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Women's Research Institute of Nevada Newsletter

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THE WOMEN'S
RESEARCH
INSTITUTE
of NEVADA

August 2023

Improving the Lives of Women through Research and Education

Director's Message



2023 marks the twenty-fourth year of WRIN as a statewide research and educational institute. As we progress through our second decade we continue to be optimistic despite changing staff, fluctuating economic times, and shifting resources. As we navigated those challenges, we have been grateful for the university's unwavering commitment and the community's constant support. **We have settled into our new offices at Maryland Parkway and Rochelle after our January 2023 move and appreciate the additional space and easy accessibility both for our staff and community visitors.**



Veterans' Voices: We're Listening

As we approach the end of the inaugural year of the *Veterans' Voices: We're Listening* oral history project, we are filled with excitement for the future and gratitude to the more than forty Veterans who have shared their stories with us. We have interviewed Veterans from all branches of the military and ones who served in World War II to ones that served in Iraq and Afghanistan as part of the Global War on Terror. This spring, we added a student worker to our team, **Becca Brown**, an undergraduate student in Computer Science and US Marine Corps Veteran. We have also begun the process

This June we celebrated the twenty-first year since bringing the National Education for Women’s (NEW) Leadership program to the UNLV campus. This award-winning program was created by the Center for American Women and Politics at the Eagleton Institute at Rutgers University teaching leadership and civic engagement skills to Nevada’s college women from across our state. Under the current guidance of our Program Coordinator, Jean Munson, nearly five hundred women have received this invaluable training, allowing them to bring their new leadership skills back to their own communities. **This year’s Keynote Speaker, Maureen Schafer inspired the students and the community audience alike with her message of building teamwork as a key to achieving personal and professional success.**

After five years of involvement with the Girls Empowerment Middle School, we are saddened to report that their board voted to close the school at the end of the 2022-2023 academic year. We wish all the students much success as they navigate to new schools for the upcoming school year.

As always, we are so appreciative of the support of our Community Advisory Board members who lend their time and advocacy on behalf of our institute. Our work could not be possible without their support.

Dr. Caryll Batt Dziedziak, Director

Newest WRIN Research Briefs
Is Nevada a Reproductive Resource Desert?

&

to transfer the oral histories to the UNLV Library. We have a long list of Veterans ready to participate in the project and look forward to preserving their stories.



WRIN Welcomes New Administrative Assistant Dawn Johnson



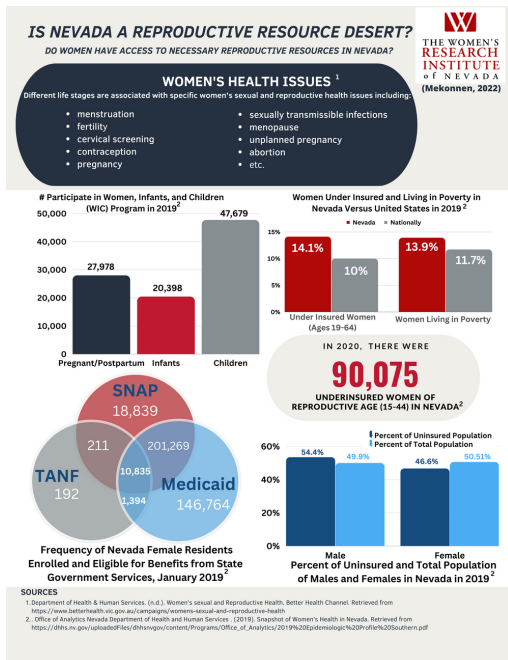
Dawn Johnson joins us after extensive experience with local businesses as our new Administrative Assistant IV. We are grateful to have her as part of the WRIN team.



Alum Updates

Roe v. Wade: What has changed in Nevada since the Federal decision was reversed?

Authored by Tsion Mekonnen, WRIN
Research Intern '22-'23



Congrats to WRIN Graduate Researcher and **2019 NEW Leadership Alumna Aika Dietz**, who is currently ranked #1 of 101 after her first year at UNLV's Boyd Law School.

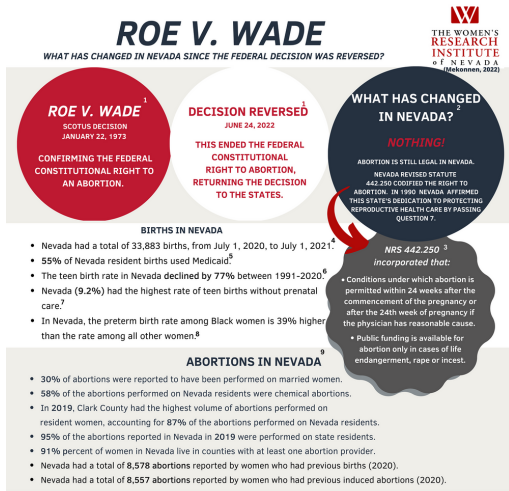
REPRODUCTIVE DESERT brief

- **46.6%** of Nevada women are underinsured.
- In 2020 alone, there were **90,075** underinsured women of reproductive age (15-44) in Nevada.
- **18.4%** of Nevada women reported not receiving health care at some point due to cost.



Congrats to **2022 NEW Leadership Alumna Saffiya Bintali** who recently was honored with the prestigious 2023 Pioneer Award by the Honor Society Phi Kappa Phi. Read more about her accomplishments [here](#).

IN MEMORIAL



Rest in Power to **2012 NEW Leadership Alumna Jennifer Stiles** who was a strong advocate and champion for disability rights and women's issues at the UNLV campus. Read more about her life and accomplishments [here](#).

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ROSE V WADE OVERTURNED brief

- **Nevada (9.2%) had the highest state rate of teen births without prenatal care.**
- Despite the June 2022 reversal of the SCOTUS *Roe v Wade* decision, **abortions remain legal in Nevada as NRS 442.250 codified the right to abortion in the Nevada constitution.**
- In Nevada, the preterm birth rate among Black women is **39% higher** than the rate among all other women.

Obtain a copy of our two newest research briefs [here](#).



2023 NEW Leadership Nevada Class with Maureen E. Schafer

Left to Right: Catherine Msumali, Jacqueline Veloso, Ade VandenBurg, Annie Allis, Alexis Marin, Julia Salangsang, Estefanny Lopez-Cruz, Alyssa Guzman, Lilian Elena Vicente Aguilar, Maryam Raja, Tania Akter, Daphne Mora, KEYNOTE SPEAKER Maureen E. Schafer, Vivian Yahir Arias, Kassandra Noe, Kailee Rudolph, Arielle Munoz, Jessica Burger, Marisol Pulido, Monica Margarita Flores, and Ashley Patterson.

THANK YOU 2023 NEW LEADERSHIP NEVADA SPONSORS!



2023 Class



This year's NEW Leadership class had students from the following college institutions: University of Nevada Las Vegas, University of Nevada Reno, Nevada State University, Western Nevada College, and College of Southern Nevada.

2023 Faculty in Residence (FIRs)



Left to Right: **Monique Sulls** (Alum 2007), **Melikabella Shenouda** (Alum

"Leading with Purpose, Passion, and Promise" framed our 2023 program's theme. This intention guided our students to set goals, sustain energy in pursuit, and commit to serving others.

We'd like to thank the following guest speakers who served as mentors for the week of NEW Leadership Nevada: **Natalie Sullivan, Michelle Mendez-Yela** (Alum 2022), **Anne Leets, Amy Ayoub, Carmel Viado** (Alum 2012), **Amy Frost, Denette Suddeth, Laura O'Neill, Ajanae Williams, Desiree Demers, Maureen E. Schafer, Anne Weisman, Evelyn Pacheco, Tiffany Biscoe, Caitlin Shea, Monica Pinon, Dr. Mina Attin, Priscila Venzor, Siria Gutierrez, Brenda Cruz Gomez, and members of our WRIN Community Advisory Board.**

2019), **Moe Turbin** (Alum 2015), **Director Dr. Caryll Batt Dziedziak, Program Coordinator Jean Munson** (Alum 2009), **Regina Mitchell** (Alum 2017), and **Dr. Vanessa Mari.**

Each of our NEW Leadership Nevada FIRs this year brought different skills and wisdom to their cohort. They helped maintain the flow of the program, served as panelists, and facilitated workshops. We are grateful for their energy and time to make this a special experience for our students this year. More than half are FIRs were alums and have deep understanding how impactful this program is to change lives.



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