



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.



## **The Bio/Diversity Project: Women in Science and Engineering Sprouts New Funding**

by Jill Williams

The Bio/Diversity Project is a collaboration between SIROW's Women in Science and Engineering Program, Saguaro National Park/The Friends of Saguaro, the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum, and K-12 teachers in the Tucson metro area. Initially funded by the Agnese Nelms Haury Program in Environment and Social Justice (2016-2018), this project aims to increase the diversity of voices included in discussions of environmental problems and the development of their solutions by creating a K-16+ and into the workforce pipeline.

As part of this program, University of Arizona students receive academic credit for serving as environmental education outreach interns. In this capacity, they work directly with participating K-12 teachers to develop and implement environmental science lessons focused on the topic of biodiversity. Curriculum is designed to foster science identity and self-efficacy among populations traditionally underrepresented in these fields (including girls and students of color). Bio/Diversity uses a pre- and post-testing drawing activity as one tool to assess program impact. Students are asked to draw a picture of themselves and a picture of a scientist, allowing us to analyze how their understanding of what a scientist

is or isn't relates to their understanding of themselves, and how this changes over the course of the program. Interviews with UA student participants and partner teachers provide additional information on program efficacy and impact.

Over the 2017-2018 academic year, 25 University of Arizona students served as environmental science outreach interns with the program. Partnerships with ten different units across seven UA colleges enable UA students to receive university credit in a wide variety of departments including: Soil, Water, and Environmental Science; Teaching, Learning, and Sociocultural Studies; Sustainable Built Environments; and Geography. Interns worked with teachers from seven schools in the Tucson Unified and Amphitheatre School Districts, directly affecting over 500 K-12 students weekly.

In addition to increasing K-12 student access to environmental science programming, the program also provides UA student participants with valuable training, mentorship, and work experience to help them transition into the paid workforce. So far, nine former interns have successfully transitioned into paid positions with partner organizations or other internships that directly relate to the skills and experience gained with the Bio/Diversity Project. Interns also reported increased knowledge of the local ecosystem, and appreciation for the importance of fostering more inclusive and diverse environmental science communities.

WISE was recently awarded over \$95,000 by the UA Green Fund to expand the program over the next two years (2018-2020). The UA Green Fund is a student-administered organization that allocates funding working to make the university a more sustainable institution. With this funding, WISE plans to double the number of student interns participating in the program each semester, expand the number of K-12 classes we work with, and host campus events fostering environmental stewardship and continuing our mission to support social justice efforts in STEM fields.

For more information on this project, please contact WISE Director Jill Williams at [jillmwilliams@email.arizona.edu](mailto:jillmwilliams@email.arizona.edu).

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## **SIROW Cinema: Sharing Film Project Archives**

by Stephanie Murphy

Surprise! SIROW staff are award-winning filmmakers! We do diverse, engaging, accessible work beyond evaluation research and publications. Using multimedia tools available to a wide audience has a positive

impact on the communities we serve. As part of our mission, we have produced diverse multimedia in conjunction with various research projects. Staff have used podcasts, webinars, films, social media and other digital platforms to reach audiences. Over the years, SIROW has envisioned, written, directed, and produced a variety of short films. Many of these films advance health education or explore specific topics relevant to women, youth, and families in the Southwest.

We have relaunched the SIROW website to highlight some of our more notable films. These include the following:

- *Scruff* (2017) is a short film about societal expectations and women's experiences around facial hair that won the 2017 LUNAFEST Tucson Local Film contest.



- *Not Your Usual Bedtime Story* (2015), another LUNAFEST winner, was developed as part of the Sex Ed Cinema Film Project. The interview-style film features fictional personas who address questions about sexuality and sexual decisions to challenge misconceptions about sexual health and relationship dynamics.



- *The Desert Is No Lady*, (1995) won the 1996 San Antonio Cine Festival. SIROW's founding director Jan Monk produced this documentary film, which profiles women artists and their relationships to the Southwest and U.S./Mexico borderlands.



Check out these films and others on our film projects webpage (<https://sirow.arizona.edu/film-projects>). Click the film's title link and watch them directly on the page! Keep an eye out – we'll continue to share more films and multimedia projects. Many thanks to those who participated in and supported SIROW films. For more information, please contact Assistant Research Social Scientist Stephanie Murphy at [sumurphy@email.arizona.edu](mailto:sumurphy@email.arizona.edu).

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THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA  
COLLEGE OF SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

## Southwest Institute for Research on Women

### MISSION

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

### 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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**SIROW Main Office, UA Campus**

University of Arizona  
925 N Tyndall Ave  
PO Box 210438  
Tucson, AZ 85721-0438  
520-621-3839

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