

2010 WARRIOR SPIRIT

2010 Indigenous Psychology Conference

Native Wholistic Specialists, Inc.
Warrior Spirit 2010 Indigenous Psychology Conference
"Sacred Healing Rhythms of the Drum"

Introduction

Native Wholistic Specialists, Inc. is a 100% Native American owned and operated organization committed to the wellness of Native Americans by providing therapeutic interventions and professional mental health services to individuals and communities throughout the nation. Native Wholistic Specialists, Inc. was established in the spring of 2001. Our motto is the **Practice of Good Medicine** meaning NWS promotes healing, wellness, good will, respect, and honor of humanity and all creation.

Conference Purpose

NWS is pleased to announce the **Warrior Spirit: Indigenous Psychology Conference 2010** to be held on April 22 and 23, 2010 in Albuquerque, New Mexico at the Nativo Lodge. The objective of this conference is to bring together native mental health and traditional practitioners from throughout North America to share effective mental health intervention strategies that incorporate aspects of native culture to address the human condition with mental health service providers. The target populations are mental health service providers, researchers and those who work with Native youth and families. Topics such as Suicide Preventions and Intervention, Wellness of Indian Youth and Families, and Intervention Models for Native Adolescents will be covered at this conference. Unlike other generic conferences on these topics, this conference emphasizes the positive aspects of Native American therapeutic healing techniques, client/ practitioner interaction, and individual and group therapies. Additionally, this conference will emphasize the need to incorporate a holistic approach that includes the spiritual, mental, physical, and environmental factors and balance in Native American healing.

The Warrior Spirit Concept

The **Warrior Spirit** concept is an indigenous concept that embedded in indigenous Psychology. Warrior spirit is the mental, physical, spiritual, and psychological state our warriors embraced when they protected and defended our people. It's the beauty, confidence, pride, and honor a warrior brings to our villages, homes, and communities. This spirit is displayed in the warrior's dress, horse, spear, bow and arrow, shield and Indian paint. For these are the weapons to protect his people. Warrior spirit is about a song, a dance, a prayer, and a ceremony a warrior learns to help his people. Warrior spirit is about honesty, dignity, healing, and respect for yourself and others.

Warrior Spirit is the spirit Indigenous mental health practitioners embrace to combat depression, anxiety, substance abuse, psychosis, abuse, and other mental health conditions of native people. Native people have come through many trying times and have survived. One basic reason for this survival is because of the warrior spirit that dwells within each individual. Psychologist, social workers, psychiatrist, and other mental health therapist have to commit themselves to protecting and defending our people like our warriors of the past. They are the modern day Warriors. Warrior spirit is how we will survive in the future and maintain our language, culture, pride, honor, dignity, and respect for our people. Our warrior spirit is present and strong today and will be stronger tomorrow. This conference will focus on this beautiful energy to heal and help one another that will spiral into our camps and help our relatives.

Warrior Spirit 2010 Conference Goals and Objectives

The goal of the Warrior Spirit Indigenous Psychology Conference is to bring together native mental health service providers and native traditional practitioners together to highlight affective therapeutic interventions for native people to reduce the prevalence of negative mental health diagnosis in native communities. This goal will be accomplished by two primary objectives, which are:

Objective 1: To combine Western medicine and traditional healing practices for purpose of providing a Native American holistic approach to healing.

Objective 2: To bring together Native American professionals and traditional healers to share information on psychology, therapy, and research.

Objective 3: To disseminate evidenced based approaches to mental health service providers and traditional healers through special projects such as a yearly conference on mental health topics, workshops, research, and establishing a network of native people to promote wellness and healing in Indian communities.

Objective 4: To promote the positive aspects and healing qualities of Indigenous Psychology.