich, Cristine Davidson (White Earth Anishinaabe), and Lisa Iyotte (Sicangu & A'aninin of the Fort Belknap Gros Ventre)</p> <p>This session will include large and small group discussions on preventing sexual violence.</p> <p>*Be sure to use the QR code on the table to take the sexual violence prevention survey to be entered into the door prize drawing for this session!</p>
5:00pm	DINNER (on your own)
7pm-10pm AIRE Ballroom	<p>TRADITIONAL POW-WOW HONORING SURVIVORS</p> <p><i>Please join us for our annual Pow Wow. We will have the red, purple, and teal Solidarity Shawls and an Honor Song for Survivors of domestic and sexual violence, for survivors of trafficking, and for missing and murdered indigenous community members.</i></p>

FULL CONFERENCE AGENDA



DAY THREE	THURSDAY, APRIL 25 2024
9am-10:30am	CLOSING PLENARY: Native View
Native View AiRE Ballroom	Nicole Matthews, Kiora Matthews, Guadalupe Lopez, Angelica Allery The Native View: Growing and Mentoring the Next Seven Generations of Advocacy. Our movement is made up of multiple generations... and many who have grown up in the movement. This panel will discuss what has changed over the years and how we can sustain new leadership to end gender-based violence.
	RAFFLE
11am	TRAVELING SONG & CONFERENCE CLOSING
AiRE Ballroom	Closing Raffle Remember to turn in your evaluations for a raffle ticket! Must be present to win prizes! Conference Closing & Travel Song <i>*Participants must be checked out of rooms by 11:00am</i> Safe journeys and thank you all for joining us!

CONFERENCE PRESENTERS



Aaron Johnson | Leech Lake Anishinaabe, Director of Programs at the Division of Indian Work.

Bonnie Clairmont | Bonnie Clairmont, citizen and elder of the HoChunk Nation of Wisconsin, resides in St. Paul, Minnesota where she is employed with the Tribal Law and Policy Institute (TLPI) as the Victim Advocacy Program Specialist providing training and technical assistance to tribal communities to better enable them to respond to violence against Native women. Prior to her work with TLPI, Bonnie worked for more than 30 years as an advocate for victims of sexual assault, commercial sexual exploitation, domestic violence and children exposed to violence.

Brenda Roth | Brenda, is a Native from Nebraska. Raised in the atmosphere of addiction and abuse, and moved through abuse, addiction, and finally the judicial system. Starting at the age of 13, she was well on her journey of survival, tough choices, deep wounds and finally healing and helping others to see hope and healing as a possibility.

Brittany Miller | WRAP's Youth Program Director, has mentored three youth to make change in their communities. Brittany has a passion for youth voice being the dominant voice in our futures. Skye Fox, Beatrice Pendleton, and Adrian Dow are passionate young leaders for change. Their power cannot be explained in words.

Carma Corcoran | Dr. Corcoran (Chippewa-Cree) is an Adjunct Professor in the Indigenous Nations Studies Program at Portland State University. Dr. Corcoran is very involved in the Native American Issues. In addition, she presents across Indian Country on a variety of Social Issues that are important for Native American people.

Celena Martinez | Celena Martinez, a survivor of sex trafficking, empowers others through her resilience. Holding degrees in law enforcement and criminal justice, she facilitates restorative justice. A successful entrepreneur and mentor, Celena's award-winning business reflects her dedication to healing and community transformation.

Cheyenne Hindsley | Cheyenne is a wife and a mother of 5. Cheyenne is a competition Jingle dress dancer, and singer.

Comfort Dondo | Comfort Dondo is the Founder of Phumulani Minnesota African Women Against Violence and a dedicated advocate for culturally specific healing. She empowers African immigrant women through trauma-informed care, policy advocacy, and holistic wellness. Comfort's work bridges ancestral wisdom and modern healing practices to support survivors in reclaiming their strength and resilience.

CONFERENCE PRESENTERS



Cristine Davidson | Cristine is in her 19th year at the Minnesota Indian Women's Sexual Assault Coalition and maintains an enduring commitment to cultivating space where each of us can find an entry point into the essential work of preventing and ending sexual violence. She grew up in Red Lake, Minnesota, served four years in the Marine Corps, and now resides on her home reservation in White Earth with her cat-kids Kitty Boots, Button, Toots- and her precious Momma. www.miwsac.org | cdavidson@miwsac.org

Desiree Uhrich | Desirée has worked in the area of sexual violence for more than 30 years. She served as executive director for a local DV/SA program in Northwest MN. Upon moving to ND, she worked with the state coalition to build capacity with rural and reservation member programs. She assisted the founding members with the development of the tribal coalition, as well as consulting on various projects. She was ordained as a pastor in 2011, and her first call included working as a faith-based coordinator to equip churches and spiritual communities to respond effectively and compassionately with victims.

Eileen Hudon | Eileen is an Organizer, a Visionary, and a tireless Advocate. Her decades long change-making work has included Mending the Sacred Hoop, Clanstar, MIWRC, MIWSAC, and also the Ogichidakwe Council of Elders.

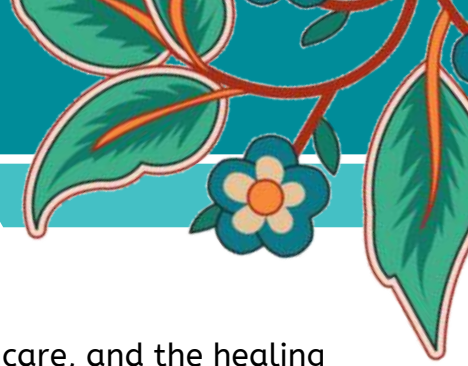
Esther Humphrey | Esther Humphrey is a Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe member. She has 4 children ages ranging from 35-11 and 4 dogs, 2 cats and 5 of THE most precious grandchildren. Esther enjoys time outdoors during all seasons. She loves to garden, harvest/use natural medicines, star gaze and preserve the food she grows. Other past times include beading, making moccasins, working with birch bark, quill work, weaving cedar, bulrush, and other natural fibers.

Icarus LaDuke Lott | Born and raised in Bemidjigamaag, MN- Icarus has been directly involved in advocacy for Two Spirit and LGBTQIA+ relatives from a young age. With his roots in Grassroots organizing, education and advocacy, he joined Planned Parenthood North Central States in early 2024 as a Health Educator of Indigenous Programs.

Jane Straub | Jane Straub serves as the Training Director for CornerHouse Interagency Child Abuse Evaluation and Training Center. She has been working in the violence prevention and intervention field for over 30 years. Jane is a national trainer on topics such as the impact of trauma (ACE Study), trauma-responsive care, child sexual abuse, domestic violence and sexual violence, stalking, trafficking, cyber/bullying, reproductive coercion, healthy relationships, consent and supporting disclosure. She was instrumental in creating the curriculum "From Trauma to Resilience: Fostering Hope through Trauma Informed Care".

Jen Owens | Jen Owens, grew up in Minnesota and went to schools in St. Paul, MN. She is a writer, spiritual teacher and women rights advocate.

CONFERENCE PRESENTERS



Lailah Cloud | Red Lake Nation Counselor Education

Lana Garcia | Lana Leah has 20 years of experience in massage, skincare, and the healing arts. She is a passionate and dedicated practitioner committed to holistic well-being and is the owner of Healing Skincare and Massage. Lana's path to the healing arts is deeply personal. A survivor of sexual, and domestic violence, she understands the profound impact that both physical and emotional trauma can have. Through her own healing journey, Lana discovered the power of traditional medicine and its ability to not only restore the body but to reconnect her to her ancestral roots. This healing process has taught her the vital importance of nurturing the mind, body, and soul.

Leanne Auginaush | Strong indigenous mother, who had to grow up fast, endured things no child should. Through my own personal healing journey I've helped & inspired so many others to start their own healing process. I have four biological children but over 20 kids who call me Mom.

Linda Thompson | Linda is a member of the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa in northern Minnesota, she also is a lineal descendent to both Leech Lake & Mille Lacs Lake Tribes. She is committed to social justice, social change work and ending all forms of violence, with a specialized focus on ending gender-based violence. With proven leadership in developing and leading a Tribal domestic violence-sexual assault program and co creating a Tribal Coalition Linda has gained great understanding of the challenges and realities of service providers that are leading and working in a Tribal advocacy program. She has worked side by side with her sisters in this work and has gained experience with policy and legislative efforts on Tribal, state and national levels, as well as extensive experience serving rural, reservation and urban areas. Working within these different positions has also given her experience administering federal, state, and local grants. Linda has specialized knowledge and both programmatic and personal experience with LGBTQ, Indigenous, trauma-informed and survivor work, including labor and sex trafficking and MMIR, as well as serving on the ND AG Fatality Review Team.

Lisa Marie Iyotte | Lisa Marie Iyotte (Cochran) grew up on the Sicangu Makoce, the Rosebud Reservation in South Dakota where her mother, Roseanne Cochran (Packard), is an enrolled tribal member. Lisa is an enrolled tribal member as A'aninin of the Fort Belknap Gros Ventre tribe in Montana where her father, Ruben Cochran, is from. Lisa has two daughters and a son and is an Unci (grandmother) to 6 Takoja (grandchildren) Lisa Marie Iyotte has advocated for ending violence against Indigenous Women for over 21 years. She applies her personal experience and knowledge of healing through spirituality to provide culturally responsive services to individuals, tribes, and nonprofits. She has volunteered and worked for a number of nonprofits serving Indigenous cultures across the Upper Midwest. She has received several awards and spoken nationally, including at the White House, to advance the rights of Indigenous Women and their children.

CONFERENCE PRESENTERS



Lori Quist | Dr. Lori Quist has a Ph.D. in Social and Criminal Justice. Lori has completed her Master of Arts degree from Hazelden Graduate School in Addiction Studies and her Undergraduate degree from St. Mary's University in Police Science. Lori has a diverse background in positions that have supported clients of addiction, incarcerated men and women, victims/survivors of Intimate Partner Violence, Sexual Assault and Sex Trafficking. Lori is the Chief Executive Officer at Breaking Free, St. Paul which works to end sexual exploitation in the Twin Cities of Minnesota. Lori spends her free time with her family in Northeast Minnesota, she enjoys traveling, her dogs, and Minnesota sports.

Marcia Kitto | Marcia (Waabishkaanakwadikwe): Marcia is now retired from 23 years as the Sexual Assault Advocate for Fond du Lac. She earned a Certificate in Indigenous Focusing Oriented Therapy for Complex Trauma and Indigenous Tools for Living from the University of Vancouver, and has studied ACES, Mind Body Medicine, and Trauma Informed Care, along with lifelong practice of yoga and meditation. She has been an active member of MIWSAC from the beginning and served as a Circle Keeper for 12 years.

Meggie Royer | Meggie is the Communications Senior Manager at Violence Free Minnesota, the statewide domestic violence coalition. She leads the coalition's intimate partner homicide tracking work and their work to advance survivor-centered media reporting. She has worked in the DV/SA fields in various capacities since 2016, including in community outreach, hospital advocacy, prevention, and research. She holds a Master of Social Work degree from the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor.

Melissa McGeshick | Melissa is a Nokamis, tribal elder, advocate and past tribal council member from LacVieux Dessert Tribe of Chippewa Indians.

Nicole Matthews | Nicole is a descendent of the White Earth Band of Ojibwe, and is the Chief Executive Officer for MIWSAC. Nicole was one of five researchers who interviewed 105 Native women used in prostitution and trafficking for their report: Garden of Truth: The Prostitution and Trafficking of Native Women in Minnesota. Nicole served on the State of Minnesota Attorney General's Work Group on Sexual Assault; and she is a National and International Speaker on sexual violence and sex trafficking. Nicole is also the proud mother of three beautiful children and the grandmother to one.

Nikki Engel | Nikki Engel is the Systems Change Senior Manager at Violence Free Minnesota. In her role, Nikki partners with community-based DV/SA programs, state agencies, and legal system stakeholders to identify areas for improvement and promote changes that better serve all survivors in Minnesota. Nikki has degrees in Women's Studies and experience in teaching, training, and legal advocacy.

Penelope Sanchez | Penelope Sanchez is a mother, partner, daughter, and sister: family is very important to Penelope and spending time with them is an integral part of Penelope's self care, along with beadwork and traditional crafting.

CONFERENCE PRESENTERS



Sandra Pilgrim Lewis | As an Elder, Unci/Grandmother Sandra remains a voice of advocacy seeking opportunities for change. She has worked in diverse capacities within Indian Country, historically funded organizations/systems and governmental/funding entities. In her paid and volunteer roles she works toward dignity, equity and ending violence for all of our relatives and nations.

Sandy Davidson | Sandy, White Earth Anishinaabe, is a retired, yet life-long Advocate, especially on behalf of children. She is a founding Circle Keeper of MIWSAC, instrumental in co-creating a Native women led, child honoring, survivor centered infrastructure, grounded in Indigenous values, that live on in the organization today.

Sarah Curtiss | Men As Peacemakers Executive Director, Sarah Curtiss, has worked in the anti-violence field for 20 years and has spent 12 years serving as a Circle Keeper for MIWSAC. Sarah began her career as a women's advocate for the Dabinoo'lgan shelter, and prior to MAP, served as the director of the Sacred Hoop Coalition through Mending the Sacred Hoop.

Sylvia Houle | Men As Peacemakers Youth Program Coordinator, Sylvia is an emerging Anishinaabe contemporary artist residing in Duluth, Minnesota. She is an enrolled member of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa. Sylvia is passionate about helping youth and young adults connect to their communities and cultures through art and dialogue.

Stacey Ettawageshik | Stacey is a citizen of Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa. She worked for Little Traverse for the last 11 years building a successful survivor program. It is her passion to create social change and empower indigenous survivors and end domestic/sexual violence and Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives crisis.

Stacey Constante | Stacey is a Domestic Violence Advocate, Nurse, Nutritionist, Holistic Hormone Specialist, and Ceremonialist. She specializes in trauma-informed healing, womb wellness, and holistic nutrition. Stacey integrates ancestral wisdom with modern wellness practices, empowering survivors to restore balance, reclaim their health, and heal from trauma through culturally rooted healing modalities.

Tara Fineday-Voight | Tara has over 15 years of service to relatives and community in healthcare, advocacy, and mentorship. An artist from the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe, she uses art to inspire education and healing. Tara joined Planned Parenthood in 2024 as a Health Educator of Indigenous Programs in Bemidji.

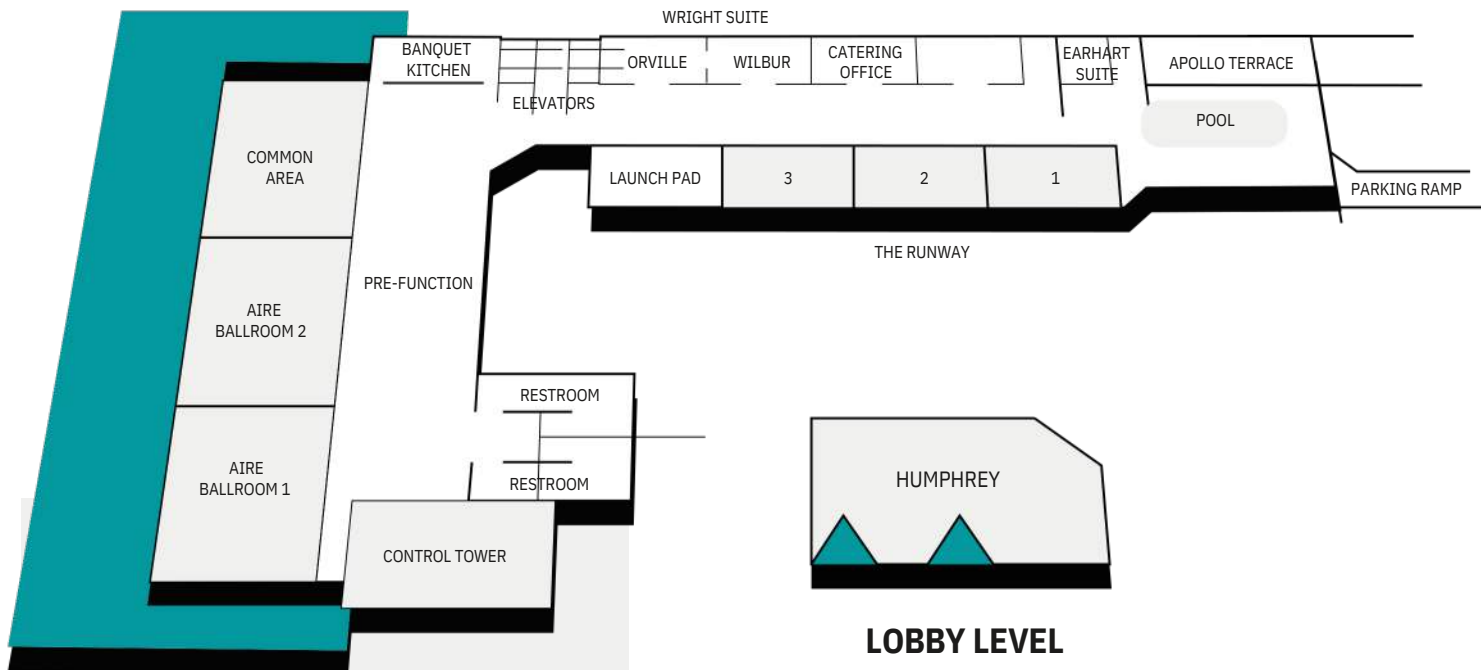
Tawny Lee Savage | Tawny Savage, Shoshone/Paiute MMIR Office Violence Prevention Coordinator, provides outreach and awareness on MMIR and is developing a network of advocates/educators to strengthen prevention education throughout the state. Tawny has 24 years of experience as a social worker and has worked for Tribal Nations in Minnesota as a mental health professional for many years.

CONFERENCE CENTER

MAP & INFO



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RIBBON COLOR KEY CODE



Name Badge | Ribbon Colors

- ▶ **MIWSAC Staff** | Red with gold lettering
- ▶ **Keynote Speakers** | Black with gold lettering
- ▶ **Presenters** | Blue with gold lettering
- ▶ **Volunteers** | Purple with gold lettering
- ▶ **Session Monitors** | Teal with gold lettering
- ▶ **Vendors** | Green with gold lettering
- ▶ **Safe Person** | Gold

CONFERENCE EVALUATION



	1 Poor	2	3	4	5 Excellent
How satisfied were you with the overall conference? Comments:	1	2	3	4	5
Hollywood Self Care Carnival? Comments:	1	2	3	4	5
Honoring Survivors Traditional Pow-wow?	1	2	3	4	5
My favorite session/workshop was:					
How has this gathering helped you better understand your own role in ending sexual violence?					
What was the most valuable portion of this conference?					
What would you like to see differently next time?					
Any additional comments/information you would like us to know about the conference:					
<p>Miigwech! Pidamaya! Pilamaya! Pinigigi! Thank you for your feedback!</p>					

SESSION EVALUATION



I am evaluating session _____

	1 Poor	2	3	4	5 Excellent
How satisfied were you with the presenter(s) expertise?	1	2	3	4	5
Do you feel your understanding of the topic was increased?	1	2	3	4	5
How satisfied were you with the materials/resources presented?	1	2	3	4	5
How well did the presenters hold your interest?	1	2	3	4	5
How would you rate the session overall?	1	2	3	4	5
Please identify the information you found most useful and how you will use it in your work:					
Any additional comments or information you would like to share:					
Miigwech! Pidamaya! Pilamaya! Pinigigi! Thank you for your feedback!					

CONFERENCE NOTES



CONFERENCE NOTES

