



## Community Corner

Greetings from the great State of Wyoming! I am Carmen Thomas, IV-D Director of the Eastern Shoshone Child Support Program (ESCSP), in Fort Washakie, located in central Wyoming. I have a son, 2 daughters and 10 grandchildren, the youngest of whom, Joshua Cade Hurtado, passed away June 2012. Now, I have five granddaughters and four grandsons. I had the wonderful opportunity to graduate with a BA in Psychology from the University of Wyoming.

The Wind River Indian Reservation is located in the Wind River Basin of Wyoming, and comprises over 2.2 million acres. The reservation was established in 1868 and is home to two tribes, Eastern Shoshone and Northern Arapaho. The two tribes have separate Child Support Programs and share Shoshone & Arapahoe Tribal Court. ESCSP has Attorney Robert Hitchcock to represent Eastern Shoshone Tribe and Child Support consumers. Attorney Bob is excellent!

I will describe briefly ESCSP's work: ESCSP has been a comprehensive tribal IV-D program for almost three years, and is a member of both NCSEA and the National Tribal Child Support Directors Association. Upon employment on September 8, 2010, I did not realize we were comprehensive. Talk about shock and then "hitting the door running!" 45 CFR 309, which governs the operations of IV-D tribal programs is our resource and guide. Of course, child support has many challenges and barriers weekly, daily...

OCSE Commissioner Vicki Turetsky, HHS Grants Management Specialist Robin Boldoe, OCSE Region VIII Program Specialist Regina Bowman, Wyoming IV-D Director Brenda Lyttle and, lately, North Dakota IV-D Director Jim C. Fleming have helped ESCSP step up and address challenges and barriers with their expertise.

Tribal Child Support Directors Jackie Pische (Forest County Potawatomi), Lisa Schwartz (Oneida), Bill Paine (Northwest Tribes), Sis Horn (Fort Belknap) and Marie Hanken (Standing Rock Sioux) have been excellent resources or supportive and also are experts in their field of work. There are many more resources, individuals who have provided assistance. Child Support programs do not for lack of resources, -- all one has to do is pick up the telephone and ASK.

Jim Fleming literally "*rolled out the red carpet*" in February 2013 to train the ESCS Program staff in Tax Intercept. Also in attendance were Child Support Directors Ellen

Otterman of the Three Affiliated Tribes (Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara Nation) from North Dakota and Brenda Lyttle from the State of Wyoming. Brenda's staff joined by telephone. ESCS Program was truly enlightened by the training and extends our appreciation to Jim Fleming and his staff. *Huuwhiyuu* (thank you).



*Back row (left to right) - Tori Dihle, Dorothy Packineau, Ellen Otterman, Nelson Frank Ute, Esq. Robert Hitchcock (Bob), Mindy Albrecht, Scott Davis, Becki Schulz, Kim C. Lambert, Kimberly Sue Ferris, Brenda Lyttle, Andrea Blackburn, Bill Woods, Jim Fleming,*

*Seated (left to right) – Pam Nemeth, Lee Bjerklie, Paulette Warren, Carmen Thomas.*