

OPINION / COMMUNITY

Yavapai-Apache Chairwoman Honored by Arizona Business Magazine 2017 Most Influential Women in Arizona Business.

CAMP VERDE, AZ – Yavapai-Apache Nation Chairwoman Jane Russell-Winiecki has been announced as a recipient of the Arizona Business Magazine 2017 Most Influential Women in Arizona Business. The honor was announced by the publication and will appear in the July special issue of Arizona Business Magazine. Each year the publication calls for submissions and nominations for women of influence in Arizona. During the nomination process, Winiecki was nominated and selected for the honor.

"This honor is not about me and my success only. This honor is about my community and people of the Yavapai-Apache Nation. Together, as a people, we are honored for our leadership and community vision. This honor touches my heart and I know that it wouldn't be possible without all of the strong women who serve on our Tribal Council, work in our tribal government, and the strong Yavapai-Apache women in our community," said Chairwoman Winiecki.

Winiecki was elected Chairwoman of the Yavapai-Apache Nation in 2016, and currently serving her first term in tribal leadership. Prior to being elected, Winiecki served the Nation over the years as Chairperson

of the Nation's Economic Development Authority, Chairperson of Cliff Castle Casino Board of Directors, Chairperson of the CDFI, member of the Camp Verde Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors and member of the Clarkdale Town Council.

Winiecki spent her career developing small businesses in the Verde Valley. "Most people leave college and get a job so they can get some experience. I had no interest in finding a job. I wanted to start something that I could call my own. So I put in a lot of hours and developed an elder care company and built the business from the ground up. This was a good start for future ventures," stated Winiecki.

Twenty years ago, Winiecki recognized the trend of the internet, at which time she and her husband developed Wild Apache Internet Services in the Verde Valley. Wild Apache Internet provided residential and commercial internet services to residents and grew from a small start-up to a successful, thriving company. In 2008, Winiecki sold Wild Apache Internet to a larger internet provider in Arizona.

"I don't count much on luck. I think it's a lot about hard work and timing. When we launched Wild Apache, timing was



Chairwoman Jane Russell-Winiecki

everything. The internet was just emerging, there was a need, my husband and I had the knowledge and experience. We were groundbreaking in the industry. We had the privilege of providing all of the technology for the Tribe, and developing websites, servers and networks for local businesses and providing internet to households throughout the Verde Valley," she said.

Instead of entering retirement, Winiecki started a Healing Center and conducting extensive research on Health and Wellness. In 2008, Winiecki founded Life Vessel Arizona, originally based in the Verde Valley and eventually relocated to Scottsdale. Life Vessel Arizona provides healing and balance services to people who come from all over the world.

Winiecki stated, "Life Vessel Arizona has been such an exciting adventure. The opportunity to assist in the healing is a blessing and a huge responsibility that I take seriously. Life Vessel Arizona has provided me the opportunity to impact the lives of people. What could be better? Throughout the process of developing Life Vessel Arizona, I never forgot my inaugural entrepreneur venture years ago. I am so thrilled that today, women can lead the way in industries that have been dominated by men."

Chairwoman Winiecki's personal perspective as a Yavapai-Apache woman, is Native American people in general have a very close connection to the Earth. "Everything on Mother Earth is living. That is something Native people have known and been stewards of protecting since time immemorial. I think this connection has been passed down generation to generation, and this connection has made us as people survivors who can endure anything and leaders who look at leadership from the perspective of what's best for the people and environment rather than the what's best for myself perspective," added Winiecki.

In 2016, Winiecki made a decision to seek elected office as

the Chairperson of the Yavapai-Apache Nation. Winiecki approached her pursuit of leadership as a collective effort focused on the community and community involvement on ideas, vision and the direction of the Nation. In October 2016, Winiecki took the oath of office as Chairwoman of the Nation, and is the first woman in more than 40 years to be elected to the Nation's highest office and only the second woman in the Nation's history of modern government.

Through her work as Chairwoman, Winiecki also serves as the Treasurer of the Arizonans for Government Gaming and is a member of the Inter-Tribal Council of Arizona, Inter-Tribal Association of Arizona, Arizona Indian Gaming Association, serves as the delegate for the Western Caucus with the National Indian Gaming Association and active in local and regional government activities.

As Chairwoman, Winiecki's work is focused on the discussion of settlement of the Nation's federal water rights, completion of economic development and housing projects initiated by the previous Tribal Council and the planning and vision growing of the Nation's future on housing, healthcare and tribal economy.

"Serving as a Chairwoman is a huge honor for me. My father served many years as Chairman. I see my role as Chairwoman as the facilitator of the tribal government. It is my job to bring our employees and departments together with Tribal Leaders and our people to make sure that every single decision we make reflects the needs of the people. It has been a challenging job, but I am always up for a challenge and I want to make sure that our Nation continues moving forward," said Chairwoman Winiecki.

Winiecki recalls when she was informed of her recognition of the Arizona Business Magazine 2017 Most Influential Women in Arizona Business honor. "I am honored and I felt in my heart that this honor was not just about me, but about my people, our employees, our Tribal Leaders, our elders and our children. For me, this is really about being Yavapai-Apache and a privilege to accept such a huge honor and accept it on behalf of our ancestors, our elders, our children and future generations."

Arizona Business Magazine will publish the special edition of the 2017 Most Influential Women in Arizona Business in July and host an award ceremony in August.

Fallen Soldiers Commemoration

Memorial Day, May 29, 2017

Bob Bear
Paul Cisco Bear, Jr.
Earl Beauty
Ernie Beauty
Greg Donny Beauty
Marvin Big Cloud
Charles Anthony Bonnaha, Jr.
Allen Willman Bonnaha
Thomas Charles Brown
Guy Evans
Wilson W.Engle
George Lasky Evans
Karno Brown
Arthur William Gentry, Sr.
Leonard Harris, Sr.
James "Jimmie" Hood
Richard Winfred Issac
Billy Irving

Dewey Irving
Willie Jack
Virgil Alvin Jackson
Wallace Jackson
Anthony Franklin James
Morgan Johnson Sr.
Eric Johnson, Sr.
Darrel Lyman Kinsey
Paul Kinsey
Hiram Ricardo Mocasque
Phillip Mocasque
Truman Manuel Mocasque
Sammy John Rabino
Aaron Howard Russell
Ned Russell
Sam Russell
David Sine
Dee William Sine
Dennis Cleveland Sine
Sidney Sine
Theodore Smith, Sr.
David Smith, Sr.
Victor Smith
Johnson Henry Stacey, Jr.
Henry Starr Jr.
Daniel David Tapija Sr.
Harry Williams Sr.
Tillman R. Williams



Thank you!

With sincere gratitude... There are not enough words to fully express our heartfelt thanks for the sympathy, love and support you have extended to our family during this time of loss of our baby girl Kendallynn Ibarra 06/15/16 - 05/14/17. We're very much appreciated for the meals that were prepared throughout the week, the hard work labor done around the house and your presence meant even more to us. Thank you so much for your contribution:

Yavapai-Apache Nation
Councilwoman Sierra Russell
YAN Fire-Brian Marquez and crew
YAN Public Relation Staff
YAN Vice-Chairman Larry Jackson
Yan-Fleet Dept. Spoonie and crew
YAN YAPD Chief, Detective, Officers
YAN Recreation Staff

Our parents, brothers, sisters, grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, nephews, our friends and many more. Please continue to pray for us as we heal and move forward.

May the Almighty God bless you abundantly.

Respectfully,
Christopher Ibarra & Family
Dominique Kaska & Family



Cora-Lei Marquez shares some insights about receiving her Masters Degree in Addiction Counseling

"In 2011 I began my academic journey after serving two consecutive terms on the Nation's tribal council and constantly telling the youth to seek a higher education and to come back and be leaders of tomorrow and the change they want to see in the world.

I felt as though I had to pave the way for others and become the individual that I so often asked others to become. Education to me is the key that opens the minds and doors for all individuals to explore beyond the boundaries of the reservation.

I received a BA in Interdisciplinary Studies in Applied Human Behavior with an emphasis in Community Sustainability at Northern Arizona University in 2013 and then began my Master's program in 2014.

First, with Prescott College and then I transferred to Grand Canyon University where I received my Masters of Science in Addiction Counseling. I see the need for more services within Indian country that can help target the social needs such as substance abuse and trauma.



Cora-Lei Marquez is employed with the Yavapai-Apache Nation's Crime Victim Advocate Program and represents case management clients within the Nation's court system. Mrs. Marquez is married to Brian Marquez and they have three children.

Courtesy Photo

I look forward to the opportunity to be able to use my education on the Yavapai-Apache Nation and possibly at the VA counseling veterans suffering from PTSD."

Yavapai College Verde Valley campus graduates students

BY DON DECKER,
YAN News

The Governing Board of Yavapai College awarded Associate of Arts Degrees and certificate of completion for the students of the Verde Valley campus of Yavapai College..

Olivia McMahon received a Certificate of Completion in Enology which is the study of wine making while Mina Eppinger received a 2-year Associate of Arts Degree in General Studies.

Ms. McMahon has been involved in the

marketing of gourmet wine in the past few years with Fire Mountain Wines of

SEE COLLEGE PAGE 3



Ms. Olivia McMahon celebrates with sons and husband Jason Fulmer.