



**West Virginia University
Native American Studies
2018 PEACE TREE CEREMONY
& LECTURE**

**Ceremony: Tuesday, October 30
11:30 a.m.**

**at the Peace Tree, outside E. Moore Hall
(Rain Location: Mountainlair Ballroom)**

**Guest of honor:
DR. SARAH KASTELIC (ALUTIIQ)
Executive Director,
National Indian Child Welfare Assoc.**

**Dr. Kastelic's PUBLIC LECTURE:
*Protecting Children, Preserving Families:
Lessons from the Indian Child Welfare Act*
7:00 p.m. Tues., Oct. 30
6:30 Welcoming Reception
Mountainlair Ballroom**

**Both Events are Free & Open to the Public
Free parking upper floor Mountainlair Garage after 6pm**

*Events sponsored by
the Carolyn Reyer Fund for Native American Studies
with assistance from:
the Department of Political Science,
Department of Psychology,
College for Education & Human Resources-
Child Development & Family Studies Program,
and School of Social Work*

*The WVU School of Social work will award one
Social Work Continuing Education Hour for the public lecture.*

For more information:

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Dr. Sarah Kastelic is Alutiiq, an enrolled member of the Alaska Native Village of Ouzinkie, a subsistence community in northeastern Kodiak Island, whose presence goes back at least 9,000 years.

She has served as Executive Director of NICWA (National Indian Child Welfare Assoc. Since 2015. She previously led the National Congress of American Indians welfare reform program and was the founding director of NCAI's Policy Research Center. She is a national award-winning leader who has been called "A transformational leader working to further research policy that empowers American Indian and Alaska Native communities."

Dr. Kastelic holds a bachelor's degree from Goucher College and master's degree and PhD from the George Warren Brown School of Social Work at Washington University in St. Louis.

The 1978 Indian Child Welfare Act became law as tribal leaders and others successfully advocated for Indigenous children and families. Research had shown that between 25-35% of ALL Native children were being removed from their homes and 85% of those children were placed in non-Native homes or institutions, away from their families and tribal communities, and thus becoming alienated from their tribal culture. NICWA serves as a resource for tribes, Native parents and families, and works to foster youth empowerment. In this way, ICWA seeks to end the forced assimilation of Native children that threatened the survival of tribes and their culture.



Social Work Continuing Education Addendum

Protecting Children, Preserving Families: Lessons from the Indian Child Welfare Act

Presenter: Sarah Kastelic, Ph.D., M.S.W., Executive Director of the National Indian Child Welfare Association (NICWA).

October 30, 2018 7-8pm

WVU Mountainlair Ballroom

Approved for 1 social work CE hour for licensed social workers in WV, PA, MD, and VA by WVU School of Social Work (WVBSW Provider # 490051) No RSVP needed. For more information and directions, go to socialwork.wvu.edu/ce/continuing-education

Description of Presentation:

Dr. Kastelic will address the historic roots of the passage of the Indian Child Welfare Act, in particular, the importance of tribal and cultural affiliation for American Indian and Alaska Native children, and for Indigenous peoples generally. The passage of ICWA, and ongoing measures to see that it is uniformly enforced, are part of overall efforts to prevent Native children from becoming “cultural orphans.” All those who work to protect children and facilitate healthy, functioning families will be able to learn from the example of the strong advocacy provided through the initial passage of ICWA and the important work that continues through the National Indian Child Welfare Assoc. today. Nationwide, many states have seen increases in the percentage of children being removed from their homes due to the co-mingled factors of parental drug abuse and child neglect. Indeed, states that have been heavily impacted by the current opioid crisis, including West Virginia, depend on the skills of effective social workers to protect children and assist in their foster care placement and/or adoption when necessary.

Learning Objectives:

- 1) Social workers who attend this lecture will enhance their understanding of the role of family and cultural orientation with regard to the foster care and adoption of American Indian and Alaska Native children.
- 2) Attendees will learn how the Indian Child Welfare Act came about in order to stem the outward flow of disproportionately large numbers of Native children away from their Native families and tribal communities. These children essentially became “cultural orphans” who were often challenged to find their place in non-Native society or successfully “walk in two worlds” having little firsthand knowledge of their heritage and ancestry.
- 3) Social Workers will gain information on the importance of cultural, ethnic, community, and familial connection for children who must be removed from their home in the interest of their safety and wellbeing.

- 4) Attendees will broaden their knowledge base by hearing informed perspectives from an internationally known child advocate who is an Alaskan Native with master's and doctoral degrees in social work.