Introducing the Research Spec.

Siyo Peters is an enrolled member of the Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate and the Toka Nuwaŋ district. She holds a B.A. in Human Services/Business Management. She has been involved in SWO education system per her entire career. She enjoys being of service to the SWO through helping fulfill duties necessary to nation building, being involved both directly and indirectly with endeavors to help strengthen the SWO community. She believes the key to SWO Nation Building is founded on Dakota values and supportive research data.

Pandemic Response

Writing about what we have been experiencing since March, especially the most recent months, is not easy. Our families are grieving, our Oyate is hurting for one another. No one can be ready for something so devastating, all we can do is reach deep down inside and do what we think is best in the current circumstances. Our love and resilience continue to shine through as individual and coordinated efforts to help each other in this difficult time are keeping more than food on tables, its keeping hope for better days ahead as we are realizing it is in our nature to care for our neighbors and this energy is growing. What is nurtured will grow; Dakota values are more than words, they are a way of life and we are witnessing just how alive and well our ancestors teachings are.

The SWO Research office’s main responsibility is to protect human subjects. When the shut-down order was implemented in March the office didn’t waste any time and began full-time remote working understanding that the nature of the research work meant that it must be prepared for public health research to come. The research community enacted emergency procedures across the world. Many projects halted completely while others were detrimental to people’s lives and had to continue with no time to spare, beginning the changes to be made in how the research would continue with human subject protections per safety procedures. Soon after a basic understanding of what the world was facing there were two COVID-19 protocols that the SWO LRRB reviewed; the Great Plains Tribal Chairmen’s Health Board (GPTCHB) COVID-19 Tribal Community Needs Assessment, & the North East Youth Collaborative and Aliive Robe County (NEYC/ARC) Covid Community Response Survey,
both which allowed community members to share their thoughts and needs. This greatly assisted emergency responders in strategizing resource allocations and provided insight to local needs. The assessment and survey were completed this summer, then a follow-up assessment was opened in the fall and we are currently awaiting that report.

**SWOTRO Happenings**

Changes have taken place in the SWO research office prior to this year. Former Research Specialist, Heather Larson, resigned but remains a part of the LRRB while taking on a new role in the SWO higher education community. Siyo Peters was hired in August and is the current Research Specialist. She has adapted quickly to her new role in the SWO research community and continues to develop her understanding of researches impact on sovereign tribal nations while building important networking relationships.

Currently our sights are set on a partnership with Fond du lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa research office and the Native American Community Clinic (NACC) of Minneapolis on a Native American Research Centers for Health (NARCH) project. If this project is approved, then we will participate in both a NARCH capacity building project, meaning our tribe will be assisting in the development of a safe and secure data repository for area tribes. And, reviewing a NARCH community based participatory research project to obtain relevant ecological health data. This would be a multi-site project with the SWO LRRB overseeing the entirety of the project for our community site. The benefits of our involvement include criteria and goal setting specific to our unique tribal needs. A research project developed with and for our SWO members paired with the experience and resources of research professionals could greatly nurture current goals and visions for the future of our Oyate.

**Local Research Review Board - LRRB Members**

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<th>Dr. Sherry Johnson</th>
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<tr>
<td>Heather Larson</td>
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<td>Dawn Eagle</td>
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<td>Sara Decoteau</td>
<td>Siyo Peters</td>
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**Webpage address**

https://www.swo-nsn.gov/departments/department-of-education/research-office/
Q & A

Would you like to become a part of the SWO LRRB as either an Alternate or Associate member?

The LRRB is comprised of tribal, non-tribal, feminine, masculine, scientist, and non-scientists as a thorough review takes many lenses. Please contact Siyo Peters for more information.

What information would you like to see in future SWOTRO Newsletters?

The research office is here for the Oyate and your input is greatly appreciated. Please contact Siyo Peters with suggestions and ideas.

“By looking at the questions the kids are asking, we learn the scope of what needs to be done.” - Buffy Sainte-Marie

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**2021 Regular Meeting Schedule**

**MISSION**

The current mission of the Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate Research office is to enhance the tribal research infrastructure by continuing to build the research review capacity, education through community engagement, and exercising tribal sovereignty through research data management. The main objective of the Tribal Research office is to improve the overall status of all Tribal members through relevant, tailored, and culturally sensitive research as outlined in the SWO Chapter 77 – “SWO Research Code.”