



## 2012 Social Justice Superhero Award Winners

Rosa Molina has made it her life's mission to be an advocate for recent immigrants, first with Nevada Hispanic Services (NHS) and now with the Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada (PLAN). She has labored quietly to operate an immigration program that handles the bulk of the community's caseload and which handles all of the low- and no-cost deportation cases. This is especially remarkable given the recent increase in immigration enforcement which has increased the number of court cases compared to just a few years ago. It is because of her dedication that these vital services will survive the recent demise of NHS and continue in new offices under the umbrella of PLAN.

Dr. Susan Chandler teaches graduate and undergraduate courses in social welfare policy, structural oppression, women's narratives, and community organizing. Her most recently published book, "Casino Women: Courage in Unexpected Places," was a winner of the 2012 Oral History Association National book Award and takes an in-depth look into the lives of women who work in the casinos of Nevada and their strength to unionize in the face of corporate oppression. Her research interests include casino women in the context of economic globalization, the condition of low wage workers particularly in Nevada, social welfare history including especially its race, gender, and class dimensions, and social workers' relationship to issues of war and peace. Professor Chandler challenges her students to understand how oppression is historically ingrained into our society, as well as how it shapes the lives and experiences of individuals. She has encouraged hundreds of future social workers to become informed community leaders.

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Community Chest, Inc. presents:

# The 2012 Rural & Urban Nevada Social Justice Institute



September 7, 2012  
University of Nevada, Reno  
Joe Crowley Student Union

8:00 - 9:00: Registration  
9:00 - 9:20: Welcome by Erik Schoen and Spoken Views  
9:20 - 9:30: Break  
9:30 - 10:20: Workshop Session #1

***Food Insecurity and Nutrition (Room 422)***

The current food system in Nevada is unjust. Families struggling economically or in areas without supermarkets have reduced access to healthy food and must make do with less nutritious processed food. Such a diet contributes to many factors that keep families in poverty and is at odds with growing citizens who are healthy and economically independent. Our food system can be a tool for social justice -- come see how people can and are partnering to move from the food system we have now to a food system rooted in health, social equity, economic vitality, and sustainability. Presented by Christy McGill, executive director, & Freida Carbery (a 2011 Social Justice Superhero winner) from the Healthy Communities Coalition.

***Sexual Violence (Room 423)***

Kari Ramos, the Program Director of the Nevada Coalition Against Sexual Violence and a 2011 Social Justice Superhero winner, will be discussing rape, sexuality, and violence in today's society.

***Inspiring Youth with Kindness (Ballroom A)***

Brian Williams, founder of Think Kindness, will discuss how to organize a social justice campaign, motivate individuals in the community to collaborate, and measure results. Brian has documented over 250,000 Acts of Kindness, spoken to over 75,000 students, and received the Thornton Peace Prize.

10:20 - 10:30: Break

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10:30 - 11:20: Workshop Session #2

***Social Justice for Native Americans (Room 422)***

Monty Williams, director for the Nevada Statewide Native American Prevention Coalition, will speak about the difficulty Native Americans have faced in the realm of social justice. Topics will include history, domestic violence, legal issues, substance abuse, and reform.

***Why Don't They Get Legal? (Room 423)***

This presentation will provide an overview of the causes of migration and experiences of the undocumented in the United States. Join us for a participatory learning experience that highlights the challenges of accessing social and legal institutions as a foreign born individual. Stacey Shinn with the Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada & Kyle Edgerton with Catholic Charities will be facilitating.

***Improving Communities with Dwindling Resources (Ballroom A)***

With demands for services at their highest levels, how do you help the person in front of you and advocate for systemic change at the same time? Barbara Buckley, former Speaker and Assemblywoman of the Nevada State Legislature will lead this workshop and share specific examples of community problems that were successfully addressed.

11:20 - 11:30: Break

11:30 - 11:45: Presentation of 2012 Social Justice Superhero Awards

11:45 - 12:00: Closing Remarks by Shaun T Griffin

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