Creating Healthier Communities: Native American Nursing Students’ Experiences and the Role of Mentoring

December 4, 2019
Today’s Webinar

- Understand Native American nursing students’ experiences and the influences and factors that have contributed to Native American students’ success;
- Recognize the challenges and barriers to nursing program completion for Native American students;
- Describe the role and impact mentoring has played in the students’ education; and
- Identify recommendations for future efforts to support Native American nursing students’ success.

Winifred V. Quinn, PhD, FAANP (H)
Director, Advocacy and Consumer Affairs
Center to Champion Nursing in America
Welcome from NANAINA

Sandra Littlejohn, MA, BSN, RN
President, National Alaska Native American Indian Nurses Association
Administrative Director, Center for Cancer & Blood Disorders, Gundersen Health System
Mdewakanton Dakota
Today’s Facilitators

Regina Eddie, PhD, RN
Assistant Professor, Northern Arizona University
Diversity Consultant, Center to Champion Nursing in America
Native Americans in Higher Education

- Native Americans represent less than 1 percent of the college student population.
- Fewer Native American nursing graduates.
- Native American students encounter many challenges including:
  - Lack of role models
  - Feelings of isolation
  - Discrimination
  - Cultural differences
  - First-generation students
  - Employed while in college
  - Lack of academic/financial resources
Today’s Presenters

Misty L. Wilkie, PhD, RN, FAAN,
Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa
Associate Professor of Nursing,
Niganawenimaanaanig (“we take care of
them”) Program Director
Bemidji State University, Minnesota.
Creation of Niganawenimaanaanig

• Bemidji State University (Minnesota) received a HRSA Nursing Workforce Diversity grant in 2017.
  • 4-year project to recruit, retain, graduate, and license baccalaureate-prepared Indigenous nurses.
  • Received $2 million.
• Niganawenimaanaanig (Ojibwe word meaning “we take care of them”) established.
Holistic Support of Indigenous Students

- Financial
- Academic
- Cultural
- Social
Today’s Presenters

Terry Defoe, RN
Bois Forte Band of Chippewa
RN-BS, Senior

Alexa Brunelle
White Earth Band of Ojibwe
4-year, Junior

Jackie Allen
Flandreau Santee Sioux
4-year, Sophomore
Questions for Students

- What inspired you to become a nurse?
- How or what helped you to get into nursing school?
- What have been some of your challenges in nursing school?
- What has helped you in nursing school to be successful?
- Tell us about a mentor in your life and how this person has supported your education and overall goals.
- What words of wisdom do you have for future Native American students who might be considering nursing as a career?
Resources for Native American students

- Indian Health Service Scholarship
  https://www.ihs.gov/scholarship/
- American Indian College Fund
  https://collegefund.org/student-resources/scholarships/additional-scholarships/
- American Indian Graduate Center
  https://www.aigcs.org/scholarships-fellowships/
- Cobell Scholarship
  https://cobellscholar.org/
- American Indian Education Fund