



## **Water is Our First Environment: Considerations on Ecology, First Foods, and Generational Strength**

**November 22, 2021**

**4:00 PM – 6:00 PM**

**Via Zoom**

### **Speaker Bios**

#### **Michele Curtis, Coalition To Stop Violence Against Native Women, Sex Trafficking Project**

**Coordinator** - Michele Curtis is a Navajo Nation tribal member. She was born in Shiprock, NM and was raised in Nenahnezad, NM. Michele comes from a strong matriarchal line of weavers and farmers. She is a mother and a wife. She is passionate about helping children and elders in Tribal Communities and strongly advocates for them. She has more than three years of program managing and case managing human trafficked victims for First Nations Community Healthsource. Michele is a member of New Mexico Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Relatives (MMIWR) Task Force and is a member of the Attorney General's Human Trafficking Task force. Michele provides a voice for people in Indigenous communities and especially for urban unsheltered relatives.

Michele has an Associate's degree in Human Services from San Juan College and has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology and in Native American Studies from the University of New Mexico. She also volunteered as a CASA advocate in Farmington NM. Michele has two years of experience assisting youth ages 0-17 who were abused or were at-risk of being abused, neglected, or abandoned at Childhaven in Farmington NM.

Outside of the office, Michele loves spending time with family and friends. She loves hiking and camping in the Colorado Rockies. She loves going to concerts with her partner and daughter. Fall season is her favorite because of harvest season. She helps her family harvest corn, melon, squash, and many other traditional vegetables and fruits. One of her favorite harvest foods is steam corn.

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#### **Beata Tsosie-Peña, Tewa Women United, Environmental Health and Justice Program**

**Coordinator** - Beata is from Santa Clara Pueblo and El Rito, NM. She is a mother, poet, advocate, seed saver, and is certified in Infant Massage, as a Developmental Specialist I-Advanced, an Educator, and in Indigenous Sustainable Design (permaculture). She is also a Green For All Fellow and has served on several local community boards over the years. Beata is on the steering committee for the Traditional Native American Farmers Association and is a board member for Flowering Tree Permaculture Institute. She is a Pueblo representative for the New Mexico Governor's taskforce on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women. She recently completed her training as a Yiya Vi Kagindi/Helper of Mother, Full Spectrum Doula. The realities of living next to a nuclear weapons complex has called her into environmental health and justice work with the local non-profit organization, Tewa Women United for over a decade. As part of Beata's work with TWU, she currently manages the creation of the Española Healing Foods Oasis demonstration garden project.

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**Jessica Lujan, Tewa Women United, Indigenous Women's Health and Reproductive Justice**

**Program Manager** - Jessica has been working with Tewa Women United since 2010 as a community doula, childbirth educator, Certified Lactation Educator and in her current position since 2015. Her Bachelor's degree in Integrative Health Studies is from Northern New Mexico College. Jessica is from the Pojoaque Valley, a mother, a trained herbalist, and a certified prenatal yoga instructor. Jessica is a passionate advocate for reproductive and birth justice and has made it her mission to provide compassionate and culturally appropriate doula care to the families in her community. She is intensely involved in achieving the program goals of promoting access to full spectrum doula services to families in Rio Arriba and the six Tewa speaking pueblos, and committed to working in the intersections of indigenous women's health, reproductive justice, environmental justice, and ending violence against girls, women, and Mother Earth..

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