



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA
COLLEGE OF SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

Southwest Institute for Research on Women

The SIROW Voice

Community-based collaborative research, working toward a society in which the wellbeing of women and families is paramount, resulting in their equity, empowerment, and prosperity since 1979.

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTORS

Hello SIROW community!

Similar to many of you, 2020-2021 presented many challenges for SIROW. We have prioritized keeping our project participants, SIROW team members and our loved ones healthy and safe, while striving to continue the important work we do with our numerous community partners. While most SIROW researchers worked remotely last year, the large majority of us are back in the office this year—vaccinated, masked and testing regularly.

This year, two very important SIROW team members, Jeri Alexander and Dr. Sally Stevens retired. While the COVID-19 pandemic prevented us from doing the kind of retirement celebration we would have liked to do, we celebrated internally and shared with each of them the considerable impact they had on SIROW, our participants and in our community. Congratulations Jeri and Sally. You will be greatly missed!

Finally, in an effort to modernize our communication, SIROW will be sending out shorter monthly newsletters, rather than an annual newsletter. We are excited to share project updates and timely events more frequently. Please reach out to Nicole Justvig if you or someone you know would like to be added to the newsletter.

Wishing all a healthy and productive 2021-2022

Dr. Josephine Korchmaros

Director, SIROW

Claudia Powell

Associate Director, SIROW



Jo Korchmaros, Ph.D. & Claudia Powell, M.Ed.



PROJECT CHANGE ADDRESSES THE RISE OF CYBERBULLYING DURING A PANDEMIC

By Tyler Le Peau

One of the mental health issues worsening during the pandemic is cyberbullying and its effects on young people can be tragic. Young people are spending more time online and using technology resulting in cyberbullying increases across the world. A recent study by L1GHT searched millions of social platforms where young people interact and found that during the COVID-19 pandemic, there's been a 70% increase in bullying and abusive language among kids and teens on social media and chat forums, a 40% increase in toxicity on gaming platforms, and a 200% spike in traffic to hate sites.

SIROW's Project CHANGE addresses cyberbullying as part of its mission to promote safe and healthy Arizona schools and is making a difference in classrooms. After her students received Project CHANGE presentations on cyberbullying in spring 2021, one Arizona CTE teacher shared that her school community was overwhelmed by mental health crises. The combination of the Project CHANGE presentation on cyberbullying, including student interaction and story and resource sharing made a positive impact on her students. The teacher reported that, "This is a POWERFUL message of how just one person can make a difference and to NOT keep bullying bottled up...tell someone."

For more information, please contact Corrie Brinley, cbrinley@arizona.edu.





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Our Mission

Develop, conduct, and disseminate collaborative outreach, education, intervention, and research projects of importance to diverse groups.

Our Goals

- Engage in collaborative feminist research on topics pertinent to the lives of girls, women, and families;
- Develop and conduct outreach, education, service, research, and trainings with regard to mental and physical health, sexuality, legal matters, education, workforce, equity, diversity, and other issues;
- Address social inequalities and group-based disparities;
- Examine and support women's contribution to literature, the arts, and Southwest heritage;
- Advocate for women and families by linking researchers with community organizations and policy makers;
- Identify, illuminate, and disseminate research on girls, women, families, and gender differences.

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