

Community Research News

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A NOTE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Welcome to another publication of SIROW's *Community Research News*! SIROW's mission is to improve the lives of women and girls – particularly those living in the Southwest – through interdisciplinary and inter-institutional research and action projects. Our projects include a broad spectrum of themes and issues from women's rights to health and wellness, education, employment, women's history and the arts. It is our belief that by challenging the status quo, facilitating the voices of those who experience disparity, working with diverse groups of women, men and transgender individuals, and seeking innovative methods to improve conditions and contexts, positive changes can be made at an individual, social and structural level.

In this volume, we highlight some of SIROW's ongoing action-research projects. Vital to the success of these projects are SIROW's collaborating institutional and agency partners whose expertise in various areas (e.g., disease testing, substance abuse treatment, mental health, education, legal and eq-

uity issues, language and culture) compliment SIROW's research agenda and expertise allowing for dialog and information exchange. These partnerships not only result in increased illumination and understanding of the issues, but improved outcomes overall.

New SIROW projects just underway are focusing on (1) women's rights along the US-Mexico border with one project addressing the employment rights of low wage women, particularly immigrant women, and a second project researching the conditions and needs of women held in Arizona's immigration detention facilities (contact Nina Rabin); (2) evaluation of the University of Arizona's National Science Foundation ADVANCED project; a project designed to address gender equity issues of university faculty (contact Claudia Powell); and (3) assessment of the status of women living in Pima, Santa Cruz, and Cochise counties based on the analysis of various databases (contact Corey Knox). Look for updates on these new projects in the next issue of SIROW's *Community Research News* coming, August 2008.

Mujer Sana - Healthy Woman

By Linda Shaird and Rosi Andrade Ph.D.

Mujer Sana is an HIV, STD, TB, and Hepatitis B and C prevention program providing a 12-week curriculum and, with the assistance of the Pima County Health Department, HIV/STD testing and counseling services. Mujer Sana has enrolled 818 women in Tucson, Arizona. The majority of these women (83.4%) have been served in drug treatment programs at The Haven, Las Amigas, and Amity, while the remaining 16.5% were active drug users who participated in the program at the Mujer Sana site.

Women's pathways to substance use and choice of drugs are complex, with drug or alcohol use often beginning in childhood and adolescence. Age of first use for women enrolled in Mujer Sana reflects this trend. The mean age for use of inhalants was 9.25 for African American girls; 12.38 for Caucasian girls; age 12.48 for Latina girls. The mean age for use of alcohol was 13.09 for Bi/Tri-racial girls, and 13.13 for American Indian girls. (Andrade, Cameron, Stevens, & Ruiz, 2006).

Outside of the research arena, there are aspects of their lives that substance using women do not readily share. Women selectively tell the "truth" about their lives because it may be painful, and because sometimes it is one of few things they can control.

To shed light on what those truths might be for our women, we highlight data from a sample of 54 homeless and near homeless women in our program. These are women not in treatment. Demographics indicate that 38.8% are Caucasian, 22.2% are African American, 18.5% are Latina, 12.9% are American Indian, and 7.4% are Bi/Tri-racial. The women range in age from 18 to 54, with a mean age of 39.7. While 61% consider themselves homeless, others consider having a place to sleep as being housed. Twenty-two percent have served time in prison. Fifty-five percent report being raped. The primary substance choice of the women is: 25.9% marijuana, 25.9% alcohol, 24% crack, 9.25% heroin, 7.4% stimulants, and 1.85% cocaine. Fifteen percent report past 30-day needle use ranging

"What would happen if one woman told the truth about her life?
The world would split open"

(Muriel Rukeyser, "Kathe Kollwitz," part 3, lines 25-26, 1968).

from one to 120 times, with a mean rate of 34.1. With respect to sexual risks, 25.9% report no sexual partner, 61% report 1 sexual partner, 5.5% report 3 sexual partners, and four report 6, 9, 20, and 60 sexual partners. While past 30-day income is generally greater for those women with more sexual partners, 66% of women report incomes of less than \$500 in the past 30 days, suggesting that drugs, shelter, food, or protection may also be exchanged for sex. Further, fear of violence and sexual attacks are a daily reality for these women. Despite the trauma in women's lives, we find there is always the possibility of hope. Many of our women view Mujer Sana as a safe haven: a place of retreat and a refuge from the summer's heat, the winter's cold, and the hostility of the streets. Brenda, who is periodically homeless, has shared that she comes to Mujer Sana, "when I'm tired and want to feel safe. It's hard always having to watch your back and sleep with one eye open, and a pipe in one hand." Most recently, Brenda is wheelchair bound the result of a hit-and-run, sporadic health care, and rough living. As for the visit, Brenda explains, "I knew I had to come in here today. You guys tell me the truth, but [you] don't judge. Brenda's words strike a chord. I know I can always come here when I need some caring." In response to the trials and tribulations of their lives, perhaps women could begin to tell the "truth" when, instead of splitting open, the world could fathom other possibilities to addiction and accompanying high-risk behaviors that are not steeped in judgment or cloaked in the apathy that makes us avert our eyes. Andrade, R., Cameron, M., Stevens, S., & Ruiz, B. (2006). *Women and Substance Abuse*, Tucson, AZ. 5th Annual Women's Mental Health Symposium, Substance Abuse Track, The University of Arizona College of Medicine. January 7, 2006.

For more information, please contact Rosi Andrade at SIROW's Tucson — Mujer Sana location.

Sowing The Seeds

By Rosi Andrade and Elena Diaz Björkquist



Sowing the Seeds is a Latina writing collective active in Tucson since 2000. The Arizona Humanities Council and The Stocker Foundation originally funded the organization as a SIROW project. *Sowing the Seeds* is dedicated to promoting women's writing through monthly meetings to discuss and critique our writing, participating in writing and art activities, hosting guest speakers, and developing retreats and writing conferences. Our membership is primarily made up of Latinas and women of color. In 2002, our self-published anthology of writings, *Sowing the Seeds, una cosecha de recuerdos*, was selected as one of the best 100 books of the southwest. We are working on our second anthology and recently held our *Mujeres Writers Conference*. The theme for both is "Our Spirit, Our Reality." Our spirit, our reality, is infused with the rich cultural tradition of the comrade relationship. The comrade spirit is essential to the success of our group. *For more information, please contact Rosi Andrade at SIROW's Tucson — Mujer Sana location.*

Women, Commerce, and Community in the Old Pueblo

By Rosi Andrade, Ph.D.

The Southwestern Foundation of Southern Arizona funded this project to gather data useful to a variety of public history initiatives that will result from the City of Tucson's Rio Nuevo project and associated projects. The project also addresses a concern that existing archives of information on women's lives and contributions to Tucson's community and commercial development do not provide adequate information for interpretive planning. In an effort to insure that women's achievements and contributions are not overlooked in this new development initiative, SIROW began a project to document and disseminate information on women's roles in commerce and community development in downtown Tucson. Much of this information has been collected through taped interviews with women entrepreneurs (e.g., Suzana Dávila, María García, Myung Kim, Shana Oseran, Cele Peterson, Rosalva and Teresa Shaar) and community members (Patricia Preciado Martin, Alva B. Torres). Dissemination activities will include a sculptural exhibit, interview transcripts, photographs, and research findings to be archived at the University of Arizona library as well as SIROW offices. The sculptural exhibit will be completed in Fall 2007. *For more information, please contact Rosi Andrade at the Tucson — Mujer Sana location.*





Proyecto de las Mariposas

By Kristin Hedges

Proyecto de las Mariposas (Las Mariposas) is funded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Service Administration (SAMHSA) Center for Substance Abuse Treatment. Funding was provided to 15 projects around the country to implement the evidence-based substance abuse treatment models of Adolescent Community Reinforcement Approach (ACRA) and Assertive Continuing Care (ACC). ACRA and ACC are unique in that they use individual therapy sessions with youth and caregivers that are adapted to each particular participant's community, culture, and lifestyle. The project began the first of its three funded years in October 2006.

Las Mariposas is a collaborative effort between SIROW and Compass Health Care. The project offers outpatient substance abuse services to adolescents living in Pima County. The ACRA sessions last for approximately 3 months and are conducted by a trained and certified therapist. Following ACRA, an additional 3 months of ACC is provided by a trained case manager. Participants also have the opportunity to enroll in the evaluation portion of the project, which consists of a baseline assessment and follow up interviews at 3, 6, and 12 months. All assessments use the Global Appraisal of Individual Needs (GAIN) instrument.

Las Mariposas collaborates with Clean and Sober Theater (C.A.S.T.), a program of Compass Health Care, in order to reach youth that are in need of treatment and typically not identified. Outreach efforts have met with tremendous success, leading to a total of 64 referrals to date, the majority of which have been from school counselors. Of these referrals, we have only been able to enroll 24 to date. The project staff are committed to providing quality care versus quantity, thus, we have limited enrollments to five new participants per month. Participants to whom we were unable to provide services have been referred to other substance abuse treatment agencies in Tucson. Of the youth enrolled, 62.5% are male and 45.8% Hispanic. At baseline, 70.8% reported using marijuana and 50% reported using alcohol during the past 30 days.

For more information, please contact Kristin Hedges at SIROW's Tucson — Central location.

Cornerstone Project

By Monica Davis

The Cornerstone Project is a collaboration between the Arizona's Children Association (AZCA) and SIROW. Cornerstone is an outpatient program that provides substance abuse treatment to youth between the ages of 12 and 17. Adolescents enrolled in this program attend weekly group sessions for 18 weeks. Wednesday evening groups are facilitated by AZCA staff and provide substance abuse therapy. Thursday evening groups are facilitated by SIROW staff and focus on sex and gender in relationship to drug use, sexuality, crime, and relationships. With permission from both the author and his parent, we share the following poem which was written by a youth in Cornerstone. The topic was gender and substance use and the participants were instructed to write an alpha poem that was related to the evening's theme. *For more information please, contact Monica Davis at SIROW's Tucson — Central location.*

Alcohol and
 Bud
 Can
 Destroy
 Every
 Family's
 Good
 Holidays
 Instead of you
 Just looking for
 Kind
 Loving
 Men and Women to help you
 No
 One
 Prepares you for life
 Quicker then you think
 Reality will come
 Sooner or later
 The pressure may be
 Unbearable
 Visualizing the
 World will prepare you for
 Xanadu and then
 You will have
 Zero Worries.

- Daniel Tarango

Conexiones Sanas: Youth Making Healthy Choices

By Josephine Korchmaros and Sarah Jordan

The Conexiones Sanas (CS) program provides HIV/AIDS, STI, TB, and Hepatitis B & C health education to adolescents enrolled in substance abuse treatment facilities in Arizona. One of the underlying tenets of the CS program is to increase adolescents' awareness of healthier behavioral choices. While it would be powerful to see youth choosing sexual abstinence or engaging in consistent condom usage after they participated in the CS program, many youth are not willing or able to commit to either of these lifestyle choices. When this is the case, CS health educators try to focus on other options that may reduce participants' risk of getting or spreading STIs. In both group and individual meetings with participants, CS health educators discuss reducing an adolescent's number of sex partners as an option for decreasing possible exposure to STIs.

Anthony (not his real name) reported a notable reduction in sex partners over the course of his 6-month participation in the CS program. At intake, Anthony reported having 10 sexual encounters with five different female partners in the past 90 days. Anthony's condom usage at intake was above average for youth enrolled in CS, with a condom being used in seven of his 10 sexual encounters in the past 90 days. Nonetheless, during an individual meeting with his CS health educator, Anthony expressed a personal desire to increase his condom usage to 100% of the time. One of the obstacles to this goal was his discomfort at addressing the issue with his sexual partner. The CS health educator discussed the option of monogamy as a method to increase trust and security and to facilitate open discussion with his partner. At his 6-month follow up interview, Anthony reported achieving his goal by having two sexual encounters with only one female partner during the 90 days prior to follow up and by using a condom during these two sexual encounters.

CS has had a significant impact on the number of sexual partners CS participants reported having in the past 90 days. To date, 210 participants have provided information as to the number of sexual partners they have had during the 90 days preceding their enrollment in CS and the number of sexual partners they have had during the 90 days preceding their 6-month follow-up interview. These participants have decreased the number of their sexual partners. On average, at intake, these participants had 2.14 sexual partners during the past 90 days, whereas at 6 months after being in CS, they had only 1.84 sexual partners during the past 90 days.

There are many ways to decrease risky sexual behavior, one of which is decreasing the number of sexual partners. The effectiveness of the CS health education is evident in the individual behavior as exemplified by many CS participants such as Anthony. *For more information, contact Nancy Larson at the SIROW Tempe, Arizona location.*

Websites of Interest

- **SIROW** — <http://www.sirow.web.arizona.edu/>
- **UA Women's Studies Department**
— <http://ws.web.arizona.edu>
- **UA College of Social & Behavioral Sciences**
— <http://sbs.arizona.edu>
- **CODAC Behavioral Services** — <http://www.codac.org>
- **Arizona's Children Association (AzCA)**
— <http://arizonaschildren.org>
- **Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)** — www.samhsa.gov
- **Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT)** —
— <http://csat.samhsa.gov>
- **Tucson Urban League** — <http://TucsonUrbanLeague.com>
- **Pima County Court Center** — www.pccjcc.co.pima.az.us/
- **National Institute on Drug Abuse** — www.nida.nih.gov
- **Chestnut Health Systems** — www.chestnut.org
- **Arizona Dept. of Health** — www.azdhs.org
- **National Council for Research on Women**
— www.ncrw.org

Project CHAT

By Alison Greene

As Campus Health Services and SIROW enter year 3 of Project CHAT, (College Health Alcohol and Other Drug Treatment) we are encouraged by the positive outcomes reflected in the data. One of the goals of the project is to assess the effectiveness of the Brief Alcohol Screening and Intervention for College Students (BASICS) in preventing or reducing high-risk drinking and related negative consequences among college students. Data support the conclusion that the two-session voluntary intervention has been effective with University of Arizona (UA) students in multiple ways. First, participants reduced the number of days they consumed any alcohol. Second, participants reduced the number of days they engaged in high-risk drinking (5 or more alcoholic drinks in one sitting) on average from 7 days out of 30 at baseline to 4 days out of 30 post-intervention (at 3-months and 6-months). Third, participants' perceptions of the typical UA student's alcohol consumption became more accurate. Fourth, participants moved closer to actively attempting to change their alcohol consumption as compared to before the intervention. Finally, participants were more successful at avoiding seven negative alcohol-related consequences at post-intervention than they were at baseline (e.g., being sick after drinking, being late or missing school or work because of drinking, neglecting obligations). Project CHAT staff are enthusiastic about continuing to enroll and assist UA students, knowing that participants are finding the intervention and impact of the program to be meaningful.

For more information, please contact Alison Greene at SIROW's Tucson —Central location.



Poster by Andrew Maghielse, BFA ©

PRISM Project

By Jacob Morrow

The Eon “Lounge” Youth Center, home of the Prism Project, is a Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)-funded empowerment, sexual health, and substance awareness program that serves gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, queer, and questioning youth and their peers, ages 13 to 23. The Pima County Health Department, CODAC Behavioral Health Services, the Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation, Wingspan, and the SIROW operate the program collaboratively.

As the evaluating research agency, SIROW invites Prism Project participants to be part of a study evaluating the effectiveness of the program. The study currently has over 200 participants, and follow-up rates exceed 80% in the three, six, and 12-month follow-up categories. Health indicators, such as sexual health and substance use, have evidenced improvement in study participants between baseline and 12-month follow-up interviews.

For more information, please contact Claudia Powell at SIROW's Tucson — North office location.

WEST REGIONAL EQUITY NETWORK (WREN) – By Christine Bracamonte - Wiggs REGION IX EQUITY ASSISTANCE CENTER

The University of Arizona - College of Education was awarded a three-year grant by the US Department of Education to operate the West Regional Equity Network (WREN). The WREN Center is the equity assistance center for Region IX, which includes Arizona, California, and Nevada. SIROW collaborates with the UA-College of Education to provide the evaluation services for the project. The goal of the WREN Center is to assist Region IX public schools and school districts in addressing disparities in student achievement, as well as promoting equal access to programs and activities regardless of race, national origin and sex. The WREN Center provides professional development, technical assistance, and information dissemination in the areas of race, gender, and national origin equity at no cost to its customers. The resources employed by the Center are nationally significant and aligned with the goals and requirements of No Child Left Behind (NCLB).

In an effort to determine the priority needs of Region IX public school districts and charter schools, SIROW developed a 33-item needs assessment survey and electronically disseminated it to over 1,800 district superintendents and school administrators in the Center's 3-state region.

The results of the survey were used to: (1) identify the priority needs and interests of respondents in Region IX, (2) differentiate the unique needs and interests of each state within Region IX, and (3) inform the development of services and trainings provided by WREN.

The results of the WREN Needs Assessment indicate that each region has its own individual needs and characteristics. In addition, the overall data identified bullying, parental involvement, community involvement, and student involvement as the areas of greatest concern to educators in the region. As a direct result of the needs assessment findings, a WREN staff member became a certified trainer for the highly regarded Olweus Bullying Prevention Program and the WREN Center now offers training and technical assistance for the implementation of the [Olweus Bullying Prevention Program](#).

For more information, please contact Christine Bracamonte-Wiggs at SIROW's main office on the University of Arizona campus.

Table 1: WREN Needs Assessment Results: Region IX Top Educational Equity Objectives

Objective	*Very Helpful / Assistance Requested (%)
<i>Public School Districts</i>	
Planning for increased involvement/support from parents	60
Addressing concerns/problems related to bullying	57
Planning for increased involvement/support from the community	48
<i>Charter Schools</i>	
Planning for increased involvement/support from the community	49
Planning for increased involvement/support from parents	47
Planning for increased involvement/support from students	32

*Note: Respondents indicated that assistance with this objective would be "Very Helpful / Assistance Requested"



Strengthening Communities Youth (SCY)

Step Forward Project

By Sonal Patel

The Step Forward Project was a five-year (April 1, 2002-March 31, 2007) joint effort between CODAC Behavioral Health Services (the lead agency) Pima County Juvenile Drug Court, and a variety of other treatment providers and community organizations in Pima County dedicated to improving the community's ability to address drug, alcohol, and co-occurring disorders among youth. SIROW facilitated the evaluation component for this project.

A primary goal of the Step Forward Project was to improve the infrastructure, continuum of care and coordination of treatment services, resulting in a more comprehensive and cohesive treatment system. A secondary goal of the Step Forward project was to provide substance abuse services to 364 adolescents over the course of the project. At the project's conclusion, 339 participants (93.1% of the proposed goal) had received services.

Of the participants, 75% were male and 25% were female and all were between the ages of 12 through 18. Table 1 provides the data collection rates. Table 2 provides the racial ethnic break down of project participants. Table 3 provides statistics on problems youth experience due to their substance use and a sexual risk scale which tallies a number of behaviors.

Table 1 Data Collection Rates

Wave	Number of Participants	GPR Rate
Baseline	339	97.70%
3-month	281	84.10%
6-month	261	82.12%
12-month	218	77.58%

(note: discrepancy in total number of participants due to system entering participant twice if they endorse more than one race.)

Table 2 Racial/Ethnic Breakdown:

Alaskan Native	0	0.0%
Asian	2	0.45%
African American/Black	13	2.91%
Caucasian/White	178	39.82%
Hispanic/Latino/Chicano	165	36.91%
Native American	15	3.36%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	3	0.67%
Other	71	15.88%
Total	447	100%

Examples of Substance Problem Index include:

- When was the last time...
 - you kept using alcohol or other drugs even though you knew it was keeping you from meeting your responsibilities at work, school, or home?
 - you used alcohol or other drugs where it made the situation unsafe or dangerous for you, such as when you were driving a car, using a machine, or where you might have been forced into sex or hurt?
 - you kept using alcohol or other drugs even after you knew it was causing or adding to medical, psychological or emotional problems you were having?

Examples of Sexual Risk Scale include:

- During the past 12-months, did you...
 - have sex while you or your partner was high on alcohol or drugs
 - have sex with someone who was an injection drug user
- During the past 90 days...
 - how many partners did you have who were male/female
 - when you had sex, how many times did you use any kind of condom, dental dam, or other barrier to protect you and your partner from disease or pregnancy

Table 3 Substance Problem Index

	Baseline	3 Month	6 Month	12 Month
None	34.80%	42.60%	47.45%	51.20%
Low-				
Moderate	54.20%	48.74%	44.31%	40.10%
High	11.10%	8.66%	8.24%	8.70%

Sexual Risk Scale

	Baseline	3 Month	6 Month	12 Month
Low	30.20%	86.41%	84.95%	80.52%
Moderate	61.80%	12.62%	15.05%	19.48%
High	8.00%	0.01%	0%	0%

Table 3 demonstrates that the percent of youth in the higher risk category decreases over time. It also shows a positive correlation between substance problem endorsement and engagement in risky sexual behavior. As the rate for substance problem endorsements decreased, the subsequent rate for risky sexual behavior also decreased.

For more information, please contact Claudia Powell at SIROW's Tucson — North location.

SIROW Scholars

By Corey Knox

Several years ago, SIROW research affiliates and staff members wanting to discuss their work projects with a diverse group of women founded a small, loosely tied community of professionals called the SIROW Scholars. The group, composed of 8-12 women, meets monthly to review and critique each other's work and to provide intellectual stimulation and support. One month the women may discuss a member's poetry, and the next month it may be a grant proposal, a nonfiction essay, a mystery novel, or an academic paper. Members teach and publish in more than two-dozen research areas.

For example, Nancy Mairs has a new book of essays, *A Dynamic God*, forthcoming in September. Senzil Nawid is a noted expert on, among other things, Afghan women's history and legal rights. Geologist Susan Cummins Miller's mystery series educates readers about southwestern geology while drawing them into a riveting murder mystery. Multi-media artist Elena Bjorkquist is known for her oral history performances as well as her books on the Chicanos of Morenci.

The unifying focus of this creative group of women is their commitment to the principles of SIROW and to the advancement and empowerment of women. For more information on individual SIROW Scholars, please visit the SIROW website/SIROW Scholars link, <http://sirow.web.arizona.edu/people/>



For more information about SIROW Scholars, please contact Corey Knox at SIROW's main office on the University of Arizona campus.

Family Drug Court

By Sonal Patel

SIROW is conducting project evaluation for the Pima County Family Drug Court (FDC) Program. This program seeks to enhance the courts services by adding a Drug Court Coordinator who works to increase awareness of the special needs of the population this court serves through cross-trainings, assures coordination among the various systems and agencies involved in the cases, and assists in the oversight and coordination of client services. Given data from our previous FDC programs that underscored the significant need for treatment to address past trauma experienced by participants, this project added a "Trauma Treatment Component" facilitated by community-based partner Las Familias which is a member of Arizona's Children Association (AzCA) — Family of Agencies. The Pima County Family Drug Court program is in its first year of funding.



For more information, please contact Claudia Powell at SIROW's Tucson — North location.

New Addition to SIROW's Family of Health Intervention Research Projects

By Bridget Ruiz

SIROW personnel have been developing, implementing and evaluating health education curriculum for women and youth for more than ten years. The curriculum, entitled SIROW-Health Education (SHE), provides gender specific and developmentally appropriate education in the core areas of human reproductive anatomy and physiology, HIV/AIDS, STIs, and communication skills in relationships. Specific projects that have implemented SHE include COPASA for Women, Youth Empowerment Project, Mujer Sana, Conexiones Sanas, Cornerstone, and most recently Project DAP (Determining Another Path). Project DAP reflects SIROW's commitment to community collaboration by partnering with AzCA and Pima County Health Department.

Project DAP is a five year, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Service Administration – Center for Substance Abuse Treatment funded project. The primary purpose of Project DAP is to expand and enhance substance abuse treatment for

youth and families in Pima and Cochise Counties. Through the enhancement component, SIROW personnel are providing health education and continuing care services to adolescents and families participating in AzCA services in Pima and Cochise Counties. In addition, the Pima County Health Department is providing weekly HIV and STI counseling and testing for youth. Through the expansion of services, this grant is providing additional funding for nine residential treatment slots per year at AzCA's La Cañada program. These beds are for adolescents living in Cochise County who are in need of treatment but unable to pay for services. Since grant inception, Project DAP has engaged and retained 33 youth participants. Project results will continue to add to our understanding about effective treatment methods related to substance use, health education, and continuing care.

For more information, please contact Alison Greene at SIROW's Tucson—Central location.

Women In Science and Engineering (WISE): A Professional Seminar

By Kathy Powell

The under-representation of women in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) is a topic of discussion in many forums. In spite of impressive gains over the past two decades in the number of women in some scientific disciplines, such as biology, women continue to be underrepresented in the majority of STEM fields. How can more women be recruited to and retained in the nation's STEM workforce?

The Women in Science and Engineering (WISE) program within SIROW is offering a course that will examine some of the factors that may account for the relative absence of women in STEM fields both nationally and locally. The course will acquaint students with efforts taking place on the University of Arizona (UA) campus to encourage women to advance in STEM fields. Students will:

- Research and analyze the historical under-representation of women in STEM fields nationally and at the UA;
- Network with scientists and engineers at UA and learn about current research;
- Participate in e-mentoring with scientists and engineers around the country;
- Participate in a series of three science and engineering career panels to acquaint themselves with the panoply of options available to them in STEM fields;
- Examine their career goals and develop a resume;
- Learn what graduate admissions committees look for in applicants and hear from current graduate students about what is important in choosing a graduate program;
- Become acquainted with research opportunities on the UA campus;
- Learn about effective negotiation and communication;
- Design a program to retain women in STEM fields.

The course numbers are: MCB 396I or WS 396I and the Fall 2007 instructors are Kathy Powell, WISE Program Coordinator, SIROW, and Carol Bender, Program Director, Molecular & Cellular Biology.

For more information, please contact Kathy Powell at SIROW's main office on the University of Arizona campus.

Project SAFE

By Bridget Ruiz

Project SAFE (Student Alcohol Feedback and Evaluation) continues to work on preventing and reducing high-risk and underage drinking among first-year students at the University of Arizona. This collaborative project between the University Campus Health Center – Health Promotion and Prevention Services (HPPS) office and SIROW is currently in the dissemination phase of analyzing and reporting data collected from students who completed a required diversion program. Half of the students have completed the diversion by attending three in-class sessions, whereas the other half of the students completed an online alcohol education program.

Carlos Moll, SIROW Research Technician, has worked on Project SAFE since nearly it's beginning. Carlos is currently preparing to co-present with HPPS staff the project findings at the U.S. Department of Education National Meeting on Alcohol and Other Drug and Violence Prevention in Higher Education in Omaha, NE this October, and at the American Public Health Association Annual Meeting in Washington, DC this November.

For more information, please contact Carlos Moll at SIROW's Central location.

Thank-you! Gracias! Merci! Danke Schön! Thank-you! Gracias!

SIROW would like to thank all of the people who contributed to this Newsletter, especially Alison Greene, Bridget Ruiz, Christine Bracamonte-Wiggs, Corey Knox, Elena Diaz Björkquist, Jacob Morrow, Jo Korchmaros, Linda Shaird, Rosi Andrade, Sarah Jordan, Sonal Patel, and Sasha Butler. Each of our articles have been written by individuals who work with the projects on a daily basis. If you are interested in contacting any of them for further information please see contact information to the right.

Please consider a contribution to SIROW's University and community-based programs. A gift of \$50.00 will enable us to help SIROW participants who are in need -- such as providing resources for women and youth applying for employment, purchasing books for University of Arizona WISE students, or feeding a family of three for one week. Help us help others who are in need. An envelope is enclosed for your convenience.

Contact Information:

SIROW has 5 sites in Arizona, all of which are engaged in numerous research projects and each contributes to furthering the mission of SIROW. Our sites are:

SIROW—UA Campus in Tucson

1443 E. 1st Street., 85721

Phone: 520-621-7338 | Fax: 520-621-1533

Executive Director Sally Stevens: 520-626-9558

Accounting Specialist Desiree Bernal: 520-621-3839

SIROW—Tucson-Mujer Sana

811 S. 6th Avenue., 85701

Phone: 520-670-9075 | Fax: 520-670-9136

Program Director Rosi Andrade: extension 208

SIROW—Tucson Central

(Formerly Tucson South)

181 S. Tucson Blvd., Suite 101—85716

Phone: 520-295-9339 or 1-888-294-9339 | Fax: 520-434-0336

Program Director Bridget Ruiz: extension 201

SIROW—Tucson North

1615 E. Fort Lowell Rd., 85719

Phone: 520-867-6671 | Fax: 520-867-6672

Program Director Claudia Powell: extension #1

SIROW—Tempe / Phoenix

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SOUTHWEST INSTITUTE FOR RESEARCH ON WOMEN

The University of Arizona's Southwest Institute for Research on Women (SIROW), Department of Women's Studies, is a regional research and resource center serving Arizona, New Mexico, west Texas, Colorado, Wyoming, Nevada, Utah and northwestern Mexico. Founded in 1979, SIROW researchers work collaboratively with several University of Arizona colleges and departments, other educational institutions, governmental agencies and numerous community-based organizations with regard to issues pertinent to the lives of women and girls.

SIROW Mission:

Develop, conduct, and disseminate inter-disciplinary and inter-institutional collaborative research and education/outreach projects of importance to the diverse groups of women and girls in southwestern U.S. and northwestern Mexico.

SIROW Goals:

- To develop collaborative feminist research focusing on southwestern problems or populations of interest to scholars in the Southwest
- To identify, coordinate, and disseminate research on women, girls, and gender differences
- To provide advocacy for women and girls by linking researchers with community organizations and with policy makers
- To support equality for women in the workforce and conduct research on women and gender in the work environment
- To provide gender specific research and services on health related issues
- To support graduate, undergraduate and K-12 education about and for women and girls
- To examine women's contribution to literature, the arts, and southwest heritage