

The Southwest Environmental Health Sciences Center

Located on Tohono O'odham Nation traditional homelands at the University of Arizona in the College of Pharmacy.

SWEHSC is dedicated to developing approaches to reduce hazardous environmental exposures to people. Supported by the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS), SWEHSC is focused on improving the lives and environmental awareness of peoples in the Southwest by researching the mechanisms behind human disease risks such as environmental exposure.

The SWEHSC Community Outreach and Education Core (COEC) has four major goals:

- Promote environmental health science literacy
- Serve as a non-biased source of scientific information to the public
- Provide environmental health educational resources
- Support connections between SWEHSC investigators and the community



SWEHSC 2016 team, from left to right, Ben Richmond, IngriQue Salt, Ashley Lykins, Kimberly Picerce, Linda Don, Marti Lindsey, Sylvia Kniest, Madison Heffron, Kendall Welliver, Taylor Wingfield (Photographed by Susanna Herndon).

Tribal communities are disproportionately affected by a multitude of environmental exposures. Concerns for tribal communities in the Southwest include but are not limited to: uranium, arsenic, trichloroethylene-contaminated drinking water, agricultural dust and high particulate matter in the air, excessive sun, and ultraviolet light exposure. The SWEHSC COEC supports these goals by explaining and distributing our scientists' research findings to community groups and participants – including indigenous communities in the Southwest. SWEHSC is proud to publish a second volume of the tribal environmental health magazine as we believe it highlights influential individuals that protect our environment and the people from these hazardous exposures. We hope it shares interesting ideas and solutions from across indigenous communities.

Agnese Nelms Haury Grant Program

Engaging Indigenous Voices: On Topics of Environmental Health is a grant funded by the Agnese Nelms Haury Program in Environmental and Social Justice through the University of Arizona Foundation. Working to increase environmental health knowledge among tribal people, the project is allowing SWEHSC to sustain two educational methods piloted in 2015, the *Indigenous Stewards* magazine and the Tribal Forum.

The Tohono O'odham Nation hosted the forum and helped the Inter-Tribal Council of Arizona (ITCA) and the Ak-Chin Indian Community to plan and organize the event. The Pascua Yaqui Tribe welcomed participants as well. The magazine included input from both the Ha:sañ Preparatory & Leadership School and the Native American Science & Engineering Program (NASEP). Students from Ha:sañ and San Carlos Secondary School are highlighted in Vol. 2. Student input is being sought from the Baboquivari High School and Hiaki High Schools for Vol. 3.

The aims of the magazine and forums include:

1. Communicate environmental health issues confronting Indigenous communities
2. Present successful approaches to environment and environmental health problems in use by tribal communities
3. Promoting awareness and action regarding health issues of environmental hazards and climate change
4. Establish a national reader/subscriber base for *Indigenous Stewards* for project sustainability

The Publication of *Indigenous Stewards* is sustained through grants, and generous donations by individuals who have an interest in the promotion of environmental health among indigenous communities. If you would like to make a contribution to our publication please refer to the last page.

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