

## **AzGS 2018 Education Committee Member**



Debbie Dyjak RN has been serving as the Education Coordinator at Archie Hendricks Senior Skilled Nursing Facility on the Tohono O'odham Nation since 2011. In conjunction with this position, Debbie has served as adjunct faculty with the Arizona Geriatric Education Center and more recently the Geriatric Workforce Enhancement Program. She has been a board member with this statewide consortium since 2011. In addition, she served on the Tohono O'odham Elder Care Consortium, chairing the Education and Training subcommittee.

Debbie is a graduate of the University of Arizona and a native of Tucson. She earned a Bachelor's degree in Nursing and a Master's degree in Sport Psychology specializing in the area of Wellness and Stress Management. She is an effective encourager, initiator of innovative ideas, and is committed to bringing health education and health promotion to culturally diverse populations in the field of Geriatrics. Her professional work experience encompasses public health, occupational health, home health, hospice, and academic teaching.

Debbie is a John A. Hartford Scholar and completed the Geriatric Nurse Leadership Academy sponsored by Sigma Theta Tau International in 2013. She completed her FLAG (Facilitated Learning to Advance Geriatrics) in 2013 and has led initiatives on Best Practices in tribal nursing homes, presenting her findings at Sigma Theta Tau International, the Arizona Geriatrics Society, and Banner's Alzheimer's Institute. She attended both the John A. Hartford Change Agents Inaugural meeting in 2014 and the associated Communications Institute in 2015. She is actively engaged as a Geriatric Change Agent and is currently leading a Tribal Nursing Home Educational Collaborative, advocating for tribal Elders.

Debbie has been involved as a nurse volunteer since 2011 with Christians Forward Southeast Asia; a Phoenix based non-profit humanitarian organization dedicated to helping the medically underserved areas of Thailand. She currently serves on their Medical Advisory Board. Debbie resides in Tempe, Arizona and enjoys spending time with her four children, playing violin, and swimming.