

## **Social Welfare Leader Juli Skinner, MSW**

Juli Skinner is a member of the Ponca Tribe. She is a Global Leader for young children with the World Forum Foundation and is a current member of the University of Oklahoma Anne and Henry Zarrow School of Social Work Board of Visitors. She has more than 16 years of experience working with Native families, designing and developing programs for children and families involved in child welfare, and managing Project LAUNCH and System of Care initiatives. Juli began her work at Cherokee Nation Indian Child Welfare and helped develop programs focused on advocacy for the Indian Child Welfare Act, which has impacted Native American children across the Nation. Juli completed extensive work with teens in Cherokee Nation custody which focused on teaching and promoting leadership skills, relationship building, and other protective factors, for which she is most proud.

In 2012, Juli started work on development of the HERO (Helping Everyone Reach Out) Project, which is Cherokee Nation's comprehensive strategy to improve outcomes for Cherokee and other Native children and families. The HERO Project provides needed support to youth, families and communities to promote the overall well-being of children by working on the individual, community and state levels. Juli represents the HERO Project and Cherokee Nation throughout the United States by partnering and collaborating with parents, families, other states, tribes, and universities to address the needs for all children. Through her work at the HERO Project, Juli hopes to improve systems affecting our most vulnerable populations; our children, our heroes.