

**SPECIAL
POINTS OF IN-
TEREST:**

- 2012 Native Health Research Conference
- NRN Members Promotions
- NRN New Board Members
- Students Sponsored to past Conferences

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Native Research New

WINTER 2012

Co-Chairs Report

Greetings from the NRN Co-Chairs!

As the 2011 and 2012 Co-Chairs of the Native Research Network we would like to send our thank you and appreciation to our membership, sponsors, and friends across the nation. It is with your support, dedication, and good minds that makes the NRN strong and meaningful. We would also like to welcome and congratulate new members to the NRN Board of Directors elected by our membership during the last annual conference. These include the incoming Co-Chairs, Kenton Laffoon (Mohave) and Vanessa Shortbull (Oglala Lakota), at large board members, Teshia Solomon (Choctaw) and Tonie Quaintance (Oneida), and our treasurer, Debra Islam (Muscogee Creek). In addition, we thank the rest of the board for their continued commitment: Tassy Parker (Seneca), Lillian Tom-Orme (Dine'), Maxine Bring-Him-Back Janis (Oglala Lakota), and Marla Padilla (Dine'). We also thank and acknowledge our wonderful affiliate team members, Stefanie Brooks (Choctaw), Program Coordinator, Jeannie Yazzie (Dine'), Book Keeper, and Bernard Miller (IT and web designer) for their work and dedication. We are very honored and privileged to collaborate with such great minds.

We would like to reflect on some historic events that occurred in 2011, specifically, the Native Health Research Conference in Niagara Falls, New York. This marked the first time the conference was held in tribal territories of the US Northeast. The conference focused on "Peace, Good Mind, & Strength: Indigenous Principles of Health Disparities Research and Training for the Seven Generations" which showcased nearly 100 systematic investigations in Native and Aboriginal clinic and community settings. The conference also included traditional Chiefs and speakers sharing Indigenous viewpoints of health and society along with plenary speakers providing reports on the current state of Indigenous health in the US and Canada. The 23rd annual conference broke a number of records including the most attended conference in the history of the NRN, a show of growth in membership, interest from tribal societies, academic communities, and supporting federal departments and offices. Both Drs. Parker and I (Dr. Haring) served as conference co-chairs and it was a great honor to host the event in our homeland of the Haudenosaunee (People of the Longhouse).

Co-Chairs Report (contd.)

Now the torch has been passed to me, Leslie L. Randall, board co-chair and conference co-chair for the 24th annual Native Health Research Conference. As co-chairs, we cordially encourage you to save the date for July 16-19, 2011 in Seattle, Washington. This conference once the sole-responsibility of Indian Health Services, the annual Native Health Research Conference is now led by the NRN in partnership with IHS and local tribal communities. Much like the 2011 conference, the 2012 conference is expected to make new benchmarks. The conference is being held in the Pacific Northwest, near Alaska, and on the border of Canada to encourage participation from Alaska, Canada, and Hawaii.

As the current Co-Chairs, it is our honor to continue building the strength and capacity provided by the founders of the NRN. It is our duty to keep the mission statement in our heart for the betterment of Indigenous societies. Specifically, we plan to promote and advocate for high quality research that builds collaboration, support, and capacity for research environments that operate on the principles of integrity, trust, respect, ethics, cooperation, and open communication in multi-disciplinary fields. At our in-person board meeting we reviewed the NRN strategic plan, updated successful completions for the 2010-2011 term, and developed new efforts for the continued growth and success of the organization including discussion of an executive director position and continued infrastructure building across all of our committees: membership, governance, collaborations, ethics, finance, and elections.

In closing, we hope to continue to provide a forum for new researchers, students, community members, academic and government professionals, and all indigenous people to network, collaborate, and share their experiences as native researchers and community members.

Nya:weh (Seneca),

Qeciyéwyew (Nez Perce)

Thank you,

Rodney Haring, Ph.D. and Leslie L. Randall, RN, MPH

Promotions for NRN Members

Kyle Ethelbah

Kyle Ethelbah is currently the Director of Native American Student Affairs at the University of Arizona (UA) in Tucson, Arizona. Kyle previously served as the Director for the federally funded Adult Educational Services and Educational Talent Search with the Center for Academic Enrichment & Outreach at the University of Nevada Las Vegas (UNLV). Kyle has served as the President of the National Educational Opportunity Centers Association (NEOCA), as well as TRIO training faculty for UNLV since 2006 and the Council for Opportunity in Education (COE) in 2010. Kyle has received numerous awards for his commitment and dedication to students served by educational access programs and the American Indian community in Las Vegas. These honors include the Community Service of the Year Award from the Las Vegas Indian Center, The UNLV Professional Staff Member of the Year, Special Recognition from the Las Vegas City Council, and the Outstanding Community Service Award from TODO International, an organization dedicated to serving low income HIV Positive African American, Latino and Native American communities.

In addition to serving in student affairs for the majority of his career, Kyle serves as a consultant, assisting communities with public health campaigns that deal with HIV and AIDS in the American Indian community. He has worked with the Navajo Nation, Tuba City area health offices, the Hopi Tribe Community Health Representative (CHR) Program and the White Mountain Apache Tribe, Native American Research Centers for Health (NARCH) program with their outreach and education programs aimed at HIV/AIDS awareness.

Mr. Ethelbah is a proud member of the *Dischiidn* or Bear Clan of the White Mountain Apache Tribe from Whiteriver, Arizona. He received a Bachelor's degree in Cultural & Linguistic Anthropology from the University of Arizona and a Master of Public Health (MPH) degree from the University of Nevada-Las Vegas.

Dr. Tassy Parker



Dr. Tassy Parker Promoted: University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center - School of Medicine

Tassy Parker, PhD, RN, is an enrolled member of the Seneca Nation and belongs to the Beaver Clan. Dr. Parker was promoted to Associate Professor with Tenure at the University of New Mexico School of Medicine, Department of Family and Community Medicine, on July 1, 2011. She was also promoted in her secondary appointment to Associate Professor in the College of Nursing. On September 1, 2011, Dr. Parker was appointed to the position of Assistant Dean of Academic Affairs for the School of Medicine. Dr. Parker is the first American Indian social scientist to be promoted with tenure at the UNM School of Medicine and the School of Medicine's first American Indian to serve as Assistant Dean. She is also the Director of the Center for Native American Health at the UNM Health Sciences Center (<http://hsc.unm.edu/community/cnah/>). Congratulations to Dr. Parker. Dr. Parker is a founding member and immediate past co-Chair of the NRN.

Dr. Teshia Solomon

In 1983 the University of Arizona received federal funding to create the Native American Research and Training Center (NARTC), to work with Native American communities on projects related to diabetes, special education, substance abuse prevention, cancer, health policy and leadership development. The center's founder, the late Paul Skinner, EdD, handed over the director's role to Jennie Joe, PhD, in 1986. Dr. Joe retired on June 30, 2011, Dr. Teshia Solomon, was appointed the Director on July 1, 2011. In reference to accepting the reins from her long time mentor Dr. Solomon states, "while I cannot fill her shoes, I hope to walk the path she has led."

Dr. Solomon is currently a member of the Board of Directors and a Founding Member of the Native Research Network, Inc. and has served as Secretary, Treasurer and Co-Chair of the organization



Delight Satter joins the CDC

After Delight Satter, MPH served 15 years as the Director of the American Indian Research Program at UCLA and as the center's expert on American Indian and Alaska Native health, Delight became Associate Director of Tribal Support at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in December 2011. She will work with the CDC's Office for State, Tribal, Local and Territorial Support, which serves as the primary link between the CDC, the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry and tribal governments.

"Delight brought both a researcher's precision and an activist's heart to American Indian and Alaska Native health research," said E. Richard Brown, the Center's director. "The credible, evidence-based research she produced laid the groundwork for many needed health programs for American Indian communities. We are proud of her accomplishments at the Center and wish her well in her new role at the CDC. (UCLA Research Policy e-newsletter, 12-2011)"

Delight started the Center's [American Indian Research Program](#) 13 years ago with the primary focus on the health and well-being of urban and rural native communities. She also played an important role in developing the California Health Interview Survey (CHIS), focusing in particular on the design of the 2001 American Indian oversample and culturally competent, community-based outreach. Delight is a founding member and previous board member of the NRN.

Students

Rachell Tenorio

I am an enrolled tribal member from Santo Domingo Pueblo in New Mexico. I am writing to thank you for your generous Native Research Network (NRN) mentoring-travel scholarship. I was very happy and appreciative to learn that I was selected as the recipient of your scholarship. I am enrolled in a dual degree program leading to the attainment of a Masters in Social Work (MSW) and a Masters in Business (MBA) at New Mexico Highlands University (NMHU) with an emphasis in Government Non-Profit. I am currently in my second year, and plan to graduate in the spring of 2012 with my MSW. After graduation, I am currently looking into attaining a doctoral degree. Thanks to you, I am one step closer to that goal. Your Conference has helped me network and meet a lot of truly inspiring people dedicated to the advancement of Native American people. I have learned that there is a dire need for Native American Doctors and it is my aim to try and become one. Having met a mentor and learning about the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) program, I believe I can accomplish this goal. By awarding me the *NRN mentoring-travel scholarship* has given me an invaluable experience that has given me inspiration to continue to persevere and excel in my academic career. Your generosity has inspired me to help others and give back to the Native American community. I hope one day I will be able to help students achieve their goals just as you have helped me realize mine.

Nathan Nakatsuka

My first experience with the Native Research Network was at the 2009 National Native Health Research Conference in Portland. I had a great time at the conference and learned a ton about current research going on in native communities. Because of this positive experience, I had high quite high expectations coming into the 2011 conference at Niagara Falls, and fortunately, I was not disappointed. It was wonderful being able to interact with leading native health research scientists. I gave an oral presentation on my research on Native Hawaiian elders, and I was able to bounce my ideas off other native scientists, which provided me with new perspectives on my work.

The talks were fascinating, and I was inspired by the innovative ideas presented by researchers doing work throughout Indian Country. I learned new approaches to implementing community based participatory research, and the ways various researchers overcame obstacles. Lastly, I thoroughly enjoyed the site of the conference. I got to see Niagara Falls for the first time and explore the area during the free time we had throughout the conference.

In sum, I had a wonderful experience at the 2011 National Native Health Research Conference, and I plan to attend many more in the future.

Aloha,

Nathan Nakatsuka (Kanaka Maoli)

Bruce Kafer, PhD

My journey as a PhD student into the world of research and scholarship has been strengthened by my attendance at the 23rd Annual Native Health Research Conference of the Native Research Network. The conference theme of "Peace, Good Mind, and Strength: Indigenous Principles of Health Disparities Research and Training for the Seven Generations" was especially appropriate for my research focus in Native American recovery from alcoholism in Indian country. The student scholarship I received allowed me to meet an amazing organization of American Indians, Alaska Natives, Native Hawaiians, and Canadian Aboriginals, as well as outstanding Native students. As a result, I have obtained key direction in the formulation of my research question and my academic matriculation as a doctoral student.

I now have the ongoing opportunity to network with these Native professionals who have established themselves as leaders who are vested in science, culture, and interdisciplinary discovery. Moreover, they model the affirmation and respect of indigenous values which creates an essential foundation for Native research whereby the ensuing explanation and understanding of phenomenon and new knowledge are profound and ultimately helpful to humanity. Indeed, the leading Native scholars and students are within this organization and they have provided me with mentorship, inspiration, and a body of scholarship that is important not only to Native people but to numerous professions and others within the nation and across the globe. The principles of integrity, respect, trust, ethics, cooperation and open communication of the Native Research Network resonates with the core of my being and compels me to join them as they promote an enduring legacy of integrity and excellence in research and science.

"Wopila tanka, mitakuye oyasin."

Damien Webster

Nya:weh sge:no'

I became involved with the Native Research Network in the summer of 2011 in Niagara Falls. I was interested in learning new things and meeting new people, but the conference far exceeded my expectations. I didn't just want to attend the conference, I wanted to be a part of things. I made the most of many opportunities and proved a lot of things to myself as well as made good impressions on others.

I saw presentations that have had a profound effect on my life since the conference. I made a lot of great connections from my homeland as well as from afar, and I even met one of my long lost Nez Perce aunts. I met a lot of people with passion for what they do and they inspired me.

Many of the projects built on the professional development I've worked with in education while also providing novel and fundamental approaches to research and implementation. I want to make a difference with our Native children and working with NRN will definitely help with that mission. I look forward to working with the NRN for many years to come.

New Board Members

Tonie Marie Quaintance, Member at Large



Tonie Marie Quaintance, PhD Candidate is a sixth year doctoral student in the University of Alaska Joint PhD Program in Clinical-Community Psychology with a rural and indigenous emphasis.

Tonie, whose Native name, Yethnhahnilat, means “makes her life strong,” is an enrolled descendant in the Turtle Clan of the Oneida Tribe of Wisconsin.

Quaintance is an Andrew R. Mellon Dissertation Fellow, and is currently writing her dissertation entitled: *The Meaning of Life among rural American Indian/Alaska Native University Students attending urban university*. She was formerly a Research Assistant with the Center for Alaska Native Health Research where she assisted in research methodologies and strategies for stress and coping assessments in rural Alaska Native communities. Tonie currently serves as the Executive Director of the Alaska Psychological Association.

Kenton Laffoon, Co-Chair Elect

Kenton Laffoon, MSW, is the Program Director of the Inter Tribal Council of Arizona, Inc.

(ITCA) American Indian Research Center for Health (AIRCH) under the auspices of the Indian Health Services/National Institute for Health and the Native American Research Centers for Health (NARCH) initiative. The mission of the ITCA/AIRCH is to reduce health disparities among American Indians by engaging and supporting tribes in community based participatory research (CBPR) that is scientifically sound. The project includes working with the University of Arizona, Native American Research and Training Center (NARTC) and American Indian Tribes in Arizona.

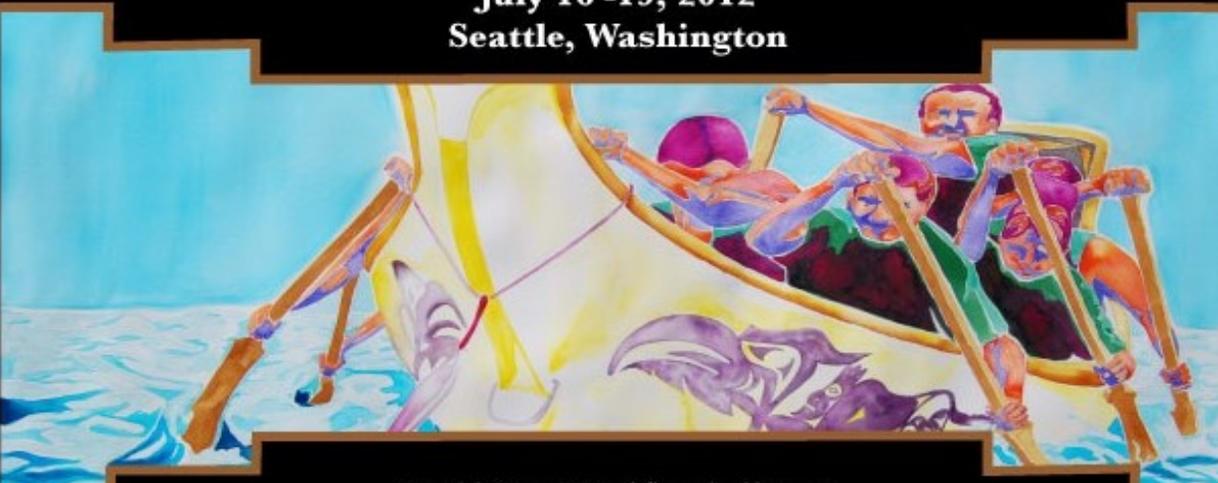
Kenton also works with the ITCA Southwest American Indian Collaborative Network (SAICN) this is a grant funded by the National Cancer Institute, Center to Reduce Cancer Health Disparities. The aim of the grant is to reduce cancer health disparities of American Indians in the Southwest. Both NCI and NARCH grants emphasizes community-based participatory research, and to engage in American Indian researchers. Presently, SAICN is working on a Patient Navigator Certificate Program which will provide a platform for innovation in cancer care that will result in the development of a trained cadre of patient navigators who can shorten the time between diagnosis and treatment, increase the number of patients getting appropriate treatment, and help the cancer patient and his/her family on the journey through cancer.

Kenton is from the Mohave tribe and an enrolled member of the Colorado River Indian Tribes.

Native Health Research Conference

"Asking Permission to Come Ashore: Journeys to Indigenous Health and Health Research"

July 16 -19, 2012
Seattle, Washington



Double Tree Hotel Seattle Airport
18740 International Boulevard
Seattle, Washington
(206) 246-8600

24th Annual Native Health Research Conference

The conference enhances our collective ability to advance biomedical, behavioral, and health services research for the benefit of Indigenous communities, as well as to showcase recent health research projects and efforts undertaken in native communities.

Artist: Katie Ahvakana, Suquamish Tribe

Contact: Stefanie Brooks
 Email: stefaniearambula@mac.com
 Phone: 405-517-4129 or 405-286-8054

Contact: Leslie L. Randall, RN, MPH, BSN
 Email: leslie.randall@comcast.net
 Phone: 208-843-2818

Exhibitor space is available for \$500 per table.

Arts/Crafts Vendor space is available for \$50 per table or \$65 per table with electricity.

An Awards Luncheon will be offered on the last day and prepayment is required on the registration site or at the conference registration.

You may contact Stefanie Brooks at stefaniearambula@mac.com for Vendor/Exhibitor Applications.

24th Annual Native Health Research Conference

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

The 24th Annual Native Health Research Conference, *“Asking Permission to Come Ashore: Journeys to Indigenous Health and Health Research,”* will be held July 16-19, 2012, in Seattle Washington. This conference brings together stakeholders involved in the conception, production, translation, and use of health research in Indigenous communities from across the continent and world. Conference participants include many professions and community members. The conference enhances our collective ability to advance biomedical, behavioral, and health services research for the benefit of Indigenous communities, as well as to showcase recent health research projects and efforts undertaken in native communities. There is opportunity in the scientific breakout conference program for pre-coordinated panel presentations, oral presentations, and poster presentations.

We are especially interested in proposals that will address this year’s conference theme, as well as presenters who might address *Community-Based Participatory Research* from the community’s perspective and *Indigenous Health Issues*. Proposals with any indigenous health research will receive full consideration.

Abstracts must be received by **5:00 pm (Pacific Standard Time) on May 1, 2012**, in order to be reviewed by the Scientific Program Committee of the Native Research Network, Inc. We anticipate notifying all potential presenters of the selection outcome via email by June 1, 2012

Instructions for preparing abstracts and other required forms are attached to this Call and are available for download from the Native Research Network, Inc. website at www.nativeresearchnetwork.org or at the IHS Research Program website at www.ihs.gov/MedicalPrograms/Research/conferences.cfm#national If you encounter trouble opening these links, please cut and paste these addresses directly into your browser.

Elections– Board of Directors

NRN holds elections for its Board of Director positions each year at the annual meeting, which is held during the Annual Native Health Research Conference. We are requesting nominations for the following four NRN positions.

Co-chairs elect, 2 positions—serves 3 years

Secretary—serves 2 years

1 Member-at-large position—serves 2 years

Please consider nominating colleagues who you think would commit and contribute greatly to the Native Research Network. The Board's roles and responsibilities are included in a separate document. Please review these carefully before submitting your nominations as the time and energy commitment can be challenging, but also very rewarding!

Please submit your nominations for positions to us electronically at Leslie.randall@wsu.edu and stefaniarambula@mac.com or by mail to Stefanie Brooks at Native Research Network, PO Box 1448, Blanchard, OK 73010. Please indicate clearly the name of the nominee and the position for which you are nominating. We will verify the nominee as a member of NRN, at which point the nominee will be placed on the ballot. Mail nominations will close at midnight, Monday—July 11, 2012. Please note that nominations will be accepted at the conference up until the membership meeting.

We look forward to hearing from you soon. Please contact us should you have any questions.

Respectfully,

Leslie L. Randall, RN, MPH, Ph.D. Student

Maxine Brings Him Back-Janis, RDH, PMH, Ph.D. Student

Elections Committee, NRN

“Asking Permission to Come Ashore: Journeys to Indigenous Health and Health Research”



July 16-19, 2012
Seattle, Washington

SPONSORSHIP INFORMATION

The Native Research Network is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that promotes integrity and excellence in research within Native American communities. The 2012 Native Health Research Conference is based on the foundations of science and native traditions.

Sponsors will receive the following:

- \$500** Exhibit table and signage (Non-profit organizations)
- \$1000** Exhibit table and signage (For-profit organizations)
- \$2000** Exhibit table, signage and program listing
- \$5000** Exhibit table, signage, program listing with logo and Introduction during opening remarks
- \$10,000** Exhibit table, signage, program listing logo, introduction during opening remarks and logo on slides and conference bags or sponsor a lunch, refreshment break or special event



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<http://nativeresearchnetwork.org>

The Native Research Network publishes a newsletter at least once a year in the fall/winter or spring/summer. Members of the NRN are invited to send in articles or information about research activities for the newsletter. Time sensitive announcements may be broadcast via the NRN website. Students are welcome to submit articles, as well as graduation announcements, special training or fellowships, etc.



Membership Renewal & Dues

Annual Membership Dues—January 2012-December 2012

a. Full Membership

Student.....	\$5.00
Fellow/Intern/Post-doc.....	\$5.00
CHR.....	\$5.00
Elder.....	\$5.00
Professional.....	\$30.00

b. Affiliate..... \$15.00

c. Treasured Friend..... \$30.00

Name: _____

Phone: _____ **Email Address:** _____

****Send payment: NRN, Inc., PO Box 1448, Blanchard, OK 73010**

Questions contact Stefanie at: 405-517-4129; stefaniearambula@mac.com