



Crisosto Apache, of Mescalero and Chiricahua Apache descent growing up in the most southern tip of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains on the Mescalero Apache Reservation in New Mexico, for which he is an enrolled member. The Mescalero Apache Tribe; have about 7000 enrolled members. The Mescalero Apache consist of three bands, the Mescalero Apache, the Lipan Apache, and the Chiricahua Apache.

He is a graduate from the Institute of American Indian Arts in Santa Fe N.M. He has attended the Naropa University (Boulder), University of Colorado at Denver and is currently attending Metro State University of Denver in Colorado.

Since moving to Denver Colorado in 1998 he has become an active member in the Native American, GLBT and campus student communities. His occupation has always been in the field of education and has experience working with disadvantaged youth.

He was the Director for the Two Spirit Society of Denver from 2008-2010 and has volunteered his time conducting educational forums on “two spirit” identity and Native American issues. He also raised funds and organized the 2009 21st Annual International Two Spirit Gathering which was held in Estes Park Colorado. This event had record breaking number in attendance for ‘two spirit’ gatherings in the United States.

He is currently the founder and Executive Director for the Two Spirit National Cultural Exchange, Inc., a non-profit organization founded in February of 2011. He continues to develop support and addresses disparities for “two spirit” people on a national scale using culture and tradition. He also has developed

an outreach partnership with film Director, Lydia Nibley and www.twospirit.org to help address the issues of bullying and violent crimes against marginalized populations utilizing her film entitled “Two Spirits”.

He comes from a long lineage of leaders, some of whom can be found in both the academic anthropological and ethnographical writings, such as; Dan L. Thrapp, “Juh”; Louis Kraft’s publication of “Lt. Charles Gatewood’s Apache War Memoirs”; and Eve Ball (historian), about the Apache people. He is the only high school graduate in his family and is one of the few from his tribe to attain a college degree. He now applies both what he has learned and what life has taught him to develop leadership skills within both his urban community as well as his tribal one. It is his hope to continue down this path and develop skills that can influence the future of other Native American communities. He encourages hope for others; so they can also reach their dreams!

Community and/or University engagement and/or service:

Power Point Presentation Outline: (One of our Power Point presentations)

Title: Sovereign Gender and Sexuality: A Contemporary View on Native American ‘Two Spirit’ Identity and Intersections.

The presentation will address the intersection of Native American gender and sexuality and how it is viewed in a more contemporary era. Because of the political identity and “sovereign” nature many tribes hold with the United States government, it has challenged many ‘two spirit’ communities to reexamine their position and identity within their tribal communities and in urban communities. The Two Spirit National Cultural Exchange Inc’s utilizes the film, “Two Spirits”, directed by Lydia Nibley, in efforts to develop programs to empower many of these communities.

Community Outreach & Organizing:

- Co-Directorship for the Two Spirit Society of Denver from 2008-2010.
- Organized the 2009 21st International Two Spirit Gathering in Estes Park Colorado.
- Rockwood Leadership Institute Cohort (2010)
- Founded the Two Spirit National Cultural Exchange, Inc. in February 2011. A nonprofit organization dedicated to the positive development of the ‘two spirit’ identity in the Native American tribal and urban community.
- University of Denver Youth Leadership Conference; Guest Speaker. February 26, 2011. Topic: Two Spirit Youth; Empowerment and Organizing.
- Guest Speaker UCD Boulder: March 7, 2011 Topic: History of Two-Spirit identity in Native American Communities; their roles in the past, in the present.
- Guest Speaker; Littleton High School GSA Club: June 6, 2011. Topic: The Death of Fred Martinez Jr.; A ‘Two Spirit’ Tragedy.
- One Colorado GSA Youth Summit: October 6, 2012 Topic: Sovereign Gender and Sexuality; A Contemporary View on Native American ‘Two Spirit’ Identity and Intersections.
- Key Note Speaker at Regis University Transgender Week: November 30, 2012.
- Gender Identity Center of Colorado’s Annual Gold Rush Conference. February 23, 2013. Topic: Sovereign Gender and Sexuality.

- Member of Denver's GLBT Commission: May 2013

Campus Conferences and Activities:

- MSUD(MetroState University of Denver) Indigenous Women's Social Gathering: April 6, 2011. He sat on forming committee.
- HEDS (Higher Education Diversity Summit) Conference: April 11, 2012. Topic: Sovereign Gender and Sexuality.
- MSUD (Metro State University of Denver) English Spring Conference: February 17, 2012. Topic: Critical: Creative Approaches to Critical Analysis of Literature and Writing; Failed Forms.

MSUD (Metro State University of Denver) Publications:

- MSUD(Metro State University of Denver): MetroSphere Literary Publication (2010): Poetry: "Scarce Seeds- In Seven Parts"
<http://www.metrosphere.org/entry/428/>
- MSUD (Metro State University of Denver)MetroSphere Literary Publication(2011): Poetry: "Open Road"
<http://www.metrosphere.org/entry/open-road/>
- MSUD(Metro State University of Denver) MetroSphere Literary Publication (2012): Poetry: "Ha'áá'a (Sunrise)" (Award)
<http://www.metrosphere.org/entry/ha-%ce%84uu-%ce%84a-sunrise/>
"San Francisco, California 1962 – for Evangelina A."
<http://www.metrosphere.org/entry/san-francisco-california-1962-for-evangelina-a/>
"Casualties"
<http://www.metrosphere.org/entry/casualties/>
"Bruise"
<http://www.metrosphere.org/entry/bruise/>
"I Looked at Those Pictures"
<http://www.metrosphere.org/entry/i-looked-at-those-pictures/>

Other Publications:

- Qualiafolk online Encyclopedia of Gay Folk Life. Article: "Lozen and Dahteste". Published December 08, 2011. <http://www.qualiafolk.com/2011/12/08/lozen-and-dahteste/>
- Qualiafolk online Encyclopedia of Gay Folk Life. Article: "Two Spirit". Published December 08, 2011. <http://www.qualiafolk.com/2011/12/08/two-spirit/>
- Future Earth Online Magazine: DJ Yourself. Published Summer 2012 (Poetry): "Long Distance Travel, (pg. 131)" and "San Francisco 1962, (pg. 133)".
<http://futureearthmagazine.com/DJ%20YOURSELF.html>