

## Vision

A society in which the wellbeing of women and families is paramount, resulting in their equity, empowerment, and prosperity.

## Mission

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

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COLLEGE OF SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

**Southwest Institute  
for Research on Women**

**MAY 2017**

**SIROW**

**HIGHLIGHTS**

### Headline News! SIROW Welcomes New Directors

Josephine (Jo) Korchmaros, PhD, will assume the position of SIROW Director with Ms. Claudia Powell serving as SIROW's Associate Director starting July 1, 2017! Both have worked at SIROW for over 10 years and have been key researchers at the University of Arizona.



Jo Korchmaros holds a PhD in Social Psychology from the University of Connecticut. She has worked at SIROW since 2006 and is currently an Associate Research Professor and the Director of Research Methods and Statistics at SIROW. During the past 11+ years she has developed, implemented, evaluated, and provided training and technical assistance for multiple grant-funded research projects of importance to underserved populations. Her research has focused on treatment models; reduction of risk behaviors; addressing group-based (e.g., culture and gender identification) health disparities; and system and policy improvement in areas such as sexual health, substance use, and justice-involvement. Dr. Korchmaros takes a research-to-practice focus and has extensive experience conducting and assisting others to conduct cultural and gender-informed interventions and research. She is dedicated to working to reduce barriers and improve the quality of lives of underserved and disadvantaged populations locally, regionally, nationally, and globally.



Claudia Powell holds a M.Ed. in Educational Administration from Northern Arizona University. She has worked at SIROW since 2002 and is currently a Research Social Scientist and the Director of Evaluation Services at SIROW. During the past 15+ years, she has conducted program evaluation and provided services for people experiencing homelessness (primarily for LGBTQ+ -identified people), people at-risk for or enrolled in substance abuse treatment, and others. Her work also includes research and services related to HIV prevention, health promotion, and domestic violence. As a researcher, Ms. Powell is committed to engaging in culturally-competent, community-based participatory action research that is conducted in conjunction with communities, with a true spirit of collaboration that aims to improve systems that serve marginalized communities. She serves as the Chair of the Pima County Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board, the Vice-Chair for the Tucson Pima Collaboration to End Homelessness Executive Board, and as a member of SIROW's Community Advisory Board.

Please help us welcome Jo and Claudia to their new leadership positions!

### SIROW Celebrates YWCA's 100th Birthday



SIROW researchers attended the YWCA of Southern Arizona's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Birthday Luncheon on May 4, 2017. SIROW attendees included (from left to right) Libby Valdez, Tamara Sargus, Corrie Brinley, and Amy Lucero. The celebration included a display showing 100 years of YWCA history. To learn more about YWCA of Southern Arizona, visit their website at [www.ywcatucson.org](http://www.ywcatucson.org).

## 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.



## Girls Who Code Completes Successful Spring 2017 Semester

Girls Who Code is a nationwide program with a single mission: to close the gender gap in technology. This year, WISE completed its first semester of a GWC club at the University of Arizona. During spring semester, six girls ages 12-18 participated in the first cohort. Along with spending time doing sisterhood activities designed to encourage comradery and facilitate group collaboration, participants also learned



Core4 coding skills using Scratch and Python.

Vera Thornton, a graduating UA senior majoring in math and neuroscience, with a minor in biochemistry, was one of twelve UA women who volunteered to facilitate GWC activities. Vera explained, "I didn't learn how to code until after I started college, but even in this short time it has become one of my most useful skills. It's pretty powerful to be able to look at

a problem and create the tool you need to solve it. I think of some of the things that kept me from learning to code sooner, and I hope I can make it a little easier on other young women by being a facilitator for GWC." If you know someone who would like to participate in GWC, please visit <http://wise.arizona.edu/wise.arizona.edu/girlswhocode> or email Program Supervisor Allison Dumka at [ajdumka@email.arizona.edu](mailto:ajdumka@email.arizona.edu).

Special thanks to the Rebecca Fund at the Women's Foundation of Southern Arizona whose support is making Girls Who Code possible in the 2017-2018 academic year!

## SIROW Congratulates the 2017 Gender and Women's Studies Graduates!

### Doctorate of Philosophy

Elizabeth Verklan

### Master of Arts

Harrison Apple

Mel Ferrara

Felix Vargas

### Bachelor of Arts

Aline Jeanette Diaz

Katrina Marie Hermanson

Grace Helen Horrocks

Danielle Brianne Macias

Nicole Rechelle McCraw

Ashley Marie Samuels

Matthew Christopher Smith

Ashley N. Swinford



Harrison Apple, left, and Felix Vargas, right, have supported SIROW as graduate assistants.



From left to right, GWS BA graduates Grace Horrocks, David Lucero, Katrina Hermanson, Daniela Kaplan, and Danielle Macias with their plaque awards.