

***Early Childhood Development in Indian Country***  
**October 5 and 6, 2016**

**PRESENTER BIOS**



**Brooke Ammann**

**Waadookodaading Ojibwe Language Immersion School**

Brooke Mosay Ammann, a member of the St. Croix Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin, is director of the Waadookodaading Ojibwe Language Immersion School. Ammann is a second language learner of the Ojibwe language and the mother of two Waadookodaading students. She was fortunate to have spent her first 21 years of life with her grandfather, Archie Mosay, a hereditary chief and legendary Ojibwe cultural leader. She derives much of her leadership instincts and inspiration from his teachings and example. Ammann received a bachelor's degree from Dartmouth College and a master's degree from the Harvard Graduate School of Education.



**Kathleen Annette**

**Blandin Foundation**

Kathy Annette, president and CEO of the Blandin Foundation, is an enrolled member of the White Earth Band of Ojibwe and honorary member of the Red Lake Ojibwe Nation. Annette retired from federal service after 26 distinguished years, having served as deputy director of field operations of Indian Health Service, based in Bemidji, Minn. In this role, she had responsibility for supervision and leadership of area directors across the U.S. Her many honors and awards include Presidential Meritorious Awards and a Presidential Distinguished Service Award of the U.S. government, the national American Indian Physician of the Year award, Quality of Place Award issued by Northwest Minnesota Foundation, and the Jake White Crow National Award, presented by the National Indian Health Board—the only federal employee to be so recognized. Annette is a graduate of the University of Minnesota, where she received both her undergraduate and medical degrees.



**Josephine Chase**

**Horse Nation Healing, Inc.**

Josephine Chase (Mandan/Hidatsa-Ihunktawanna/Hunkpapa) is consultant/director of Horse Nation Healing, Inc., and former social work faculty with Oglala Lakota College (OLC). Chase has been the associate director of the Takini Network/Institute, a Native collective devoted to community healing from intergenerational massive group trauma. Currently, she is principal investigator at the tribal site in South Dakota for a National

Institute of Mental Health-funded R34 pilot study, *Iwankapiya-Healing: Historical Trauma Practice and Group Interpersonal Psychotherapy for American Indians*, and is also co-principal investigator of the OLC American Indian Higher Education Consortium Behavioral Health Research Project under an initiative to create behavioral health research and curricula at tribal colleges and universities. Chase received a master's degree in social work from the University of Denver and a Ph.D. from Smith College.



**Terry Cross**  
**National Indian Child Welfare Association**

Terry Cross (*Ha-ne-ga-noh*), an enrolled member of the Seneca Nation, is the founding executive director of NICWA, now serving as senior advisor. He is the author of *Positive Indian Parenting* and co-authored *Towards a Culturally Competent System of Care*, published by Georgetown University. He has 40 years of experience in child welfare, including 10 years of direct practice. He received his master's degree in social work from Portland State University in Portland, Ore.



**Karla Decker Sorby**  
**Minnesota Department of Health**

Karla Decker Sorby (Cherokee/Dakota descendant) is the tribal nurse consultant with the Family Home Visiting Section at the Minnesota Department of Health, supporting the 11 tribal nations as well as the 13 northwestern counties of Minnesota. She has over 35 years of experience in the maternal/child public health field. She received an ASN from Sisseton Wahpeton Tribal College, a BSN from Minnesota State University, and an M.S. Ed. from Bemidji State University.



**Jacqueline Dionne**  
**Minnesota Department of Health**

Jacqueline (Jackie) Ann Dionne, an enrolled member of the Turtle Mountain Chippewa Tribe, serves as the Minnesota Department of Health's first director of American Indian Health/Tribal Liaison. Because of the unique sovereign status of tribal governments, Dionne works closely with the commissioner and executive leadership of

MDH in strategic planning to maximize use of resources and expertise and to support collaboration around American Indian health initiatives within the department. Prior to her current position, she has served as the aging services specialist with the Minnesota Board on Aging. Dionne worked for the State of Minnesota, at both the Department of Human Services and MDH, for 9 years and worked for over 20 years with Minneapolis American Indian nonprofits, including American Indian Community Development, Little Earth of United Tribes, and Baby Space, to name a few. Dionne received her undergraduate degree from the University of Minnesota in early childhood education.



**Barb Fabre**  
**White Earth Band of Chippewa**

Barb Fabre, an enrolled member of the Ojibwe Nation in Minnesota, has worked for the White Earth Reservation for 29 years within the Indian Child Welfare Program and Employment and Training Program and for the last 19 years as director of the White Earth Child Care and Early Childhood Programs. She was the chairperson of the National Indian Child Care Association for 7 years and co-founder of the Communities Collaborative Brain Development Conference. In 2012, she was appointed by Governor Pawlenty to the Guardian Ad Litem Advisory Board. In 2014, she was appointed by Governor Dayton to his Minnesota Early Learning Advisory Committee, and in 2012, appointed by Secretary Sebelius to the National Advisory Council on Rural Health and Human Services. In 2014, she testified before the U.S. Senate Committee on Indian Affairs on “Early Childhood Development and Education in Indian Country: building a Foundation for Academic Success.” Fabre holds a B.A. degree in psychology from Ashford University.



**Anita Fineday**  
**Casey Family Programs–Indian Child Welfare Program**

Anita Fineday, an enrolled member of the White Earth Tribal Nation, was named the managing director of the Indian Child Welfare Program for the Casey Family Programs in 2011. She previously served as the chief judge for the White Earth Tribal Nation for 14 years. She has previously served as an associate judge for the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe and the Grand Portage Band of Chippewa. She has also taught federal Indian law and policy at the tribal college, university, and law school levels. She holds a master’s degree in public administration from Harvard University’s Kennedy School of Government and a J.D. from the University of Colorado School of Law.



**Michael Goze**  
**Executive Director**  
**American Indian Community Development Corporation**

Michael A. Goze, a member of the Ho-Chunk Nation of Wisconsin, is currently the CEO of the American Indian Community Development Corporation in Minneapolis. Goze has served as a legislator for the Ho-Chunk Nation of Wisconsin and as a special assistant to David W. Anderson, assistant secretary of Indian Affairs in Washington, D.C. He has been involved with the Twin Cities urban Indian community for over 30 years.



**Rob Grunewald**  
**Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis**

Rob Grunewald is an economist with the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis. Grunewald conducts research on community development and regional economic issues. He co-authored “Early Childhood Development: Economic Development with a High Public Return” in 2003 and has written several subsequent articles on the economic and social impact of early learning. Grunewald has served on boards and advisory committees for organizations involved with early childhood development, including Think Small: Leaders in Early Learning, First Children’s Finance, and the Minnesota Visiting Nurse Agency. He holds a bachelor’s degree from St. Olaf College and a master’s degree in applied economics from the University of Minnesota.



**Mark Guy**  
**Better Way Foundation**

Mark Guy is a senior program officer for Better Way Foundation, a small private family foundation based in Minneapolis. Better Way Foundation believes a child’s greatest opportunity for success lies in strong beginnings. The foundation works with both domestic and international partners to create healthy, sustainable, supportive environments where children can properly develop, learn, and thrive. Prior to joining the Better Way Foundation, Guy served as the Africa regional coordinator for the water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) program at PATH, a global health nonprofit organization based in Seattle. Guy earned a bachelor’s degree in mathematics and economics from St. Olaf College.



**Megan Gunnar**  
**University of Minnesota**

Megan Gunnar is a professor of child development at the University of Minnesota. She is the principal investigator for The International Adoption Project and is co-principal investigator of The Early Experience, Stress Neurobiology, and Prevention Science Network. Gunnar came to the University of Minnesota in 1979 and in 2006 was named Regents Professor. Her work documents the importance of sensitive and responsive care by adults in the modulation and buffering of stress physiology in the developing child. She has studied children living in orphanages in Romania and Russia and with her students traces the development of post-institutionalized children in the months immediately following adoption. She is a member of the Society for Research in Child Development, the International Society for Infant Studies, and the International Society of Developmental Psychobiology. She is currently a member of the Canadian Institute of Advanced Research's program on experience-based brain development. Dr. Gunnar received her Ph.D. in developmental psychology from Stanford University.



**Neel Kashkari**  
**Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis**

Neel Kashkari is president and chief executive officer of the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis. In that capacity, Kashkari serves on the Federal Open Market Committee, the policymaking arm of the Federal Reserve System. In addition to his responsibilities as a monetary policymaker, he oversees all operations of the bank, including supervision and regulation, and payments services. From 2006 to 2009, Kashkari served in several senior positions at the U.S. Department of the Treasury. In 2008, he oversaw the Troubled Assets Relief Program during the financial crisis. Kashkari received the Alexander Hamilton Award, the Treasury Department's highest honor for distinguished service. Kashkari earned his bachelor's and master's degrees in mechanical engineering at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and his MBA from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania.



**Patrice Kunesh**  
**Center for Indian Country Development**

Patrice Kunesh joined the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis in July 2015 as assistant vice president and co-director of the Center for Indian Country Development. Kunesh, who is of Standing Rock Lakota descent, has extensive experience representing American Indian tribes throughout the country. She began her legal career at the Native American Rights Fund and recently served as deputy undersecretary of rural development at the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Before that, Kunesh served as the deputy solicitor for Indian Affairs at the U.S. Department of the Interior, and served on the faculty at the University of South Dakota School of Law, where she also directed the University's Institute of American Indian Studies. Kunesh received a master of public administration from the Harvard Kennedy School of Government and a J.D. from the University of Colorado School of Law.



**Amy LaPointe**  
**Educare Winnebago**

Amy LaPointe, an enrolled member of the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska, is the co-director of Educare Winnebago, which brings high-quality early childhood programming to the Winnebago Reservation in northeastern Nebraska. The first Educare School to serve a Native American Indian Reservation, the school combines Educare's best practices with activities and curriculum that honor the local culture and traditions, teaching children in the native Ho-Chunk language in addition to English. She has served 12 years as the Winnebago Tribe's Head Start director. LaPointe holds a degree in education from the University of Nebraska, Lincoln.



**Matthew Rama**

**Thunder Valley CDC–Lakota Immersion Childcare**

Matthew Rama is the Lakota Language Initiative director at Thunder Valley Community Development Corporation on the Pine Ridge Reservation. He has extensive training and experience in early childhood education and is a second language learner of Lakota. Under his leadership, the Lakota Language Initiative has grown from a fledgling startup to the strong and growing program it is today. Rama holds a bachelor’s degree in elementary education and a master’s in curriculum and instruction.



**Arthur Rolnick**

**University of Minnesota**

Arthur J. Rolnick is a senior fellow and co-director of the Human Capital Research Collaborative at the Humphrey School of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota. Rolnick is working to advance multidisciplinary research on child development and social policy. He previously served at the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis as a senior vice president and director of research and as an associate economist with the Federal Open Market Committee—the monetary policymaking body for the Federal Reserve System. Rolnick’s essays on public policy issues have gained national attention; his research interests include banking and financial economics, monetary policy, monetary history, the economics of federalism, and the economics of education. His work on early childhood development has garnered numerous awards, including those from the George Lucas Educational Foundation and the Minnesota Department of Health, both in 2007; he was also named 2005 Minnesotan of the Year by *Minnesota Monthly* magazine. Rolnick holds a Ph.D. in economics from the University of Minnesota.



**Betty Jane Schaaf**

**Wicoie Nandagikendan Dakota Ojibwe Urban Immersion Project**

Betty Jane Schaaf, a Bois Forte Band member who grew up on the Leech Lake Reservation, is one of the founding mothers of the Wicoie Nandagikendan Preschool Language Immersion Program. Schaaf has been working in the early childhood field for the past 18 years in the Minneapolis-St. Paul area. Working with the Native American Leaders Circle, she and others helped to develop and guide the Dakota Ojibwe Language Revitalization Alliance in obtaining funding from the state for Dakota and Ojibwe Languages. Schaaf is currently consulting for Wicoie Nandagikendan, coordinating the Starlab Program and helping to organize other community events.



**Linda Smith**

**U.S. Department of Health and Human Services**

Linda K. Smith is the deputy assistant secretary for early childhood development for the Administration for Children and Families at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. In this role she provides overall policy coordination for the Head Start and Early Head Start Program and the Child Care and Development Fund, as well as serving as the liaison with the U.S. Department of Education and other federal agencies. Her office serves as a focal point for early childhood policy at the federal level. Smith previously served as the executive director for the National Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies, where she represented more than 650 community-based agencies concerned with the care of children in their earliest years. She began her career in early childhood education on the Northern Cheyenne Reservation in her native state of Montana. Smith is a graduate of the University of Montana.



**Anton Treuer**

**Bemidji State University**

Anton Treuer is executive director of the American Indian Resource Center at Bemidji State University and author of 14 books. His education, equity, and cultural work have put him on a path of service throughout the region, the country, and the world. Treuer is editor of the *Oshkaabewis* (pronounced *o-shkaah-bay-wis*) *Native Journal*, the only academic journal of the Ojibwe language. Treuer has sat on many organizational boards and has received more than 40 prestigious awards and fellowships, including ones from the American Philosophical Society, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the National Science Foundation, the MacArthur Foundation, the Bush Foundation, and the John Simon Guggenheim Foundation. Treuer has an M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota.



**Lori Watso**

**Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community**

Lori Watso, an enrolled member of the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community (SMSC), is the chair of Seeds of Native Health, the SMSC's national philanthropic campaign to improve Native nutrition. She has been a driving force behind the SMSC's healthy food initiatives, from the development of the tribe's working farm to a community-supported agriculture program to Mazopiya, the SMSC's natural foods market. Watso recently retired as secretary/treasurer of the SMSC. Watso is on the Minneapolis Institute of Arts board of trustees. She previously chaired the Indigenous Peoples Task Force board of directors and served on the Minnesota Indian Women's Resource Center board of directors. Watso has a nursing degree from St. Catherine University, studied public health administration at the University of Minnesota, and is a Certified Natural Chef by Bauman College.



**Tarajeon Yazzie-Mintz**  
**American Indian College Fund**

Tarajeon Yazzie-Mintz, Ed.D. (Navajo) is the co-director of the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs and director of the Wakanyeja “Sacred Little Ones” Early Childhood Education Initiative at the American Indian College Fund in Denver. From 2005 to 2011, Yazzie-Mintz served as a faculty member at the School of Education at Indiana University-Bloomington. As an assistant professor of curriculum studies, she taught in the teacher education program and conducted research in the area of Native teacher knowledge and instructional practice. Yazzie-Mintz has received numerous professional awards and honors and four competitive grants and fellowships, has presented at more than 40 scholarly meetings and symposia, and has been published in 22 scholarly publications focusing on education. Most recently, she was named the 2016 recipient of Harvard Graduate School of Education’s Alumni Council Award for Outstanding Contribution. Yazzie-Mintz has a Ph.D. in education from Harvard University Graduate School of Education.



**Maria Yellow Horse Brave Heart**  
**University of New Mexico**

Maria Yellow Horse Brave Heart (Hunkpapa/Oglala Lakota) is associate professor of psychiatry and behavioral sciences and director of Native American and Disparities Research at the University of New Mexico (UNM) in the Division of Community Behavioral Health. Brave Heart also provides psychotherapy through Indian Health Service Telebehavioral Health under a contract with the UNM Department of Psychiatry. She is founding president/director of the Takini Network/Institute, a Native collective devoted to community healing from intergenerational massive group trauma. Currently, she is principal investigator for a National Institute of Mental Health-funded R34 pilot study, *Iwankapiya-Healing: Historical Trauma Practice and Group Interpersonal Psychotherapy for American Indians*, and is chair of the Special Interest Group on Intergenerational Trauma and Resilience for the International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies. Brave Heart received her Ph.D. in clinical social work from Smith College and an M.S. degree from Columbian University.