

Community Research News

Welcome to SIROW's 2010 Community Research News

SIROW's mission is to improve the lives of women and children -- particularly those living in the Southwest -- through collaborative outreach, education, and research projects. Our projects address a broad spectrum of themes and issues from health and wellness to education, employment, women's history and the arts. To successfully achieve our mission, we rely on our community partners to help us identify problems of importance and to partner with us in community-university collaborations.

Community-university partnerships bring synergistic relationships that develop healthy and prosperous communities. The benefits of these partnerships include the improved health outcomes, enhanced educational programs, a strong workforce, and a heightened social consciousness. Over the past 30 years, SIROW has nurtured hundreds of these important collaborations, many of which have lasted more than a decade.

SIROW's current community-university partnerships demonstrate that there are many ways to grow these relationships, even across geographic spans, and endless possibilities for mutually beneficial collaborations. These partnerships consist of various activities (e.g., action-research, service-learning, joint advocacy) and bring together diverse partners (e.g., community and faith-based organizations, K-12 schools, governmental entities, Indian tribes, advocacy groups).



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Look out for our next issue
of Community Research
News in Summer 2011!

Community-University Partnerships (cont.)...

Ongoing collaborative action research projects include *Herstory to Health*, a substance abuse/HIV prevention and mental health enhancement project for adult women, *Las Rosas*, a substance abuse treatment and continuing care program for adolescent girls, and *iTEAM*, a housing and health promotion project with lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, transgendered and questioning (LGBTQ) youth and young adults. Examples of educational enhancement and workforce development projects include *Reading Our World*, a literacy program for elementary school children, the UA-Women in Science and Engineering (WISE) program, an outreach, enrollment and retention program for young women enrolled in science, technology, engineering and mathematics, and SIROW's *Technical and Career Education Program*, a gender-equity workshop program for high school teachers and students. SIROW additionally supports collaborations with an emphasis on social justice such as *Partners in Change*, a women's advocacy training program, *the Tucson Immigrant Workers Project*, an education and advocacy project for low-wage immigrant workers with questions about their rights on the job, and *Women in Immigration Detention Facilities*, a service, support, and advocacy program for detained immigrant women.

In SIROW's collaborative projects, the following dynamics have led to the cultivation of successful community-university partnerships time and again: 1) a shared commitment, vision and goals, 2) equitable sharing of resources (including external funding), 3) respect for each other's expertise and a willingness to lead and learn, 4) clear operating principals and communication strategies, 5) a willingness to engage in evaluation activities and critical reflection on outcomes, and 6) a commitment to larger, long-term goals (even while specific projects may be short-term).

SIROW's collaborative efforts to improve, evaluate, and expand strategies that contribute to healthy and prosperous communities are extensive, with many collaborations resulting in significant positive outcomes. This newsletter includes a sampling of many of these successful collaborations. For more information on SIROW's range of projects, visit our website at <http://sirow.arizona.edu/>.

— Sally Stevens, Ph.D

Announcement: National Conference Chaired by SIROW Researcher

For the second consecutive year, a SIROW researcher is chairing the Joint Meeting on Adolescent Treatment Effectiveness (JMATE). The 2010 JMATE conference, chaired by Bridget Ruiz, offers a unique opportunity for practice, research, and recovery communities to exchange ideas and data, thereby moving the field of adolescent treatment toward effective, evidence-based and promising practices.

Joint Meeting on Adolescent Treatment Effectiveness (JMATE)

December 14th-16th, 2010

Baltimore, Maryland

For more information and to register:

<http://www.jmate.org>



Arizona's SB1070 & SIROW's Work with Immigrant Women

In April 2010, the Arizona legislature passed SB1070, which many consider to be the broadest and strictest state effort to crack down on undocumented immigrants in decades. Many of the women SIROW serves through its Immigrant Workers' Project and its work with women in immigration detention facilities in the state would be directly impacted by SB 1070. In particular, immigrant women facing abuse or exploitation, whether by employers, spouses, or others, would be all the more vulnerable because they would be even more fearful of reporting abuse to any government authorities. Already, even before SB 1070, SIROW saw the significant hurdles facing low-wage immigrant women workers, many of whom suffer sexual harassment, work in unsafe conditions, or lose significant earnings because they are too scared of risking deportation by coming forward to report these workplace abuses. These fears would be exponentially magnified under SB 1070's new police regime, in which local law enforcement would be required to inquire into immigration status.

Furthermore, the resulting increased enforcement would lead to even greater numbers of women in detention facilities. SIROW has documented the devastating impact that detention has on women and their families. Through its current work providing social services to women detained in Arizona, it is clear that the concerns SIROW documented in the past would grow even more serious as more and more women were caught up in the increased enforcement called for by SB 1070.

SIROW welcomed the news that on July 28, 2010, Judge Susan R. Bolton of the U.S. District Court for the District of Arizona issued an [order](#) that blocks the most controversial parts of SB 1070 from going into effect. Hopefully, the potentially devastating impact of SB 1070 on women and their families has been avoided. However, there is no doubt that damage has been done. Immigrant women victims, like the immigrant community in general, continue to feel fearful. The law seemed to confirm the belief of many that the government cannot be trusted. Meanwhile, the calls for increased immigration enforcement – and the accompanying increase in detention beds that must accompany it – continue. While the order blocking SB 1070's enforcement is a good development, it is just one small step in a long road towards bringing vulnerable immigrant women out of the dark shadows in which they live.

For further information about SIROW's work with immigrant women, please contact Nina Rabin, nina.rabin@law.arizona.edu, (520) 621-9206.



Unseen Prisoners: A Report on Women in Immigration Detention Facilities in Arizona (2009) is available to download on the [SIROW website](#).

Herstory to Health

SIROW's Herstory to Health is a comprehensive, gender specific, and culturally competent HIV, STD, and Hepatitis B/C prevention and mental health enhancement project for women enrolled in substance abuse treatment and for homeless/near homeless women living in Tucson, Arizona. A collaboration with The Haven and the Pima County Health Department, Herstory to Health has worked with 320 women during the last thirty months, 21% (67) of whom self identify as lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LBTQ).

Looking at demographic data, those identifying as LBTQ are younger; a greater percentage are Caucasian, and a greater percentage reported having at least a high school diploma or GED. However, fewer LBTQ women reported having stable housing than their heterosexual counterparts.

| | Average Age | % Caucasian | At least high school diploma or GED | Stable housing |
|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--|-----------------------|
| LBTQ | 30.1 | 50.7% | 67.1% | 55.2% |
| Heterosexual | 35.9 | 46.2% | 61.3% | 70.0% |

Differences between the two groups are also noted with regard to self-reported lifetime abuse. A higher percentage of those identifying as LBTQ reported fear of abuse and having been raped compared to heterosexual women.

| | Feared physical abuse | Feared sex abuse | Was raped |
|---------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------|
| LBTQ | 70.1% | 64.2% | 56.7% |
| Heterosexual | 58.9% | 39.9% | 46.2% |

A higher percentage of LBTQ women reported satisfying personal relationships and satisfying social support from friends, but a greater percent also reported moderate to extreme problems with their families.

| | Satisfied/very satisfied personal relationships | Satisfied/very satisfied support from friends | Moderate to extreme problems with family |
|---------------------|--|--|---|
| LBTQ | 58.2% | 80.6% | 55.2% |
| Heterosexual | 53.8% | 69.2% | 49.0% |

At Herstory to Health, staff assist participants with issues related to identity and sexuality as well as past trauma/abuse, and examine how these intersect with illicit substance abuse. Because positive social support is critical to women's recovery and overall quality of life, staff help participants in identifying this necessary social support. Moreover, assisting women with critical issues such as safe and stable housing is essential to recovery and women's well-being. Fortunately, most participants report satisfaction with, and support from, their personal relationships and friends. Herstory to Health outcome data indicates substantial improvements in participants' health profiles, leading the investigators to underscore the importance of simultaneously addressing the multiple issues in the lives of women.

For more information about Herstory to Health, contact Rosi Andrade: rosia@mail.sbs.arizona.edu

Las Mariposas Engages Caretaker Support

From 2006 until December 2009, in collaboration with Compass Behavioral Health Care (CBHC), SIROW implemented the **Proyecto de las Mariposas** (Las Mariposas), an outpatient substance abuse treatment program for adolescents and their caregivers, in Tucson, Arizona. This project was funded by the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT) and used the Adolescent Community Reinforcement Approach (A-CRA) and the Assertive Continuing Care (ACC) models. Over the three years of its existence, Las Mariposas identified, motivated, engaged, and treated a 144 youth. The majority of participants were a male (78%), and 64% identified as a racial/ethnic minority. Following are the baseline percentages for Las Mariposas participants:

- 64% involvement with juvenile justice system
- 33% on probation/parole
- 89% in school
- 65% had never had previous treatment, with 60% meeting criteria for past year physiological substance dependence.

The primary goal of Las Mariposas was to increase capacity for evidence-based adolescent substance abuse treatment and provide a continuum of care. In order to achieve this goal, program staff 1) utilized the youth led theatrical group, *Clean and Sober Theater (CAST)* to assist with identifying, motivating, and recruiting adolescents in need of treatment, (2) participated in trainings and ongoing fidelity monitoring to ensure that the A-CRA/ACC models were well-implemented, and (3) conducted a process and outcome evaluation to contribute to the evidence-base with regard to A-CRA/ACC effectiveness.

One of the primary components of A-CRA

and ACC is the inclusion of parents or other caregivers, the majority of whom were mothers (73%), in a youth's recovery process. SIROW personnel conducted surveys with caregivers that measured their perceptions of the youth's (1) stage of change, (2) alcohol and other drug use, (3) family environment/relationships, (4) delinquent behaviors, (5) school behaviors, (6) peer relationships, and (7) communication, responsibility, recreation and coping skills. Eighty-one percent of the parents/caregivers (116 participants) completed the baseline, and fifty percent reported they worry "**all the time**" that their child will become injured as a result of his/her behavior. Yet many caregivers did not know how often, if at all, their child used alcohol and other drugs: 40% didn't know the extent of their child's alcohol use, and 35% didn't know the extent of their child's marijuana or cocaine use.

Even though the program concluded in December 2009, SIROW investigators are currently utilizing these data to develop educational resources to help parents/caregivers identify when someone is using alcohol or drugs in order to improve the continuum of care in line with the project's goals.

For more information contact Alison Greene: green@email.arizona.edu

SIROW Welcomes Two New Projects to Improve HIV and Substance Abuse Services

SIROW is proud to welcome two newly funded projects to its long line of work in substance abuse and HIV prevention. The recently funded iTEAM and Step Forward projects are both off to a great start.

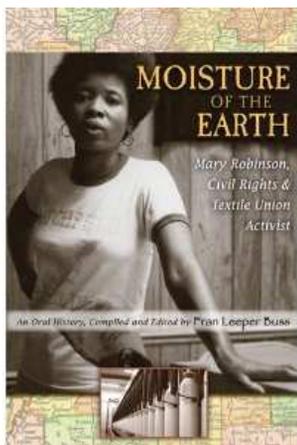
iTEAM is a five year \$1,750,000 grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Service Administration (SAMHSA) from October 2009 through September 2014. SIROW is working with Our Family Services, Open Inn, Wingspan, CODAC Behavioral Health Services (CODAC), and the Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation (SAAF) to develop and implement "Treatment Empowerment for Adolescents on the Move" (iTEAM); a comprehensive systems approach for drug/alcohol and mental health treatment for homeless lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning youth (LGBTQ) and their straight allies. Homeless youth, ages 15 to 23, from diverse racial/ethnic backgrounds are enrolled in the project. Project participants have access to case management, housing services, substance abuse/mental health treatment and HIV prevention services.

The Step Forward project is also a five year grant funded by SAMHSA. The purpose of Step Forward is to expand and enhance substance abuse pre-treatment, treatment and outreach in conjunction with HIV/AIDS services to youth in Pima County, Arizona, through an existing collaborative effort among CODAC (the lead agency,) SAAF, SIROW, and the Pima County Juvenile Court Center (PCJCC). The primary population is justice involved youth who might not be identified as having substance abuse and related behavioral health problems or receive the interventions they need in culturally sensitive ways. All 400 youth will receive the SIROW Health Education for Youth (*SIROW HEY*) curriculum, facilitated by staff from the SAAF, UA-SIROW, and CODAC, and a subset of those participants will receive substance abuse treatment through CODAC.

For more information on the iTEAM or Step Forward projects, please call or email Claudia Powell, 520-621-2154 or claudiap@email.arizona.edu.

The Schlesinger Library Acquires the Fran Buss Collection

The Schlesinger Library on the History of Women in America, a part of the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study at Harvard University, has asked Fran Leeper Buss to put her materials in their library. Fran is an oral historian and SIROW Scholar. The collection will include Fran's journals from 1970-1986. They contain much information on the beginnings of the second stages of the women's movement. They also include problems with welfare, poverty, violence, and racism and information on women and religious ordination. The collection will also contain Fran's papers, the transcriptions for two books, and oral history interviews. Fran received a PhD in history from the University of Arizona in 1995.



Fran has an earlier collection of her materials at Schlesinger. It is called *WORK AND FAMILY: LOW INCOME AND MINORITY WOMEN TALK ABOUT THEIR LIVES, ca 1930-1990*. It includes transcriptions for 323 oral history tapes. Fran is the author/editor of a novel and four books of oral histories. Her most recent book is *MOISTURE OF THE EARTH: MARY ROBINSON, CIVIL RIGHTS AND TEXTILE UNION ACTIVIST, 2009*.

SIROW/ADE Gender Equity Education Program

Beginning in the late 1970s and early 1980s, the second wave of the U.S. women's movement began to critique our educational system. Because vocational education (now called CTE: Career and Technical Education) had been (and continues to be) one of the most gender segregated area of education, gender equity initiatives were tied to vocational CTE funding and programs in Carl Perkins Acts.

In Arizona, Jenny Erwin spearheaded gender equity efforts at the Arizona Department of Education during the 1980s and 1990s, while Heather Alberts created the New Frontiers program at the Center for Educational Development (CED) to administer statewide efforts in Arizona. As a result of this history, currently, SIROW staff are funded by the Arizona Department of Education to offer both student presentations and faculty/staff workshops statewide and to administer an online CTE faculty training program in recruitment/retention of non-traditional CTE students.

This program offers two presentations to students at area middle and high schools. The first of these presentations highlights gender and non-traditional CTE courses/programs/careers, which encourages students to consider all of the various classes and careers available to them, especially non-traditional (gender) ones. The second focuses on sexual harassment prevention. This presentation provides information about sexual harassment behaviors (both hostile environment and *quid pro quo*), prevention strategies, and personal/legal responses to sexual harassment in school and work environments.

Our faculty/staff workshops concentrate on three interrelated topics: 1) recruitment and retention of non-traditional CTE students, which provides CTE faculty and related staff (such as counselors and administrators) with successful strategies for increasing non-traditional CTE student enrollment and help in identifying barriers that need to be addressed and overcome, 2) sexual harassment prevention, which provides information about sexual harassment behaviors and the educational and legal requirements to prevent and respond to sexual harassment in the school environment, and 3) Gender/Ethnic Expectations and Student Achievement (GESA), which invites educators to examine how they interact with students in the classroom and to maintain equitable instructional patterns, offering all students equal opportunities to participate and engage in meaningful classroom instruction.

For additional information and to schedule student presentations and/or faculty/staff workshops, please contact Tim Wernette at wernette@u.arizona.edu; (520) 615-3405 or Thomas Bogart at tnbogart@email.arizona.edu; (520) 626-6287.

Thank you to local businesses!

A warm and appreciative thank you to the following local business for supporting SIROW projects by generously donating in-kind gifts: Brian Bouquet, President of The Event Agency, donated 15 tickets to The 'BODIES the exhibition' for the Las Rosas Recovery support project in order to facilitate a group field trip.

Thank you to contributors and our editing and design team!

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