

2021 NJOMA Conference – Harrah’s Atlantic City – September 26 – 28, 2021 – njoma.com ~ Conference Speakers Announced ~



Derick and Tonette Brock

Together they own **Mad Science of Central Oklahoma** where they are both personally involved in all aspects of the business, delivering serious education in a fun, exciting manner for 15 years to the children of Oklahoma. They make the initial calls to their clients, write programs, train the staff and even present programs and interact with the children every chance they get.

Their programs now reach into all of Oklahoma including school districts, libraries throughout the state, local parks and recreation departments, and many tribal nations. They also have a regular feature on FOX 25 two times each week on Living Oklahoma and have developed those video segments into their very own YouTube channel, **Dogs of Science**. On **Dogs of Science**, they present fun crafty science ideas that you can make with your children using common items you find around the house.

Sharon King, Vice President Mad Science Group, Inc.

STEM is a Child's Toolbox - Inviting Curiosity to Support 21st Century Skill Building

In an age where climate change, ocean pollution, food security and a global pandemic are the predominant themes in both our everyday lives and our news feeds, STEM education at an early age is perhaps more important than ever. Building a child's "toolbox" of critical thinking skills through STEM education can help install lifelong curiosity that essential to both inform and educate about global issues that our children will have to tackle.



D.J. Vanas Native Discovery

Calling All Warriors

We've endured unprecedented uncertainty and change – and with it comes fearful doubt which can affect our focus, wellness and the way we serve others. In this session, D.J. shares a unique, powerful perspective from Native American culture on what the warrior role is (and isn't) about and how we can emulate the principles of that role to stay strong, clear and moving forward -- and understand that the role of warriors can make us warriors in our roles! He is a former Air Force officer and enrolled member of the Ottawa Tribe, featured on the PBS film *The Warrior Tradition*, and hosting his own PBS show *Discovering Your Warrior Spirit* airing nationally this year. He'll share with you, in a straightforward and entertaining way, how to navigate change with confidence and clarity, continue serving well, maintain perspective, health (and a sense of humor) even in the face of turbulent times. Now is the time for warriors to stand up, be strong and lead by example – **are you ready?**

Tony L. Dearman, Director Bureau of Indian Education

Tony Dearman, a member of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma, is the director of the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE), an agency within the U.S. Department of the Interior. He has served in this position since November 2016. The Bureau of Indian Education implements federal Indian education programs and funds 183 elementary and secondary day and boarding schools serving approximately 48,000 students. As the director, Dearman oversees the operation of two post- secondary schools, and administers grants for 29 tribally controlled colleges and universities and two tribal technical colleges and provides funding for higher education scholarships to Native youth.



Dr. Stephen Sroka

You have the Power of One to start a fire, but you need the Power of Many to keep the fire burning!

Relationships may be the most important variable in Native education. Challenges addressed are communication, collaboration, culture competency and caring. Resiliency, mental health, ACE (adverse childhood experiences), substance use disorders, TIC (trauma informed care), SEL (social emotional learning), BBL (brain-based learning), implicit bias, stress management (mindfulness), motivation, and storytelling are explored. The program is filled with "tips from the Rez" to help keep our whole Native students safe and healthy so they can learn more and live better. Dr. Stephen Sroka has spoken worldwide, and on many Native American reservations and conferences with **The Power of One** message, how one person can make a difference. Five years ago, Steve died while presenting a school in-service. Two SRO's, a principal and others saved his life and changed his message. He now talks about **The Power of Many**, how it takes a team, a Rez, to make a lasting difference. He will offer lessons learned about life and death and how to develop your own personal warrior aura to be fearless in the face of adversity with the courage to live and lead whether it be with the Coronavirus, death, or making sure your students are safe and healthy tomorrow morning wherever they may be. It stresses the importance of Resiliency and the 4 P's: Purpose, Passion, Pride and Persistence. Facts without feelings are fruitless. Research-based and reality-driven, this keynote offers honesty, humor, and hope. It will warm your heart, stir your soul and ignite your brain. It will spark the fire within you.