

THE SIMON ORTIZ AND LABRIOLA CENTER LECTURE ON INDIGENOUS LAND, CULTURE, AND COMMUNITY

The Healing Properties of Navajo Ceremonies

Lori Arviso Alvord, MD

Photo: "Shiprock.snodgrass3" by Bowie Snodgrass - Shiprock. Licensed under CC BY 2.0 via Wikimedia Commons

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2015 | 7:00 p.m.
Heard Museum, Steele Auditorium (2301 N Central Ave) | www.heard.org | Phoenix, Arizona

This event is free of charge and open to the public.

Raised in Crownpoint, New Mexico, Dr. Lori Arviso Alvord, MD (Navajo) is a member of the *Tsinnajinnie* (Ponderosa Pine) and *Ashi'hi*' Dine' (Salt) clans. She is the first Navajo woman to be board-certified in surgery. Her memoir, *The Scalpel and the Silver Bear* (Bantam, 1999), tells the story of her journey from the reservation to the operating room and of her work to combine Navajo philosophies of healing with western medicine.

Alvord is currently Chief of Surgical Services and a practicing general surgeon at Banner Health Page Hospital, in Page, Arizona. She also holds an appointment as Associate Faculty at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, Center for American Indian Health. Alvord earned her undergraduate degree from Dartmouth College in 1979, received her doctorate of medicine (MD) at Stanford University School of Medicine in 1985, and

completed her residency in general surgery at Stanford University Hospital. In addition to other medical practice and teaching positions, she served as a member of the National Advisory Council of the NIH Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine from 2008-2010. Her research has focused on surgical outcomes and health disparities in Native American populations. Additional interests include Native American health, Native American healing, integrative medicine, and the creation of healing environments.

Alvord has been awarded honorary degrees from Albany Medical College, Drexel University College of Medicine, and Pine Manor College, and has been a commencement speaker at five medical schools. She is featured in the National Library of Medicine exhibit, "Changing the Face of Medicine," honoring pioneering women physicians over the past 150 years.

“Ceremonies work at multiple levels, but primarily they heal the mind, which helps to heal the body. Chant, song, prayer, and guided imagery are used, in an elaborate form of mind-body medicine. Subsistence living and environmental sustainability principles are also found in ceremony teachings, and are examples of how interconnection can promote sustainability theory and teach humans a way of living that honors and protects our natural world.

—LORI ARVISO ALVORD



Photo/courtesy Lori Arviso Alvord

ASU ARIZONA STATE
UNIVERSITY

The Simon Ortiz and Labriola Center Lecture on Indigenous Land, Culture, and Community at Arizona State University brings notable scholars and speakers to Arizona for public lectures twice per year. These speakers address topics and issues across disciplines in the arts, humanities, sciences, and politics. Underscoring Indigenous American experiences and perspectives, this series seeks to create and celebrate knowledge that evolves from an inclusive Indigenous worldview and that is applicable to all walks of life.

Sponsored by Arizona State University's American Indian Policy Institute; American Indian Studies Program; Department of English; School of Historical, Philosophical, and Religious Studies; Women and Gender Studies in the School of Social Transformation (all units in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences); Indian Legal Program in the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law; School of Art in the Herberger Institute for Design and the Arts; and Labriola National American Indian Data Center; with tremendous support from the Heard Museum.