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Director's Message

This issue of the *NIJ Journal* brings three articles about the challenges of administering justice in Indian Country. In the cover story, Stewart Wakeling and his colleagues at Harvard describe the results of their exploratory study of policing practices on Indian reservations. As they explain the differences between Indian Country and municipal policing, the authors focus on specific problems faced by police departments in Indian Country and how Federal policy has influenced these issues. The article also notes the benefits of community policing in Indian Country.

Darryl Wood examines a situation often faced by law enforcement officers in remote areas: high turnover rates. Wood looks specifically at factors that affect turnover of officers in Alaska Native villages. He found that officers are more likely to stay in the Village police officer program if they are grounded in the Alaska Native culture, serve in their home villages, serve with other police officers (either village police officers or tribal police), and if they are married.

In the third article, Eileen Luna reports findings from her evaluation of the effectiveness of grants to help prevent and respond to violence against Indian women. This short article, found in the "At-A-Glance: Recent Research Findings" section of the *Journal*, describes how the tribes used the grants to improve coordination and training and enhance the focus on Native culture. The result: improved enforcement and conviction.

Donna Hughes looks at trafficking of women for use in the global sex industry. Between 100,000 and 500,000 Ukrainian women were trafficked in the 1990's alone. The United States is one of the recipient countries, and, as a result, legislation was passed to help stop the importation of women. Hughes looks at the factors feeding the need in the supplying countries, the extent of the problem in the United States, and actions that the United States can take to further eliminate the trafficking of women.

Criminal justice organizations are continually adapting to new issues and circumstances—such as human trafficking—and sometimes when they look at these problems from a new angle, they find innovative ways to solve them. Gail Christopher's article discusses different approaches to solving problems as exhibited by the winners and finalists of the 2000 Innovations in American Government Program. She describes the lessons learned from government innovations, the value of collaboration, the vital need for flexibility, and the importance of new information technologies.