



# The Heartlink Newsletter

A Quarterly Publication of Southwestern College  
 SUMMER QUARTER 2022  
[www.swc.edu](http://www.swc.edu)



**CONTENTS:** ♦ Alumni Association Survey ♦ SWC Alumni Updates ♦ SWC Alumni in PhD Program ♦ Dean's Corner ♦ SWC Land Acknowledgement & Community Partnerships ♦ SWC's Relationship with the Land & Community Partnerships ♦ Dean's Corner ♦ TNCC Updates ♦ Scholarship News ♦ Welcome our New Employee ♦ Mobility Access ♦ Wild Heart Gallery News

GRAPHIC DESIGN BY DIANNE DELOREN

## SOUTHWESTERN COLLEGE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION FORMING

Dear Alumni and Students of Southwestern College,

Community is important to us, and there is no greater community than the people you have met, collaborated with, and been supported by during the journey of your MA degree at Southwestern College. The friends you have made and the networks you are now part of will last a lifetime.

Up until now, Southwestern College graduates have had informal alumni relationships, but as the College continues to evolve and grow, the time has come for us to strengthen these bonds. As part of this process, we are exploring how an Alumni Association can benefit you as graduates and current students.

Here is a link to access an online survey, to learn what you want from an Alumni Association, how you would like to engage with fellow alumni, and how the College can best support our alumni. <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/9YP82PW>

We would like all our alumni and students to complete the survey, it will only take a few minutes. Thanks in advance! We look forward to updating you as our plans take shape.

Sincerely, the fledgling Alumni Association organizers:

Angelica Gabriel, Alumni 2021, Southwestern College Wild Heart Gallery Assistant

Madge Duus, Alumni 2017 M.A., LMHC, Dine' (Navajo) IAIA, Mental Health Counselor

Jessica Cox, M.A. Counseling 2024

Faculty Advisors: Michelle Lynn, Alumni 2011, SWC Student Services & Field Training Coordinator,

Kate Latimer, Alumni 2007, M.A., LPCC, SWC Counseling Program Chair, Ann Filemyr, Ph.D., SWC President

## SWC ALUMNI UPDATES



### **Richard Cotroneo, M.A. Transformational Counseling, 1985**

The last three years my work directing professional development programs for health care, mental health, and human services providers has focused on promoting health equity and racial justice. Concepts that I learned at SWC related to transformation and serving as a change agent continue to be central to my work. I had the opportunity to facilitate the work of a panel of physician and academic experts in health equity developing Health Equity Competencies for Health Care Providers. The competencies have been distributed throughout NYS and will soon be shared nationally. I am also happy to be at the forefront of health department efforts to promote sexual health, training health care providers to shift from a disease-based mindset to a broader health and pleasure focused model. I had an opportunity to support our state's response to COVID-19, developing training programs to prepare hospitals to screen their staff and then later, helping to facilitate access to vaccines for inner-city health centers, Black churches and cultural centers. At the start of the pandemic, the House of Mica Peace Chamber, the spiritual community that I co-lead, began a global initiative where more than 1,000 people committed to singing to the trees each day for a month, since COVID impacts our lungs, and trees are central to our respiratory health. In 2021, our community expanded and we were able to purchase 20-acres of amazing land that overlooks Plaza Blanca in Abiquiu, NM. In July we will be conducting the first ever Dance of the Cosmic Dreamer on that land. SWC lives deep in my bones and in my heart. [www.houseofmica.org/little-mesa](http://www.houseofmica.org/little-mesa)



### **Amadea Morningstar, M.A. Transformational Counseling, 1987**

As a student at SWC in the 1980s, I developed four questions based on perspectives from Tibetan Buddhist psychology: 1. What's the feeling you want to work with now? 2. How does this feeling serve you? 3. What's the hidden treasure of the feeling? 4. What now? They are applied as a series of drawings or writings one can do spontaneously in a right-brained way. Combined with breath and/or movement, the process can be an effective way to shift mind and feeling states. A colleague told me recently she uses the process as part of her initial intake assessment with clients. What an interesting idea! I've used this healing approach as well as many other aspects of my SWC training regularly in my private practice as an Ayurvedic educator, Polarity therapist and Integral yoga teacher over the past 35 years. This past week, watching a mother and child as they explored this Tibetan drawing process together in a healing session in my office, I was grateful to Southwestern College for the way it sparked my creativity and continues to do so. I'm currently taking SWC Grief and Trauma trainings with my daughter Iza Bruen-Morningstar, who is enrolled in the M.A. Counseling program. Together we are engaged in a variety of projects through my learning center, the Ayurveda Polarity Therapy & Yoga Institute. Watching SWC infuse our two generations of experience has been educational and inspiring.

## ALUMNI UPDATES (Continued)



### **Maud Sejourant, M.A. Creative Expressive Therapy, 1989**

The experience acquired during my college time between 1988 and 89, allowed me to create very innovative workshops and trainings back in France. I started 'Le.pouvoir au feminin' a workshop for women; I had up to 40 women in a 5-day residential training. I created a curriculum for health professionals using shamanic tools and approaches. Dr. Waterman participated in this training and came several times to teach in this context. Then I introduced the work of Don Miguel Ruiz, author of *The Four Agreements*, to my students France and created a long distance curriculum of six months, using group phone calls and phone coaching as early as 1998. My website was: [lecercledevie.com](http://lecercledevie.com) and has been sold with the content of the Toltec courses to previous students and coaches. Now I paint the 'Elements' that can be seen on my website, [www.maud-sejourant.com](http://www.maud-sejourant.com). I just had a group show in Albuquerque and will have a one person show at the Southside library in Santa Fe during the month of July, 2022.



### **Jerilyn Blum, M.A. Art Therapy, 1997**

After graduating, I was one of two art therapists in Boise, Idaho, and five in the state, and the only person with sand tray training. I launched into private practice. I have spoken at conferences and at Boise State University about art therapy, and taught sand tray, as many clinicians were hungry for the knowledge. Together with other child therapists, I offered grant-funded art and sand tray groups at elementary schools. I was definitely blazing a trail! Twenty some years later, art therapy and sand tray are commonplace here in Boise. Over time, I have worked inpatient at two hospitals, and was a clinical director at three agencies as well as maintaining a private practice (part time now, semi-retired, age 72!). I also co-authored a book with Cherie Senieur, MA, AT-R called *Draw It Out, Work It Out: A 4-step Expressive Arts Workbook for your Journey to Greater Mental Wellness!* (available on Amazon). Getting an art therapy degree from Southwestern was the start of a new life for me, and an opportunity to be of service. I have sorely missed Santa Fe. Happily, (post COVID) I got to come back and visit the new campus!



### **Bryce Pittenger, M.A. Counseling 1997**

Bryce Pittenger has worked in the field of behavioral health since 1997 in New Mexico. This led to several career moves, including private practice and community mental health. In 2013 when the previous administration dismantled the behavioral health system, Bryce left her role as Clinical Director at Hogares, and started working for the State. One of the transformational learning opportunities she had at SWC was the notion of 'change agents.' This concept has led her to try to 'change the system from the inside.' She turned her grief over the loss of the behavioral health system into action and has spent the last 9 plus years working to create a collaborative, accessible, and culturally reflective system of care for all New Mexicans. She is currently CEO of the Behavioral Health Collaborative, working with 16 executive member departments to align behavioral health initiatives.



### **Kathleen Potter, M.A. Counseling, 2005**

I loved living in Santa Fe for the 27 years that I did. I arrived in 1988, to attend massage school, beginning my healing journey at my Saturn Return (age 28 - 30). At my 2nd Saturn Return (age 56-59) I moved to Reno to care for my mum. She died a little over a year ago at the age of 98, just shy of her 99th birthday! Mary, my mum, unconditionally supported and loved me by challenging, me, teaching me and guiding me with her humor, intelligence, generosity and wisdom. I am self-employed as a Psychological Astrologer and Advanced Practitioner of Ortho-Bionomy® bodywork. I am currently organizing ongoing classes in the Reno area for Ortho-Bionomy® bringing skilled teachers to the area to co-teach with me. In the Fall of 2022, I will teach Astrology in person and via Zoom. I will be launching my website soon. Thank you to my INB and psychodrama certificate instructor Kate Cook! My experience at SWC was such a gift in helping me understand my psychology and my family trauma, explore my creativity, and learn therapeutic skills for my psychological astrology practice. For 10 years I practiced as a counseling astrologer in SF. I am a dedicated change maker, a guide who listens, supports, and educates with love, understanding, knowledge, and wisdom. Clients continue to show me that within our wounds are our gifts. Let's SHINE!



### **Rev. Ted Wiard, EdD, M.A. Counseling with a Concentration in Grief and Loss 2005**

Since graduating from Southwestern College in 2005, I have built a career in the behavioral health industry that has been fulfilling, exciting, difficult, and very worthwhile. Southwestern College gave me the platform to work at the Betty Ford Center, continue to develop and direct Golden Willow Retreat, an emotional healing sanctuary focused on grief and loss, co-author a book, publish academic articles, have a weekly news column in the Taos News, speak internationally, found and run a licensed behavioral health center serving over 200 clients, and direct the Rio Grande Treatment Center, focused on substance abuse disorders and recovery. My degree was also the underpinning for my Doctorate in organizational leadership focusing on leadership behaviors amid change. This degree has allowed me exciting opportunities to explore grief, loss, trauma, and recovery from a macro level within organizations and government entities. As well as having a wonderful time with my career, I'm enjoying being the director of SWC's Trauma, Grief, and Renewal Certificate Program. Witnessing passionate people step into facilitating emotional healing from loss has been my coveted goal and I am so grateful to see this come true. All of this is due to my academic and experiential foundation at Southwestern College. [www.goldenwillowretreat.org](http://www.goldenwillowretreat.org)

## ALUMNI UPDATES (Continued)



### **Chris Chappell, M.A. Counseling 2010**

My convoluted journey has finally led me to doing the work that I envisioned when I graduated from Southwestern College. I have a private practice based in the Santa Fe area that is rooted in an ecotherapy approach. I see all my clients outdoors and I love it. I work with people who love nature, are facing some mental and/or spiritual challenges, and want to grow. My orientation includes earth-based ceremonies, mindfulness, somatic therapy, family systems theory, nonviolent communication, transpersonal psychotherapy, CBT, and, of course, ecopsychology. I also run a small business as a birding and nature guide. I regularly use the people skills that I honed at SWC when I am making a connection, resolving conflicts, or tuning into what will bring my clients joy. The SWC experience was an important preparation for the work I am doing now, and a critical steppingstone along a transformational path that continues to this day. I am grateful for the whole-hearted presence and wisdom that so many of the faculty brought to their teaching, for the structure and process of the program, and for the community of support of my fellow students. I really appreciated the experiential orientation and I truly transformed through the experience in a way that prepared me to be a healing force for others. I am happy to make connection with any lost connections from my days at SWC, please reach out. [www.santafenaturetherapist.com](http://www.santafenaturetherapist.com)



### **Mia Aur, M.A. Counseling 2011**

I currently reside in Albuquerque, NM. I recently opened my private practice, Heart Spaces, LLC. I have a special heart for supporting GLBTQIA2+ individuals while they are in the process of building a family. I am a mom in a lesbian family system and the daughter of a gay non-binary father. It is of utmost importance to me that queer families have a place in mainstream society, are supported equitably, and feel celebrated in every step of their journey. SWC shaped my life and work in many ways. The experiential nature of the learning process supports a confidence of self that I wish was a part of my education from the start. SWC aligns with my dedication of holding the possibility of many realities and having the humility to respect the world of the person in front of me. SWC taught me not to be afraid of shifting paradigms. GLBTQIA2+ family-building has a characteristic of flexibility and creativity that allows it to shift the paradigm of how we see families and what comprises a family.



### **Michelle Katz, M.A. Counseling 2011**

After many years as a therapist in inner cities and rural settings, focusing on families and young adults, I turned to a programmatic role. I lead a large opioid response grant given to the State of New Mexico's Behavioral Health Services Division, managing the implementation of a universal prevention, trauma-informed care and self-regulation practice in 90+ schools across the state. With the desire to take this work globally and during the remote work world of the pandemic, I joined the Hazelden Betty Ford Foundation training clinical practitioners on their model across the world. Today, as the world heals from the last two years, I find the calling to return to direct service work again. I now work for the NM State Public Education Department in their Safety and Health Schools Bureau, bringing mental health awareness to our education system. I lead the Project AWARE grant offered to the state via SAMHSA. Since my first wilderness quest in 2010 with SWC, I have also been immersed in nature-based and rites of passage practices. I was trained with the School of Lost Borders as a guide and am a member of the International Wilderness Guides Council. My return to direct service work is in this vein. I am offering Teen/Young Adult Nature-based therapeutic groups every season through Cerros Consulting, my personal business, while dreaming up the creation of a gap year program. [www.cerrosconsulting.com](http://www.cerrosconsulting.com)



### **Kristine Nystrom, M.A. Counseling 2011**

I run a private practice working with clients in WA and OR specializing in complex trauma, primarily using Sensorimotor Psychotherapy and parts work. SWC introduced me to the experiential, somatic treatment of trauma and laid the groundwork for my continued education in Sensorimotor Psychotherapy and the work I am doing now with clients. It has been an exciting journey over the last 11 years, further building on the transpersonal and experiential ideals that I found so inspiring at SWC. I am also in the process of opening a therapist-focused coworking space where I live in Bellingham, WA. The pandemic changed how we do therapy, and while the flexibility of Telehealth and being able to work from home is amazing, it deepens the sense of isolation and loneliness that can be inherent in private practice. Through this space, I hope to build a welcoming community for therapists to support and collaborate with each other while also supplying basic office infrastructure and flexible by-the-hour office rentals to accommodate in-person and online sessions. [www.newstreamscounseling.com](http://www.newstreamscounseling.com)



### **Jessica Venture-Ewing, M.A. Art Therapy/Counseling 2012**

My educational experiences at Southwestern have shaped the way that I show up for my clients. I do not focus solely on symptoms or diagnosis but rather who my clients are as whole people in mind, body, and spirit and how disruptions in any of these areas can affect their relationships with themselves and others. In my post-graduate years, I have gained my Art Therapy Board Certification (ATR-BC), National Infant Mental Health Endorsement (IMH-E), and Perinatal Mental Health Certification (PMH-C). These additional layers of training have deepened my level of knowledge and understanding of the multifaceted worlds of my clients. In 2018 my family and I moved from Santa Fe to Chicago. In Chicago I have had some amazing clinical experiences. My first position was as a therapist and supervisor at the Erikson Institute followed by supervising and providing art therapy services at Institute for Therapy through the Arts in Evanston. I am currently in private practice focusing on supporting pregnant and parenting people as well as those healing from traumatic experiences. I also provide reflective supervision, art therapy supervision and training in attachment, development and trauma to medical and mental health systems throughout the Chicago area in an effort to support other providers to widen their lens of understanding.



## ALUMNI UPDATES (Continued)



### **Zian (Diane) Chavez, M.A., Art Therapy/Counseling 2015**

My experience at Southwestern changed my life. Art therapy does work! Art has been my constant companion and has allowed me to express myself when I couldn't find the words. Thank you SWC for taking me on an expansive journey of self-reflection. I'm a dreamer, always have been, and always will be. SWC helped me find the best version of myself. I've been working part-time as an art therapist at Multnomah County in Portland, Oregon at the HIV Health Service Center since 2018. At the moment I am producing a documentary called "*We are the Most Beautiful People, Adults with Disabilities*". Adults with disabilities are the world's largest minority, yet still today, are not seen by many. I'm hoping to broaden people's perspectives with this film. I want all persons with disabilities from around the globe to know they are cared for and they are respected members in our communities. I'm on a mission to see how the world is treating us. Dehumanizing persons with disabilities is still in the consciousness of today's society. I'm dreaming that this film will be a catalyst contributing to other disability justice movements around the world at dismantling systemic ableism. <https://wearethemostbeautifulpeople.com>



### **Madge Duus, M.A., Art Therapy/Counseling 2017**

Madge is an artist, therapist, and spiritual creature of Mother Earth. She is a proud member of the Navajo Nation (Dine') and of Danish-American heritages. She is a native New Mexican. Madge is a counselor at the Institute of American Indian Arts (IAIA) and is honored to serve the IAIA students and community in her capacity as a therapist and support person. Ms. Duus feels privileged to work alongside like-minded counseling team members at IAIA, where an indigenous wellness framework is used to support students. This framework focuses on promoting four areas: hope, belonging, meaning, and purpose through supportive outreach, crisis intervention, supportive counseling, and expressive arts and art therapy. Her path to becoming a therapist would not have been possible without Southwestern College. She says: "*I am profoundly grateful for the transformative, healing experience I had while attending Southwestern College. Being part of the SWC art therapy program and community brought me deeper into my authenticity and closer into alignment with my true path to serve and help others on their healing journey.*" Madge is one of the organizers of SWC's new Alumni Association.



### **Jody Green, M.A. Art Therapy/Counseling 2019**

After graduating in May 2019, I relocated to Northern California and registered with the BBS as an Associate Professional Clinical Counselor. Of course, that is easier said than done. Nevertheless, through my professional development and passion for the healing arts, my treatment specialties now include eating disorders, trauma, and addictions. As a therapist and certified EMDR provider I am passionate about working with individuals who are ready to step out of their comfort zone and embrace their innate power and potential to heal. The unique and open minded curriculum of SWC was the foundation I needed to begin growing as a creative, client-centered and compassionate therapist. I am grateful for all the "woo-woo" because it taught me something critical I can pass on to my clients: Get comfortable with the uncomfortable, because that's where life happens!"



### **Angelica Gabriel, M.A. Art Therapy/Counseling 2021**

Angelica has a passion for community and therefore stayed connected to SWC through being the Wild Heart Gallery Assistant. Using experience gained at SWC, Gabriel works as an Art Therapist/Counselor at Small Steps Child Counselling of Albuquerque (Santa Fe office) where she continued after Internship, working with children ages 4 to 16 and their families. Angelica also experiences her love of community through working at Reunity Resources, a community farm in the heart of Santa Fe. Within this community setting Angelica wears many hats in service to Farm Camp (children 4-12), Events Coordinator, community building, and assistant office manager. In response to building the alumni community Angelica is excited to stay connected to vibrant individuals that graduated from SWC. The experience gained at Southwestern College is a vision of 'Transformation through Consciousness' that continues for a lifetime after graduation. As one of the organizers of the new Alumni Association, I want to continue to nurture the connection we all share.



## SEVEN SWC ALUMNI ARE IN THE FIRST PhD COHORT



### **Greg McNeil, M.A. Counseling 2004**

Greg McNeil is a New Mexico board certified Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor (LPCC) with over 17 years clinical experience. A 10-year veteran of the United States Air Force, Greg is also a former champion bodybuilder, Wing Chun martial artist, Tibetan 5 Rites instructor, Life Coach and author. Greg holds a B.S. in Technology and Training from the University of New Mexico and a M.A. in Counseling from Southwestern College. Greg is the owner of Coaches Korner & Empowerment Center of New Mexico, LLC and Rune Inc, both verified veteran-owned small businesses. Greg is also a contractor for the Department of Defense (DOD). He is returning to Southwestern College to complete a journey of dedicated education and to serve humanity at the highest level.



### **Sylvia Stenitzer, M.A. Counseling 2006**

Originally from Austria, Silvia has been living and working in Santa Fe since 1989. In her private psychotherapy practice, she combines principles of interpersonal neurobiology, attachment theory and psychodrama to promote personal and relational growth. For the past 15 years, she has been creating and facilitating experiential workshops and continuing education trainings with focus on the mind-body connection and the transformational power of group. With the decision to join the PhD program at Southwestern College, I am fulfilling my dream of deepening into my work to bring forth its essence into this world.



### **Jamie Shannon-Owings, M.A. Counseling 2013**

I am currently working as a school counselor at The May Center for Learning here in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Since graduating in 2013, I have had the opportunity to work with children and their families through Las Cumbres, teach children with learning differences and now have become their school counselor. My professional focus is supporting children in their growth through the lens of attachment and trauma. I have always loved learning and the pursuit of it. Having received my Master's degree and school counseling training at Southwestern, I loved the transformational experiential learning style. The unique interpersonal community of Southwestern College is so welcoming and nurturing to all students. When I heard Southwestern College was offering a Ph.D. program, I jumped at the chance.



### **Jill Campoli, M.A. Art Therapy/Counseling 2014**

Jill Campoli M.A., LPCC, CCTP, is the Clinical Director for the Pueblo of Pojoaque Behavioral Health Program, Pin Tsae. Ms. Campoli has had the honor of working with tribal communities in northern New Mexico since 2014 and is passionate about trauma aware, culturally responsive practices. She is a consultant for the Tribal Law and Policy Institute and has presented at conferences nationally about clinical services in the tribal justice system. In addition to her work, Ms. Campoli enjoys making art, writing and taking her dogs on adventures. Why undertake the PhD program? "By inviting creativity and curiosity about various global as well as internal systems, I have been led to a trailhead, the PhD in Visionary Practice and Regenerative Leadership."



### **Jessica Parrott, M.A. Art Therapy/Counseling 2015**

I am the lead counselor for an inpatient substance abuse treatment program in South Carolina. My focus is on generational trauma and how it relates to addiction and I have joined the PhD program to learn and grow to be the best counselor I can be for the patients in my program.



### **Amy Winn, M.A. Counseling 2016**

I spent 35 years working in retail, public television and volunteer management before retiring to Santa Fe for the sunshine. I discovered Southwestern College through the annual Transformation and Healing Conference. The topic that year was Healing Family Trauma, a topic of utmost interest to an adoptee! At the T & H conference I learned new modalities, techniques and theories that inspired me to attend SWC for my master's degree in counseling, graduating in May of 2016. Upon graduation, I opened my private practice, Zory's Place, specializing in adoption trauma, education and healing. At the same time, I became president of the American Adoption Congress, an international adoption reform organization. As an adoptee, I have devoted myself to educating anyone who will listen about the reality of adoption, not the storybook, TV version. I have brought my passion and knowledge of adoption to SWC by speaking in a variety of classes as well as speaking at national and regional adoption conferences. When the Ph.D. in Visionary Practice & Regenerative Leadership was announced, I felt as if it had been written specifically for me and my passion for changing the way we do adoption in our country. I can't wait to get started!



### **Concepción Garcia Allen, M.A. Counseling 2018**

My love would be to combine my Indigenous traditions and my Master's in Counseling and Somatic Experiencing, with western learning, and offer that in service to those that ask. I have always been a part of the magic that surrounds us and from an early age I was pulled to the path of my ancestors that now, at 70 years of age, I continue to walk and share. Currently I offer group therapy sessions in reestablishing relationships with your beautifully created measurement of yourself and with your movement, which is connected to all our relations through exercise, meditation and dance. I work at several clinics and have a private practice in Santa Fe. We live in crucial times and need new paradigms of how to live, breathe, and walk on our Mother Earth. I look forward to joining the first cohort of Visionary Leaders to discover creative solutions to the challenges we face.

# SWC LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND PARTNERSHIPS WITH NATIVE NATIONS AND INDIGENOUS PEOPLE

–President Ann Filemry, PhD

The President's 2020-21 Task Force on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion has completed its year of work with the recommendation that Southwestern College adopt the use of land acknowledgement for all official gatherings. The Leadership of Southwestern College accept this recommendation.

## WHAT IS A LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT?

It is a verbal and/or written statement acknowledging the Indigenous Nations and ancestral occupants of a given territory or land base. This is a way of thanking them for their care for the land and for allowing us to be present in their territory. Though the exact wording of a Land Acknowledgement can vary, for those of us speaking from the grounds of Southwestern College, the Task Force recommended this wording:

*"We lovingly acknowledge the indigenous people of this land that our beloved college is built on and that we have the privilege of educating people on. We honor the Tewa people of the Nambe, Tesuque, and Pojoaque Pueblos who have been stewards of this land. We offer respect and gratitude to the elders, past and present, who have cared for this beautiful land. We give thanks for the medicine of this land, and the healing it provides us."*

## WHY SHOULD SWC INCLUDE A LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT?

Southwestern College was founded by descendants of colonial-settler immigrants in the American-European tradition of higher education. A land acknowledgement statement can contribute to re-situating colonial settler culture by challenging white supremacist notions regarding history, ownership, property rights, and the rhetoric of Manifest Destiny. It makes explicit that the descendants of immigrants, colonizers, and settlers now occupy territory that was not 'empty' nor unpopulated prior to European invasions and occupation. It explicitly names the Native Nations whose original territory we are now living in. By naming original occupants of the land, we can bring this often-invisible history into consciousness. By making the past visible, we invite ourselves to be more accountable regarding the legacies and consequences of cultural domination and subjugation, dislocation, relocation, land theft, and war. It invites us to consider reparations and appropriate relations with Native Nations and Indigenous peoples.

## WHERE DOES LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT COME FROM?

I am not an expert on this, but as the former Academic Dean/Chief Academic Officer of the Institute of American Indian Arts from 2005-2014 and a long-time ally of Native peoples since I worked in the Native American Studies Program at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee from 1982-84, I have heard Land Acknowledgement statements for many decades. It is a common practice in "Indian Country." I heard Land Acknowledgements every time a Native person addressed an assembly either of Indigenous persons or of non-Indigenous peoples. The practice to verbally acknowledge whose territory you are in and to honor those hosts for allowing you to be in their territory may be rooted in millenia of engagement and exchange between Native Nations.



*Tesuque Pueblo Pottery  
Rain God*

## WHAT ARE OUR CURRENT PARTNERSHIPS WITH NATIVE NATIONS AND INDIGENOUS PEOPLES?

1. Our Board of Trustees has three members out of 12 voting members (a quarter of the Board) who are Native American: The Chair of our Board of Trustees, Stephen Wall, J.D., (Anishinaabe) is the first Native American person to chair the SWC Board. Kathryn Tijerina, J.D., (Comanche) served as our first Native American Vice Chair of the Board from 2018-2020 and continues as a member of our Board. Greer McSpadden, LCSW, (Cherokee) has worked as a clinical social worker for tribes, tribal colleges, and Native Nations for many years. She has served as a member of our Board since 2019.
2. Since 2016, we have raised over \$75,000 for Native American graduate students pursuing our professional clinical degrees in Art Therapy and Counseling. Many of them now serve their communities as therapists.
3. The Board of Trustees established a new scholarship in Fall 2020 for Northern New Mexican Hispanic and/or Native American graduate students to specifically acknowledge our relationship to the place that we live and to help support the descendants of the ancestral peoples of this place.
4. For five years we successfully received Native American Graduate Assistantship Funds from the John & Sophie Ottens Family Foundation, which provided year-long support to ten Native American graduate students to participate in our Graduate Assistantship program.
5. Southwestern College graduates include members from at least the following Native Nations: Navajo, Menominee, Cherokee, Indigenous Hawaiian, Apache, Navajo, and the Pueblos of Isleta, Taos, and Jemez Pueblos, among others.
6. Many Southwestern College graduates are currently employed by tribes, tribal organizations, and agencies to serve the mental and behavioral healthcare needs of their communities. This includes alumni working for Pojoaque Pueblo, Nambe Pueblo, Eight Northern Pueblos, First Nations Community Healthsource in Albuquerque, the Institute of American Indian Arts, Santa Fe Indian School, the White Mountain Apache and Navajo Nation in Arizona, and elsewhere.



*Poeh Museum and Cultural Center, Pojoaque Pueblo*



## SWC LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND PARTNERSHIPS WITH NATIVE NATIONS AND INDIGENOUS PEOPLE (Continued)

7. Native American staff, faculty, students, and guest speakers add perspectives in our classes and on campus. This includes addressing the need to heal historic and intergenerational trauma.

8. We have built a strong bridge with the Institute of American Indian Arts. Each year we accept IAIA graduates into our programs. This year three IAIA graduates are enrolled with us. The Dean of Students at IAIA, Nena Martinez Anaya, also serves on our Board of Trustees.

9. This past fall we completed a Memorandum of Agreement with the Zuni Nation connecting Zuni College and Career Center with Southwestern College.

10. A required core course in the new PhD program has been developed and will be taught by internationally-acclaimed indigenous scholar, author, PhD core faculty, and member of Santa Clara Pueblo, Dr. Gregory Cajete, PhD. This new course on Indigenous Thought will ask all doctoral students to consider how their work serves the processes of reparation and of decolonization.

11. The late Janet K. Smith, the first Native American (Cherokee) art therapist in the state of Oklahoma, served on our Board from 2017 until she passed in 2020. She gave a public lecture on campus in Spring 2018 describing culturally responsive art therapy techniques that she originated. She founded the Janet K. Smith Scholarship for Native American Art Therapy students.

In addition to the college's official relationships, there are many behind-the-scenes interpersonal relationships between those of us who are of settler-descent and those of us who are of indigenous descent working together with mutual respect that underlie the creation of these scholarships, agreements, and services. I am grateful for these relationships of sustenance which underlie our scholarships, agreements, and services.

Certainly, there is more to do to continue a conscious path of addressing the past in a meaningful way and healing the legacy of trauma. There is more to do to serve as allies acknowledging the impact on Indigenous Peoples and Native Nations of forced segregation through establishing reservations; forced assimilation through removal and boarding schools; and the consequences of U.S. policies that led to deprivation and domination.

Today, despite the ongoing pressures of global economic systems of exploitation, there is a worldwide resurgence of Indigenous/Aboriginal/Native-centric culture dedicated to reviving Indigenous languages, values, beliefs, and lifeways. This should and will influence and transform the dominant culture. Let us be part of that transformation.



Southwestern College, Santa Fe, NM

Let those of us who are the descendants of settler-immigrants continue to learn about our histories in this land and grow in awareness and action as allies for present and future Indigenous generations. Thank you.

### SWC's RELATIONSHIP WITH THE LAND –President Ann Filemry, PhD

In addition to land acknowledgement, there is the importance of our relationship with the land that the college and counseling center are on, or as I prefer to say are *in*, for we are not perched upon the land, but rather we live *within* the land and its weather patterns, water cycles, carbon cycles, and seasonal cycles. We live here as part of this place and as participants with the Earth herself.

As Earth care providers, stewards, and recipients of the beauty of these seven and a half acres, we have planted drought-resistant trees and bushes, tended the grounds, added water features, flower gardens, walking paths, sitting areas, shade areas, and hives of bees to support the vital pollinators whose contributions keep us all alive. We have transformed a gravel lot (the main campus) into green spaces full of herbs and flowering plants, added gourd bird houses, a labyrinth, a fire circle, and a koi pond.

As we built Tierra Nueva Counseling Center, we transformed an abandoned lot full of goatheads (those prickly seeds that bite into flesh) into a meditative walking path, places to rest and gaze up at the mountains, and a community garden. We added a hammock, a picnic table, a berry garden, a seed garden for the Three Sisters (squash, beans and corn), and most recently an Ecotherapy Garden for TNCC clients who may want to grow their own food in the food desert of the Agua Fria corridor where we are located.

Our art therapy building has a water capture system that funnels rain into underground cisterns to help support the flowering plants, trees, and bushes at the back of campus. It also uses solar panels placed on the roof as an energy source.

We love the land and acknowledge the role of ant, snake, prairie dog, fox, fly, grasshopper, moth, raccoon, skunk, spider, and others who share this place with us. We do not use herbicides or pesticides on our grounds and seek natural methods to help keep a healthy balance between plants, insects, people, mammals, reptiles, arachnids and the koi living in the pond. We have created a small, peaceful green oasis just a block from the busy traffic on Airport Road, between a junk yard, a U-Haul rental facility, a stone and rock landscape company, a port-a-john rental facility, and a neighborhood trailer park

With gratitude to everyone who participates as part of this balance!





"The land knows us even when we are lost. Our stories are there as human people connected to the land. The pain of disconnection, of not being in a home that you feel you belong to, where the land knows you and you know the land. What is the healing, what is the medicine for that? Think about the water. The river gives you a drink without asking where you are from. The land feeds you without asking where you are from. That gift exchange between people and the land. The land takes care of you. As the land takes care of you, how does it become a home? When you take care of land, I think it's reciprocity. Go back to the idea of gifts and responsibilities. What are the gifts that you carry in the place that you live, and how do you use them?"

—Dr. Robin Wall Kimmerer

## **COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS** —President Ann Filemyr, PhD

Southwestern College's goal of expanding community partnerships continues to bring us into good relationship with like-minded non-profits doing good work in our community and the world. This summer we are partnering with the following local organizations:

### **Earth Care**

[Earthcarenm.org](http://Earthcarenm.org)

For the second year in a row, SWC provided a free space, June 6-10, for Earth Care's annual El Puente Summer Leadership Academy for youth ages 14-20. Earth Care is an empowerment and community development organization training and supporting parent and youth leaders who organize campaigns to build a healthy, just, and sustainable world.

### **The Human Rights Alliance**

[Hrasantafe.org](http://Hrasantafe.org)

HRA's mission is to educate, engage, encourage, and celebrate LGBTQIA+ inclusion, pride, and acceptance for all people. They organize Pride on the Plaza and the Pride Parade. Both resume this summer, Saturday, June 25, and SWC with TNCC will march in the parade again carrying our banners. TNCC will have an information booth on the plaza. Come join us!

### **Tomorrow's Women**

[Tomorrowswomen.org](http://Tomorrowswomen.org)

Our Art Therapy faculty, staff, students, and alumni have long been involved in the summer programming of Tomorrow's Women, dedicated to empowering young Israeli, Palestinian, and U.S. women to be strong, compassionate leaders who partner to resolve conflicts and inspire actions that promote equity, peace, and justice for all. The on-ground program resumes this summer in Santa Fe, and we are involved. In addition to the contributions of our art therapists, we will be donating art supplies for the August 4 Chalk for Peace event from 2-4 pm at the Railyard. This event is open to all!





## DEAN'S CORNER



Virginia Padilla-Vigil, PhD,  
Academic Dean

This summer will be a busy one with the following task forces and committees underway:

♦ **Student Diversity Task force** – The charge of this task force is to develop a diversity plan that will be presented to Academic Council for approval. The plan would then be implemented in the new 2022-23 academic year. A call was sent out to all SWC students and several responded and will be participating in the task force. The task force will develop a survey to evaluate our programs from the SWC student perspective. The data from the survey will be used to inform the work of the task force.

♦ **Graduation Committee** – We are hoping to have an on-ground graduation Saturday, November 5. Stay posted! A special thank you to our committee members: Katherine Ninos, Andrea Pacheco, Dianne Deloren, Athena Andriakos, Lily Gutierrez, and Seph Turnipseed for your service on this

important committee!

♦ **Personal Therapy Task Force** – The charge of this task force is to review the current requirement and update it in response to student needs. A special thank you to task force members: Kate Latimer, Katie Brammer, Jennifer Albright, Dru Phoenix, Katherine Ninos, and Denise Moore.

♦ **Dispositional Assessment Task Force** – The charge of this task force is to more clearly articulate the dispositional characteristics required for therapists and weave an ongoing process for providing students with clear feedback on their development as they demonstrate these dispositional characteristics throughout the program from acceptance through graduation. A special thank you to task force members: Kate Latimer, Katie Brammer, Jennifer Albright, and Katherine Ninos.

♦ **Faculty Advising Task Force** – The charge of this task force is to create a coherent and clearly articulated faculty advisement program to build relationships between faculty advisors and students and to better support student retention and success. A special thank you to task force members Katie Brammer, Denise Moore, Lily Gutierrez, Jennifer Albright, Kate Latimer, and Ann Filemyr.

♦ **We have a Learning Circle coming up on July 12th from 2-4 pm via Zoom and on campus** facilitated by Katie Brammer. The purpose of a Learning Circle is to help us improve our courses, activities, and academic programs. The focus for the next Learning Circle is on the Multicultural Perspectives in Counseling with Diverse Populations course. The outcome is to learn how key assignments—Cultural Humility Exploration Project, Multicultural Counseling Platform and Vision Board, and Racial, Cultural, Ethnic Identity Development Reflection support the development of students as culturally humble and responsive counselors in alignment with the course, institutional, and program learning outcomes. An invite was sent out on June 13th. If you are interested in participating, please email [athenaandriakos@swc.edu](mailto:athenaandriakos@swc.edu) and let her know. She will send you the link. Everyone is invited.

♦ **Our Summer Book Group:** Katie Brammer, Kate Latimer, Jennifer Albright, Dru Phoenix, Ann Filemyr, Marna Hauk, and Rahima Schmall met on Tuesday, June 21. We read and discussed the book *Teaching Across Cultural Strengths* by Alicia Chavez and Susan Longerbeam and will be presenting highlights of the discussion at our October faculty meeting. Topics from the book that we discussed include strengths-based teaching, cultural introspection, and balancing cultural strengths.

Faculty have expressed a desire to bring back **Creative Conversations**, so we will be starting them up again this fall. More info will follow. If you have topics you would like to recommend, please feel free to reach out to me, [vpvigil@swc.edu](mailto:vpvigil@swc.edu).



# Tierra Nueva Counseling Center

of Southwestern College  
[www.tierranuevacounseling.org](http://www.tierranuevacounseling.org)

## **What's New at TNCC?**

These are trying times. As the pandemic continues to surge, our community is now facing soaring gas prices and continued threat of wildfires. Tierra Nueva Counseling Center remains an invaluable resource for our community, and we are here to serve. In addition to providing therapy at no or low cost, we are expanding our services beyond mental health. Our clients are struggling to meet basic needs. In response, TNCC is launching a new program, hiring navigators to provide case management, connecting clients to local resources and basic needs. TNCC has joined Santa Fe Connect, a community organization that links locals with nonprofits that provide direct assistance with rent, food, and other necessities. Southwestern College is supporting this effort by providing Graduate Assistants (students who work at the College in exchange for tuition reduction) as Navigators. With this new program we hope to connect clients to what they need most and help increase the overall health and wellbeing of our community.

## **Want to Help? Be a sponsor to one of our programs!**

By donating to TNCC you are enabling someone in your community to gain access to the life-changing therapeutic treatments they need to improve their health and wellbeing and by extension the health and wellbeing of our community.

- **Underwriting therapeutic Sessions:** \$125 each for low-income underinsured and uninsured children ages 3-17
- **Trauma informed mental health services:** Give the lasting gift of mental well-being by underwriting a package of ten sessions for \$1250. Click link below to donate.
- **Wrap-around navigation services:** for client families @ \$60 per hour you can contribute to family wellbeing.
- **Sponsor our community garden or take-home art kits:** Your generous donations, no matter how big or small, can help: plants, seeds, materials, crayons, sand, clay. Help our Eco therapists and Art therapists design programs to meet the needs of clients.

***TO MAKE A DONATION TO TIERRA NUEVA COUNSELING CENTER, CLICK [HERE](#) AND SELECT TIERRA NUEVA CLIENT SERVICES***

## **Welcome our new Navigators, SWC Graduate Students Mattsué and Daniel, to our TNCC team!**



**Mattsué Cahué-Lopez, B.S., NBC-HWC**, was born in Aguascalientes, Mexico and raised in Arizona. She moved to Santa Fe, NM to begin her academic journey at Southwestern College in the spring of 2022 in pursuit of a Masters in Art Therapy and Counseling. She is passionate about wellness, coaching and mentoring youth, and empowering people in her community to live healthy and happy lives. When Mattsué is not immersed in her studies, she is painting, hiking, socializing, and hanging out with Duke, her furry companion. She is excited about collaborating with staff at Tierra Nueva Counseling Center and supporting her community as a GA Navigator.

**Daniel Reese, M.Div.**, recently moved to Santa Fe from Atlanta, GA. Prior to enrolling at Southwestern College, Daniel earned a Master of Divinity degree from Wake Forest University. In his spare time Daniel enjoys reading, hiking, biking and adoring Santa Fe's unrivaled sunsets. Daniel's professional experience includes Hospice services, adult critical care, and pediatrics. Daniel is looking forward to supporting the clients and staff of TNCC as a GA Navigator!



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## SCHOLARSHIP NEWS FROM THE FINANCIAL AID OFFICE



For the Spring/Summer 2022 Quarters, the SWC Financial Aid Office received 45 essays for the SWC Honorary Scholarship process. The essays were sent to scholarship committee members and were individually ranked via a “blind process”, meaning all candidate names were removed from the essays prior. Each essay was assigned a number and rankings were based upon a standardized rubric. A combined total of \$15,000 (ranging in value between \$1,200 and \$2,700) was awarded to 10 selected finalists. “I would like to really encourage every student to apply for the SWC Honorary Scholarships, which are available 3 times per academic year,” said Lara Barela, SWC Financial Aid Director and Scholarship Chair. “While competitive, the applicant pool is relatively small compared to local and national scholarships. If students take their time writing, have a trusted source proof their writing prior to submitting, and they follow all of the instructions (word count maximum, specified deadline etc.), they have an excellent opportunity”. Students should keep an eye out on their email for the Fall Quarter 2022 scholarship application process.

Please feel free to email the SWC Financial Director, Lara Barela, at [larabarela@swc.edu](mailto:larabarela@swc.edu) with any questions.

## WELCOME OUR NEW STAFF MEMBER



Athena Andriakos is our new Office Manager. She recently relocated from Arizona where she worked in colleges and universities for fifteen years. She is loving calling Santa Fe home and has yet to tire of gazing at the sky at all times of day and night. When not at Southwestern she works as a massage therapist and loves to cook. She is very excited to have joined Southwestern and to be a part of supporting the college’s mission. [athenaandriakos@swc.edu](mailto:athenaandriakos@swc.edu)

## CAMPUS UPDATES

### INCREASING CAMPUS AND CLINIC ACCESSIBILITY



We have completed the installation of accessible entrances for the front doors at Tierra Nueva Counseling Center and the Art Therapy Building on campus. This is part of our ongoing commitment to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. Thank you to Donna Harrington who helped facilitate this important step to provide greater mobility access for students, staff, faculty, and clients at Tierra Nueva Counseling Center.

## WHAT'S NEW IN THE WILD HEART GALLERY



The current exhibit on campus shares the work of artists from Haiti. Angelica Gabriel (2021 Alumni) first traveled to Haiti in 2009 and fell in love with the culture. Angelica began volunteering and living in Haiti spending 5 years over the span of 10 years working with Haitian artists, collaborating with school systems, and assisting in building houses for families. One of her greatest loves was sharing and translating Creole and the Haitian culture with teams from all over the U.S.

Haiti is often known as the poorest country in the western hemisphere, and has had a history of corruption of government as well as general safety concerns. These struggles can be traced back through Haiti’s colonization, political oppression, ongoing racism, and the complex trickle-down effect through their

history. And yet Haiti’s land, people, and culture are rich in beauty, love, and resilience. This glimpse of Haitian Artwork represents that beauty and richness of culture.

These paintings and other artisan works were purchased by Gabriel in Haiti over the span of her living and traveling to Haiti. Angelica worked with artists in the country to develop products, building on the talents and resources they already had. She supported her travels and work by sharing the story of the Haitian people, selling her own jewelry created from recycled and found objects, and buying the artisans work at Fair-Trade prices and reselling the work. Many of the artworks are for purchase. Contact [angelicgabriel@swc.edu](mailto:angelicgabriel@swc.edu) for more information.

