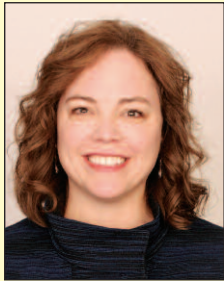


Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community Gaming Enterprise Names Angela Heikes New President/CEO



Angela Heikes

The Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community (SMSC) Gaming Enterprise, responsible for both Mystic Lake Casino Hotel and Little Six Casino, recently announced that Angela Heikes is its new President and CEO.

Heikes has spent most of her 22-year career helping two Minnesota tribes build on their gaming resort success. Over the past five years, most recently as Chief Operating Officer of the Gaming Enterprise and previous to that as Vice President of strategic planning and analysis, Heikes provided strategic planning and performance analysis to SMSC leadership.

Specifically, Heikes directed the SMSC's development of a master plan for the Gaming Enterprise and tribal community. She also led the SMSC's growing partnership with nearby Mall of America by leading the development of JW Marriott Minneapolis Mall of America, which is owned by Hotel Development LLC, an SMSC enterprise.

"Angela has played a key role in our Gaming Enterprise enhancements, our economic development, and our planning for the future," said Todd Brooks, Chair of the Gaming Enterprise Board of Directors. "As we embark on Mystic Lake's 25th anniversary and Little Six's 35th anniversary in 2017, we are excited to have Angela take on the leadership of our Gaming Enterprise."

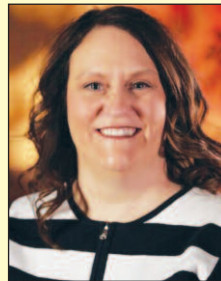
Prior to her work for the SMSC, Heikes worked for the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, rising to the tribe's highest corporate post, overseeing Grand Casino Mille Lacs, Grand Casino Hinckley, and a number of smaller businesses. She also worked for Grand Casinos, Inc., opening casinos in Mississippi and Las Vegas.

Heikes replaces longtime President and CEO Edward Stevenson, whose 40-year gaming career was highlighted by 20 years of leading the SMSC's casinos and helping develop them into the Midwest's largest tribal gaming operations. Stevenson will continue his association with the SMSC to formalize a long-term economic development plan as the Community's economic development officer.

California Nations Indian Gaming Association Names Susan Jensen New Executive Director

The California Nations Indian Gaming Association, the state's largest tribal government gaming trade group, recently announced the retirement of Executive Director Lee Acebedo, the association's longest serving ED, and the selection of Susan Jensen as the organization's incoming Executive Director.

For over 18 years, Jensen has been a vital part of the



Susan Jensen

association in many capacities, including serving twice as the association's Interim Executive Director during her tenure. Jensen has overseen the association's media program, member services and the Western Indian Gaming Conference, the association's annual trade show.

"Her knowledge and eighteen years of experience within the association gives her incredible insight on the history of our members and the association as we

prepare to enter the next phase of tribal government gaming in the State," said Steve Stallings, Chairman of the California Nations Indian Gaming Association. "I would like to extend a deep thank you to Mr. Acebedo for his dedication to CNIGA and California's tribal governments, his wisdom and guidance over the past decade has been invaluable."

As Executive Director, Jensen will oversee day-to-day operation and be responsible for the overall management and implementation of the policies and programs established by the CNIGA membership and executive committee.

"I am honored to have been selected for the position of Executive Director. I look forward to the challenge and welcome the opportunity to enhance the critical role that CNIGA plays in the tribal gaming industry," said Jensen.

Akwesasne Boys & Girls Club Director Jessica Cree Jock Named "40 Under 40"



Jessica Cree Jock

Jessica Cree Jock, Executive Director of Akwesasne Boys & Girls Club (ABGC), has been selected as a recipient of the National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development's (NCAIED) "Native American 40 Under 40" award. The prestigious award recognizes 40 emerging American Indian leaders from across Indian Country who have demonstrated leadership, initiative and dedication, and made

significant contributions in business and/or their community.

In her role as Executive Director, Jock ensures the development and implementation of all programs, activities and services the Akwesasne Boys & Girls Club provides. Since she began in 2011, she has more than doubled the Club's operating budget from \$400,000 to \$850,000. Under her direction, the Club has grown from 200-registered members to over 600 members in the past five years. The Club recently extended its after-school services to the St. Regis Mohawk School, accommodating even more youth. Last spring the ABGC held its first annual black-tie gala, raising \$17,000 toward the Club's new building fund. Jock has also created opportunities for youth to represent ABGC nationally, recently bringing high school students to Washington, D.C. to speak with U.S. Health and Human Services directors about

the needs of teens in Indian Country.

"I am very humbled by this award," said Jock, an enrolled member of the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe. "The youth in our community keep me focused and encourage me to do my best every day. My work for the Club is not a job, it's my passion. I'm honored to serve the youth of Akwesasne."

ABGC Board President Julia Back Skidders extended congratulations on behalf of the Club. "Jessica is devoted to being a positive force in the lives of the kids of Akwesasne, and it shows," said Skidders. "This recognition of her leadership is well-earned."

Pechanga Resort & Casino Names Thomas A. Mueller Vice President of Hotel Operations



Thomas A. Mueller

Pechanga Resort & Casino welcomes Thomas A. Mueller as its new Vice President of Hotel Operations. Mueller comes to Pechanga from a premier Riverside County resort/casino near the Palm Springs area. He brings more than 25 years of experience in the luxury hotel operations industry to his new role. He now oversees the existing 517-room luxury AAA Four Diamond hotel, Spa Pechanga and Journey at Pechanga Golf Course.

Originally from Chicago, Mueller started his career in the luxury hospitality sector immediately following high school as a night auditor at the city's Ritz-Carlton. He trained in the highest quality of customer service at the Four Seasons hotels in Chicago. Both the Ritz-Carlton and the Four Seasons are Five Star and Five Diamond properties. Mueller later joined Harrah's Entertainment and was quickly promoted to Director of Hotel Operations at Harrah's East Chicago Casino & Hotel. Mueller also served as Harrah's Lake Tahoe Hotel and Casino Hotel Manager.

Soon to come under Mueller's purview is the new 568-luxury room and suite hotel wing, the new two-story luxury spa and pool complex being added as part of Pechanga Resort & Casino's current \$285 million expansion. The project is slated for completion at the end of 2017.

New Player Development Manager Ronald Moore on Deck at Soboba Casino

Soboba Casino is proud to welcome Ronald Moore into the position of Player Development Manager. Moore brings with him a combined total of 20 years of guest service experience in gaming, corporate hotels, and luxury resorts, with 10 years of management experience and a deep seeded passion for player development.

Most recently having worked at Yakima Legends Casino in Toppenish Washington, Moore is eager to bring his



Ronald Moore

experience to the forefront and take the Soboba Players Services to the next level. As a transplant from New Orleans, he plans to bring the heart and soul of southern hospitality to the Soboba guests in a friendly, fun, and neighborly way.

According to Scott Sirois, General Manager of Soboba Casino, "Ronald is exactly the person we have been looking for to fill this position. He embodies what it means to be a leader in guest service. It is our goal to take every important aspect of the guest experience and make it a little bit better, with a little more fun and excitement mixed in. We trust that Ronald will make it happen for us and we are excited to see what comes next."

Moore stated, "I have a passion for the success and growth of my team. Moving forward, I hope to bring Soboba to the highest possible tier of guest service in Southern California. Our reward program will be known by the unbeatable value and exquisite service we provide to each and every one of our guests."

Pechanga Chef Ronnel Capacia Takes Top Honors From Expert Panel in Southern California Chef Open



Ronnel Capacia

Competing against 12 other professional chefs with a wide variety of talents from across the Southern California region, Chef Ronnel Capacia of Kelsey's at Pechanga Resort & Casino emerged the winner in the 2016 So Cal Chef Open Judges' Choice category. Held October 24 inside the Pechanga Grand Ballroom, Chef Ronnel won out over the competition with his slow-cooked pork belly sliders with BBQ baked beans and chicharrónes. The eight judges, which included regional chefs not competing in the event, food writers and other experts, conducted a blind taste test of all 12 entrants' dishes. Judges gave high marks for the composition and design of Chef Ronnel's Pork Belly Sliders, but ultimately the fusion flavors of maple syrup, soy sauce, ginger, garlic and green onions that created the glaze for the tender pork belly, and the fresh, raw vegetable accompaniments and light cucumber salad sold the judges on the 31-year old chef's creation.

"We were there to have fun and honored to have been chosen to participate to help raise money for Oak Grove Center," said Capacia. "From the start of the event, we had the biggest line of all the booths. People waited in line for 20 minutes to get one slider. I guess we thought we might win the People's Choice award, though it's humbling and a great esteem to win the Judges' Choice Pinnacle Award."

NAFOA Announces 9th Annual Lifetime Achievement Awards Recipients



During its 9th Annual Lifetime Achievement Awards Luncheon, the Native American Finance Officers Association (NAFOA) recognized the achievements of two distinguished tribal leaders. The prestigious NAFOA Lifetime Achievement Award is given to an Indian Country leader who has made significant contributions to tribal economic development throughout the span of his or her career. This year's recipients are Arlan D. Melendez, Chairman of the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony, and Vincent Armenta, former Chairman of the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians.

The awards luncheon is a yearly event at NAFOA's Fall Finance and Tribal Economics Conference, attracting an audience of over 400 to celebrate the dedicated individuals that contribute to the economic strength of Indian Country.

Award winners were presented with a beautiful stone-carved eagle sculpture and an eagle feather gifted by the Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma. Many Native American tribes believe that giving an eagle feather symbolizes that the recipient has demonstrated extraordinary leadership or service on behalf of his or her people. The Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma rehabilitates eagles at the Grey Snow Eagle House for eventual release into the wild and cultivates naturally molted feathers for religious and cultural purposes. The awards ceremony was held at the Sheridan/Le Méridien Hotel in Charlotte, North Carolina.

"The Lifetime Achievement Award winners' careers have had a lasting economic effect on their tribe and have been beneficial to all of Indian Country," remarked NAFOA's First Vice President VaRene Martin.

Chairman Melendez's dedication to his tribe and to urban Indians is unmatched in modern day Nevada. Chairman Melendez is a life-time resident of the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony (RSIC), which consists of 1,134 members from the Paiute, Shoshone, and Washoe tribes. First elected to the tribal council in 1987, Melendez previously served as treasurer and Vice-Chairman of his tribe. Through his strong government relationships, the tribe has been able to expand their land base to over 2,000 acres and been a leader in finding alternate sources of revenue through taxation. Under his leadership, the tribe has attracted business development to the reservation,

which furthered job creation for the Reno-Sparks community. Chairman Melendez is also a strong advocate for improved health care for Native Americans at the local and national level. Of the many accomplishments resulting from his advocacy, the most rewarding is the RSIC's new health care center. He served in the U.S. Marine Corps during the Vietnam Era and attended the University of Nevada.

NAFOA's board secretary, Dawson Her Many Horses, presented Vincent Armenta with the second lifetime achievement award. Armenta served nearly 17 years as the Chairman of the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians. Since Armenta's election as Chairman in 1999, he has been a tireless advocate for his tribe and instrumental in positioning the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians as one of the most successful tribes in California. Along with his fellow business committee members, Mr. Armenta built thriving enterprises, including the Chumash Casino Resort, Hotel Corque, Root 246, the Hadsten House, two gas stations, and a winery. The tribe also has grown a real estate portfolio that includes parcels throughout the Santa Ynez Valley. During his leadership, the tribe has also created a foundation that provides funding for low-income housing in Santa Barbara County, humanitarian aid to countries that have had natural disasters, and partnered with local schools to launch community literacy initiatives. Armenta recently resigned in March of 2016 to pursue a culinary arts degree at the prestigious Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park, New York.

Scientific Games Executive Tina M. Kilmer Honored at the Global Gaming Women "Kick Up Your Heels" Event



Tina M. Kilmer

Scientific Games executive Tina M. Kilmer, Vice President of Product Compliance – Gaming, was recently honored for her extensive accomplishments in both her professional and personal undertakings during the Global Gaming Women's "Kick Up Your Heels" fundraising event, held at The Cosmopolitan of Las Vegas as part of the G2E 2016 networking program.

Kilmer serves as one of the recipients of this year's coveted Patty Becker Pay It Forward Award, created by industry leader and gaming executive Patty Becker and given annually at Kick Up Your Heels. To be considered for the prestigious award, the honoree must have contributed to her community, Global Gaming Women, and acted as a role model for other women in the gaming industry – representing Global Gaming Women's three core values: courage, integrity and leadership.

Kilmer was honored by the Global Gaming Women board for her diligence and success in co-chairing the Events Committee for Global Gaming Women. Under her leadership, Global Gaming Women programs were created for the

casino gaming industry's major industry conference and trade shows, including G2E, ICE Totally Gaming, and the National Indian Gaming Association's annual event.

Industry leader and gaming executive Patty Becker said, "Tina has reached hundreds of women throughout the world with these programs, increasing Global Gaming Women's reach, visibility and effectiveness. It is women like Tina who have built Global Gaming Women and it is an honor to present her with this award."

Scientific Games Group Chief Executive of Gaming, Derik Mooberry said, "Tina Kilmer has proven to be a dynamic and treasured asset of our team for years. Our Scientific Games family is proud to work with such a dedicated professional who is a powerful advocate for our industry, women in technology, and a strong supporter of the community. We are elated to see her receive this honor and be acknowledged for the impact she has made on our industry, community and beyond."

Pechanga Resort & Casino Expands Executive Team with Scott Wilson as New Sales Director



Scott Wilson

Pechanga Resort & Casino recently welcomed Scott Wilson to his new role as Sales Director. In this position, Wilson will oversee all hotel sales and lead reservations for conferences, trade shows, and group events in the meetings and conventions sector.

Prior to Pechanga Resort & Casino, Wilson served as the Vice President of Sales for the Monterey County Convention and Visitors Bureau in Northern California. Before that, he was the Director of Convention Sales for the Las Vegas CVA, the Director of Sales for Caesars Entertainment in Las Vegas and served in numerous sales leadership roles at both Starwood and Hyatt luxury hotels. He brings more than 25 years in the hospitality industry to his role at Pechanga Resort & Casino.

With the current \$285 million resort expansion set to open at the end of 2017, Wilson and his team will have double the inventory and space to accommodate groups.

Len Ainsworth, Howard Stutz Honored with AGEM Memorial Awards

The Association of Gaming Equipment Manufacturers (AGEM) selected Len Ainsworth as the initial recipient of the Jens Halle Memorial Award Honoring Excellence in Commercial Gaming Professionalism, and Howard Stutz as the initial recipient of the Peter Mead Memorial Award Honoring Excellence in Gaming Media & Communications.

Ainsworth, 93, is an industry icon of the highest order, with more than 60 years of service to the slot machine sector through his founding of Aristocrat Leisure in 1953 and the



L-R: AGEM President Tom Jingoli; Jens Halle Memorial Award winner Len Ainsworth; Peter Mead Memorial Award winner Howard Stutz; and AGEM Executive Director Marcus Prater.

subsequent founding of Australia-based Ainsworth Game Technology, where he currently serves as Executive Chairman. Ainsworth is credited with pioneering many of the design and technical innovations incorporated into gaming machines over the past six decades. He was inducted into the Australian gaming industry's Hall of Fame in 1994 and the American Gaming Association's Gaming Hall of Fame in 1995.

"Len is a most deserving winner of this award named in honor of Jens Halle," said Thomas Jingoli, President of AGEM. "The award's nominating criteria includes references to Jens' professionalism, business success, humanity and a dedication to the health of the industry as a whole, all traits Len has been exhibiting for longer than most of us have been alive. I'm honored to have been lucky enough to spend time with Len at various events over the years and extremely proud to present Len with this unique honor."

Stutz, 57, currently serves as Vice President of Corporate Communications for Las Vegas-based Golden Entertainment and has direct roots in the gaming industry dating back to 2000, when he joined Anchor Gaming as Director of Corporate Communications. From 2004 to 2016, he covered the gaming industry for the *Las Vegas Review-Journal* and was renowned for his "Inside Gaming" column that analyzed and provided opinion on the global gaming industry. Over the past year, he was part of a team of journalists that earned the Sidney Award from the Sidney Hillman Foundation, the Ancil Payne Award for Ethics in Journalism from the University of Oregon, the James Foley Medill Medal for Courage in Journalism from Northwestern University and the 2015 Ethics In Journalism Award from the Society of Professional Journalists.

"Howard personifies many of the same traits Peter Mead displayed during his life, including taking risks and questioning the status quo, working with a team and challenging the industry to consider new ideas, all part of this award's nominating criteria," said Marcus Prater, Executive Director of AGEM. "Howard has experienced the gaming industry from multiple and diverse vantage points over the past 25 years and ranks among our most influential communicators and commentators."

Kell Houston Named Casino Buyer of the Year for 2016



Kell Houston

Members of the International Entertainment Buyers Association voted Kell Houston as the top Casino Buyer of the Year in Nashville. He was also selected in 2012 and 2014 (winners are not eligible the year after).

Houston credits this award to giving personal service to each and every client. For example, he said, "In Oklahoma, we have created some strong success in casinos that currently don't have venues

for shows, with celebrity appearances/meet-n-greets with stars from Game of Thrones and Sons of Anarchy. As a company, my goal is to provide unique and ahead of the curve ideas, as well as the traditional concerts."

When asked what he sees for the future of casino entertainment, he replied, "Live music will always be around. That experience cannot be artificially produced. The success of the big festivals with iconic groups proves a point. The music of these people will live on, in many forms. And talent is everywhere."

American Gaming Association Hires Erik Balsbaugh to Drive Robust Public Affairs Agenda



Erik Balsbaugh

The American Gaming Association (AGA) recently announced it has hired Erik Balsbaugh to be Vice President of Public Affairs. In this role, Balsbaugh will advance AGA's day-to-day public affairs efforts, which include aggressive campaigns to change federal sports betting law and to shape the industry's image as a strong community partner.

"Erik brings sharp campaigns skills and unmatched experience, including working on gaming issues in Massachusetts, that will help AGA and the industry achieve its most important goals over the coming months and years," said Sara Rayme, Senior Vice President of Public Affairs. "Many in the industry already know what Erik is capable of, and we're excited to welcome him to the AGA team."

"I'm thrilled to join the AGA team as this dynamic industry continues to grow and create opportunity across the country," said Balsbaugh. "I've seen the AGA transform into a modern, incredibly effective advocate for the gaming industry, and I look forward to contributing to the good work it's accomplishing for its diverse, expanding membership."

Balsbaugh spent the last five years at The Dewey Square Group in Boston, where he managed public relations, electoral and issue campaigns for corporate, non-profit and gaming clients. In 2014, Balsbaugh led the successful

campaign to prevent repeal of the Massachusetts Expanded Gaming Act. He also worked in support of the gaming law in the lead-up to its passage in 2011.

Balsbaugh is the former Executive Director of the Massachusetts League of Environmental Voters and a veteran of the John Kerry and Hillary Clinton presidential campaigns.

Kilpatrick Townsend Welcomes Stephen Anstey to Washington, D.C. Office



Stephen Anstey

Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton recently announced the addition of Stephen Anstey to the firm's Washington, D.C. office as an associate in the Native American Affairs Team in the firm's Litigation Department.

Prior to joining the firm, Anstey served as a Judicial Clerk for Chief Judge Allie Maldonado in the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians Tribal Court. He was also the Executive Director of the Native Amicus Briefing Project, a nonprofit organization dedicated to fostering a greater understanding of federal Indian law in the federal courts as well as in the legal community at large.

Anstey earned his J.D. from the University of Michigan Law School and his LL.M. from Harvard Law School. Prior to receiving his LL.M., Anstey was one of approximately 20 law school graduates from around the world accepted into the Harvard Law School Graduate Program as a Visiting Researcher. Additionally, while attending the University of Michigan Law School, Anstey served as the Chairman of the University of Michigan chapter of the Native American Law Students Association. He received his B.A. in Political Science from the University of Connecticut.

Redding Rancheria Introduces 2016-2017 Tribal Government Officials

The governing body of the Redding Rancheria is the Tribal Council, which is composed of seven Council members and three alternate Council members elected by its membership. The four candidates receiving the most votes are elected for a two-year term and the other three candidates are elected for a one-year term. The three alternate positions are elected for one-year terms. The current Council is: Jack Potter Jr., Tribal Chairperson; Jason Hayward Sr., Vice Chair; Glen Hayward, Secretary; and Jeremy Hayward, Treasurer. Council members are: Jason Hart; Don Benner; and Leon Benner. Alternate positions are: Patty Spaulding, 1st Alternate; Michelle Hayward, 2nd Alternate; and Hope Wilkes, 3rd Alternate.

The Redding Rancheria Tribal Council has been delegated broad governing responsibilities and powers and among these are the responsibilities to establish goals, make and



L-R: (front row) Patty Spaulding; Michelle Hayward; Hope Wilkes and Tribal Secretary Melodie Honey; (back row) Jeremy Hayward; Leon Benner; Don Benner; Glen Hayward; Jason Hart; Jason Hayward Jr.; and Chairman Jack Potter Jr.

enforce laws, and manage the economic affairs of the tribe. The government of the Redding Rancheria exercises, protects and enhances the sovereign right of self-government, while promoting a lasting cultural and community identity and traditions for all members of the tribe.

TFA Capital Partners Appoints Former Principal Chief Michell Hicks to Tribal Board of Advisors



Michell Hicks

TFA Capital Partners, Inc. (TFA) recently announced the appointment of Michell Hicks, former Principal Chief of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI), to its Tribal Board of Advisors. The Board comprises tribal leaders who are national proponents of tribal economic sovereignty and tribal organizational leadership from across the United States. It draws from diverse backgrounds in business and government, and provides TFA and its clients with unique insights and experience of tribal matters across Indian Country.

During his nearly 30 years of service with the ECBI, Hicks led the 15,000-member tribe through a period of remarkable economic, developmental, and cultural advancement. He established himself as a national leader in Indian Country by initiating and maintaining relationships with multiple tribal leaders, banking and financial institutions, federal and state officials, and national political leaders. Throughout his career, he has been recognized for his leadership, most recently having been named 2015's Tribal Leader of the Year by the Native American Finance Officers Association.

Kristi Jackson, Chairman of TFA Capital Partners, commented, "We are delighted to have Michell join our team; TFA and its clients will benefit from the wealth of experience and expertise he brings to our talented Tribal Board of Advisors. Michell's desire to foster economic development among tribes across the country and, in the process, support

the achievement of financial sovereignty, aligns perfectly with TFA's mission."

"It is an honor to have the opportunity to be part of the TFA team. TFA is the premier source for tribes as they focus on economic diversification, acquisition opportunities and financing-related services, and it has established significant credibility in Indian Country," says Michell. "The TFA platform is best-in-class and offers a great benefit to our Indian Nations."

Top Nursing Researcher John Lowe to Create Center for Health Equity of Native American, Indigenous People



John Lowe

A leading educator, researcher and global advocate of culturally competent healthcare for Native Americans and indigenous populations has joined the faculty at Florida State University's College of Nursing. John Lowe, a Cherokee Native American tribal member and one of only 20 Native American nurses in the United States who has a doctoral degree, is the new endowed McKenzie Professor in

Health Disparities Research. At FSU, he will create the Center for Indigenous Nursing Research for Health Equity (INRHE) – the first research center of its kind worldwide.

"I am delighted to welcome Dr. John Lowe to the College of Nursing," said Judith McFetridge-Durdle, Dean of the FSU College of Nursing. "Dr. Lowe is an outstanding researcher and a passionate advocate for Native American health. He is an eminent scholar and global leader, who will have an immediate impact on our research agenda, our curriculum, our faculty and our students."

Lowe, a fellow of the American Academy of Nursing, has received funding from the National Institutes of Health for his work with Native American substance abuse prevention, most recently to implement and evaluate an after-school substance abuse prevention intervention, the Intertribal Talking Circle. He also was recognized and featured for this intervention as one of the American Academy of Nursing's "Edge Runners," practical innovators who have led the way in bringing new thinking and new methods to a wide range of healthcare challenges.

Lowe will continue his innovative work through the planned one-of-a-kind Center for Indigenous Nursing Research for Health Equity. The center will partner with indigenous peoples, communities and organizations, nationally and internationally, to attain health equity.

The planned center will work with multiple disciplines to create an environment where nurses have a voice in the research that needs to be conducted in these communities and also be a voice for communities who have not had a voice. ♣