

## Problem Gambling Speakers Biographies:

### **William “Ted” Hartwell**



Mr. Hartwell has a Masters degree in Anthropology from Texas Tech University and has been a member of the research faculty of the Desert Research Institute in Las Vegas since 1991. He is a problem gambler in long-term recovery (~9 and a half years), and he promotes awareness, prevention, and treatment of problem gambling as a consultant for Community Engagement for the Nevada Council on Problem Gambling. He has spoken publicly and personally on this issue on many occasions in support of organizations such as the Problem Gambling Center, where he serves on the Alumni Committee, and for Lanie’s Hope, a national advocacy group dedicated to humanizing and illuminating the disease of compulsive gambling.

As a recent graduate of Leadership Las Vegas (Class of 2011), Mr. Hartwell has been responsible for the inclusion of an informational session on problem gambling within the curriculum of Gaming and Tourism Day for the Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce’s Leadership Las Vegas program. He has also presented on advocacy at the Nevada State Conference on Problem Gambling, and is a member of the National Council on Problem Gambling. He helped introduce the Nevada Council’s youth problem gambling awareness program “Given the Chance” into the Middle and High Schools of the Clark County School District beginning in Fall, 2012, and has served at the pleasure of Governor Sandoval on the State Advisory Committee on Problem Gambling since November 2012. In 2014-2015 he organized a weekly problem gambling awareness session at Freedom House, a sober living facility in Las Vegas that helps recovering addicts who have been incarcerated to transition back into society.

He was the 2014 Shannon L. Bybee Award recipient for his continuing work on advocacy, outreach, and research on the issue of problem gambling. He is currently the Principal Investigator of a research study examining the impact of problem gambling in Native American tribal communities in Nevada.

### **Sydney Smith**



Sydney Smith has a Masters degree in Clinical Psychology and is a PhD candidate in Clinical Psychology. She holds licensure as a LPC and LADC, and is also a Nationally Certified Gambling Counselor who trained under Johanna Franklin. Ms. Smith previously served as Clinical Director of Family Services for the International Problem Gambling Center in Las Vegas, NV, and as Clinical Director of Vencer Youth Services in Las Vegas. She is currently CEO and Clinical Director of RISE Center for Recovery in Las Vegas, Nevada, and hopes to open a residential treatment facility focused on disordered gambling in Las Vegas this year. She is the recipient of a Lander Endowment fellowship to conduct research at the Desert Research Institute in Las Vegas. Ms. Smith has spent the majority of her career working with co-occurring disorders as a substance abuse and gambling addiction therapist practicing in both inpatient and outpatient settings. She has a long-standing interest in the treatment of problem gamblers and their families and is active in clinical practice. She was the 2016 Shannon L. Bybee Award recipient for her continuing work on advocacy, education, and research on the issue of problem gambling.