

CRISTINA COC

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OBJECTIVE: Deeply committed to the realization of Social Justice and Human Rights for the indigenous people of Belize.

LANGUAGE

English, Q'eqchi', Spanish

EDUCATION

Bachelor of Science – Concentration in Biology and Minor in Chemistry.
University of Minnesota, Duluth (2003-2005)

Associates Degree in General Studies
St. John's College, Junior College, (1998-2001)

High School Diploma
Toledo Community College (1994-1998)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Community Associate, ISIS Belize (2011-Present)

Community lecturer for international studies groups www.isisbelize.com

Program Director, Julian Cho Society (2005-Present)

A founding member and present director of Julian Cho Society, an indigenous rights non governmental organization devoted to indigenous rights through research, education and advocacy in southern Belize.

My duties include day to day coordination of organization activities and programs, advising, fund-raising, and collaborative research. (www.jcsbelize.org)

Community Liaison and advisor to lawyers on legal cases concerning Maya lands of southern Belize, 2004-present

I have served over the last few years as a local community advisor to the University of Arizona legal team regarding Case 12.053, between the Maya and the Government of Belize, before the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and the Belize Supreme Court Maya Land Rights case no.171 of 2007 and on-going Land rights Supreme Court case of 2008.

Spokesperson, Maya Leaders Alliance of Southern Belize, (MLA) 2005-present

Provide public relations, technical support and leadership to the Alliance and its five member organizations. As member of the executive council of the MLA, I also serve as a lead negotiator in the implementation of Maya land rights claim no.171 of 2007 with the Government of Belize. (This is an appointed position by the Toledo Alcaldes Association).

Chair, Indigenous Peoples Conservation Alliance (IPCA) 2007-2010

IPCA is an alliance of Indigenous peoples' organizations and conservation agencies established to promote the full participation of indigenous peoples in the effective use and management of natural resources through dialogue, advocacy, capacity building and knowledge exchange.

Undergraduate Research Advisor, School for International Training (2005-2007)

Provided support, advice and evaluation to study abroad undergraduate students in Belize with field research projects.

Women's resource and Action Center, University of Minnesota, Duluth (2003-2005)

Worked as an office assistant at the resource center and assisted in facilitating various seminars, trainings and events to promote women's rights and gender equity.

Multi-Cultural Center, University of Minnesota, Duluth (2004-2005)

Worked as desk attendant at the multi-cultural center to provide assistance to all visitors and support to all school associations housed at this center.

English Teacher, Julian Cho Technical High School (JCTHS) (2001-2002)**Assistant Project Coordinator, JANUS Foundation (2001-2002)**

Participated in the administration and implementation of an eco-tourism project aimed at building and upgrading guest houses for ten rural communities in the Toledo District. Worked closely with the project beneficiary, the Toledo Eco-Tourism Association, to provide eco-tourism training to community members.

Resource Center Attendant, Society for the Promotion of Education and Research (SPEAR) (1999-2001)

Provided support and assisted researchers who visited the resource center. My duties also included cataloguing materials, organizing books and files, updating data base and supporting staff research.

Teacher, Toledo Christian Academy (1998-1999)

Taught all core subjects to the Std VI class and prepared them for the High School entrance exam.

SELECTED AWARDS AND DISTINCTIONS

Nominated for the Rolex Awards for Enterprise (2010) Young Laureates Programme

The St. John's College Alumni Association Outstanding Recent Alumni Award (2009)

Violence Prevention Fund Special Recognition Award for trail blazing and innovative work towards the realization of peace and development in Belize in commemoration of International Day of Violence Against Women (2007).

International Student Undergraduate Tuition Scholarship Award, University of Minnesota, (2003-2005)

Women's Resource and Action Center Volunteer Award, University of Minnesota, (2003)

PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

2007, Representative at "Focal Point Meeting on the Rights of Indigenous and Maroon Children in the Caribbean" held in George Town, Guyana.

2006, "The Indigenous Women's Agenda for the Achievement of the Millennium Development Goals: Perspectives from Latin America and the Caribbean" – Belize Representative at the 5th Session of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, Regional Side event for Latin America and the Caribbean.

2006, "Community advocacy campaign in rural Toledo – advancing the struggle to secure rights to land resources for the Q'eqchi' and Mopan Maya of Belize" presentation at the University of Arizona, Rogers College of Law.

2006, "Capacity Development for Maya Leaders" – Human Rights Training Manual presented to the UN Development Program in Belize.

2005, Co-author - "Toward a Community-Based Management Plan for Maya Lands in Southern Belize"; Report to Indigenous Peoples Law and Policy Program at the University of Arizona.

REFEREES**Dr. Joel Wainwright**

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