



ARIZONA ADVISORY
COUNCIL ON INDIAN
HEALTH CARE

April 2024 Newsletter

Mission statement: *The mission of the AACIHC is to advocate for increasing access to high quality health care programs for all American Indians in Arizona.*

At-a-Glance

Upcoming Conferences

- State-Tribal Epidemiology Summit - **May 8th, 2024 at Creighton University, 3100 N Central Ave, Phoenix, AZ 85012**

AACIHC Agency Updates

- AHEC Scholars Two-Year Program
- AHEC Scholars Spotlight
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Legislative Updates

Upcoming Conferences

State-Tribal Epidemiology Summit

Join us!

When: May 8, 2024

Where: Creighton University, 3100 N Central Ave, Phoenix, AZ 85012

The Arizona Advisory Council on Indian Health Care (AACIHC) has embarked on a joint effort to organize a State-Tribal Epidemiology Summit. To achieve this, AACIHC is working in close collaboration with key stakeholders, including the



Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES),
Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS),
Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System
(AHCCCS), and First Things First (FTF).

[More Information](#)

We are thrilled to announce that the State-Tribal Epidemiology Summit is quickly approaching, and ***we have limited exhibitor spots left!*** Now is your chance to reserve your space and connect with tribal partners and healthcare professionals across the state.

As an exhibitor, you'll have the opportunity to:

- Showcase your organization's programs, services, and initiatives.
- Network with key stakeholders in tribal health and epidemiology
- Engage with attendees and create valuable partnerships
- Contribute to meaningful discussions and collaborations to improve health outcomes for tribal communities.

To reserve your spot or for more information, please complete the form below or contact Mckayla Keams, Executive Project Coordinator, at Mckayla.keams@aacihc.az.gov.

Opportunity to Sponsor: 2024 State-Tribal Epidemiology Summit

As a sponsor, your organization will play a pivotal role in ensuring the success of this event and providing invaluable opportunities for Tribal partners and stakeholders to enhance their community's health outcomes.

To learn more about sponsorship opportunities and the associated promotional benefits for your organization, please download our comprehensive Sponsorship Packet here:

[Learn More](#)

AACIHC Agency Updates



AHEC SCHOLARS TWO-YEAR PROGRAM

The Arizona AHEC Scholars Program (ASP) is a two-year interprofessional program for health profession undergraduate and graduate students. It is comprised of community-based experiential training conducted in rural and/or underserved settings in one of the Arizona AHEC Regions. The ASP builds from the Rural Health Professions Programs (RHPP) at the University of Arizona, Arizona State University and Northern Arizona University. Undergraduate and graduate students enrolled in Northern Arizona University Public Health and undergraduate Nursing programs are eligible and encouraged to apply. Priority will be given to Indigenous students focused on healthcare issues.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS OF AHEC SCHOLARS

- Assigned to an interprofessional team of health professions students from the three ABOR universities, a Faculty Mentor, and American Indian Health-AHEC (AIH-AHEC).
- Student must be enrolled and remain enrolled in and meet all academic and didactic training requirements of their respective health professional program.
- Commit to 80 hours each year for two years (didactic + community experiential learning).
- Participate in reflection, active learning and critical inquiry in a group setting with students from various health professions programs.
- Engage directly and indirectly with rural and/or underserved communities and guided by their Faculty Mentor and AIH-AHEC Regional Center Director and team.
- Learn about factors affecting the social determinants of health, cultural competency, behavioral health integration, practice transformation, inter-professional education, current and emerging health issues, connecting communities and supporting health professionals, and seek to improve virtual learning and telehealth training.

PROGRAM BENEFITS FOR AHEC SCHOLARS

- Develop an understanding that individual patients, families, communities and health providers are partners in shaping and delivering the educational experience.
- Progress in learning experiences – reflective journaling; review community health needs assessments in published literature; review publicly available health information and reports; develop and administer surveys; collect, synthesize, and report data; present findings with data visualizations targeted to specific audiences, and make recommendations to improve individual and community health.
- Learn about collaborative relationships, engage in team-based care, and use interprofessional approaches to problems that include community agencies, patients, and health providers.
- More information, including stipends and activity dates can be found on the first page of the online application (link is below).

► Apply at: <https://formstack.io/4CAE2>

- [Download PDF](#) AHEC Scholars Manual 2023-2024
2024-25 manual forthcoming
- **Application Deadline: September 15, 2024**



DATE: 3/28/24



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA
Arizona AHEC
Area Health Education Centers



AHEC Scholars Spotlight

I am currently pursuing a doctorate in physical therapy at NAU. I live in Gilbert, AZ and go to school in Phoenix. I strive to be a traveling physical

therapist with a specialty in vestibular care. I have a passion for helping patients in conservative care and a value for movement. I love the patient-doctor relationship that can develop by seeing patients multiple times a week for rehabilitation. // My experience with the AHEC scholars program has exposed me to the healthcare world in a rural setting. It has made me more of the generalist physical therapist I hoped to be by the time I graduate where I am educated enough in all aspects of physical therapy. It has made me more culturally competent to work with the indigenous population and establish an understanding of how to involve patients in their own care.



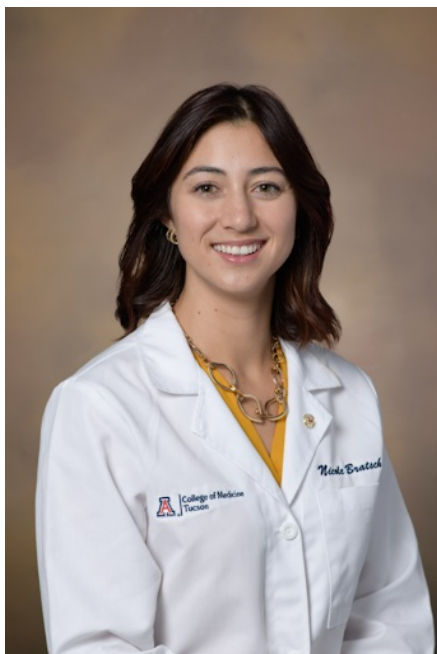
Jihan Fajut

Northern Arizona University

College of Physical Therapy // Doctor of
Physical Therapy Student

Gilbert, AZ

I am most interested in pursuing a primary care specialty like family medicine or obstetrics/gynecology. I grew up with two parents in the medical field, both working for the White Mountain Apache community. I saw the way that they dedicated their lives to serving their community and wanted to follow a similar trajectory. Medicine to me is the perfect blend of science and humanity, and allows one to be an advocate for patients and for the health of an entire community. // I have really appreciated getting the opportunity to be a part of the AHEC Scholars program. It has allowed me to engage with other students who eventually will be my coworkers and is teaching me how to collaborate and engage on projects that we are all passionate about. I am grateful to AHEC for teaching us about the diversity and vibrancy of different tribal communities within Arizona, and I look forward to the future opportunities I will have as a part of this group!



Nicole Annmarie Bratsch

University of Arizona

College of Medicine // Medical Student

Tucson, AZ

COVID-19 Health Disparities Grant Team

Health Literacy Summit

The COVID-19 Health Disparities team 3-day Tribal Health Literacy Summit, which concluded on March 14th, 2024, was a rich tapestry of learning. Attendees were immersed in a multitude of workshops and presentations from speakers across Arizona. The sessions spanned five diverse learning tracks, encompassing the foundations of health literacy, social determinants of health, chronic disease, health screening prevention, and health learning systems and navigation. This broad spectrum of topics was carefully curated to engage attendees and empower them to take control of their health. Our aim was for the conference to equip attendees with tools and knowledge to advocate for themselves and with information and connections to thrive.

Amazing conversations came out of the Tribal Health Literacy Summit, including discussions of engaging our youth more in conversations surrounding health, finding credible sources for information, bringing more tribal communities together, and finding ways to connect and advocate for health literacy. The conference's third day allowed us to discuss our work within the AACIHC and dive deeper into the COVID-19 health disparities grant, with important conversations regarding data sovereignty and navigating data as a whole. On this day, we were lucky to have Derrick Gonzales join us to offer the unique experience of graphic recording and his incredible attention to detail. An image of his work can be found below.



Fort McDowell Health Fair

Our AACIHC Covid-19 Health Disparities team was fortunate enough to attend the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation Health Fair on March 20th, 2024. The health fair was held at the community recreation center, and the Star Wars theme and decor were so out of this world; walking through the doors felt like we traveled to a galaxy far away.

The health fair was jam-packed with organizations providing resources to the community on all health-related topics! Our team had the opportunity to table at this

event, and we provided infographics and handouts to community members related to COVID-19, RSV, Flu, heat-related illness, community mask-wearing, and mental health during the pandemic! It was a great experience getting to work with all the different organizations and watching the local elementary school students perform on stage. If you know of any upcoming events your organization or community is hosting, please let us know; we would love to join you and share resources.



CHRs WITH US!

CDC-CCR Updates

Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community is using some of their CDC-CCR grant funds to host a conference focused on palliative care. They are encouraging CHRs and other health care professionals to attend. The event will be taking place Saturday, June 29th in Scottsdale, AZ and is filled with informative speakers and useful topics. Tickets are limited, so it is best to register as soon as possible. Please see the flyer below for more information.



Key Discussions

- ✔ Patient Engagement
- ✔ Bridging Traditions
- ✔ Building a New Program
- ✔ Palliative Care Alignment

2024 EXPLORING GOALS OF CARE IN TRIBAL COMMUNITIES

Learn how tribal healthcare teams can approach and discuss goals of care with patients diagnosed with serious illnesses

PRESENTERS

Ira Byock Keynote
Caring Well for Patients through Life's End

Gary Vaughn & Elloise Darwin
It's About Hope: Aligning Palliative Care with Dine' Core Principles

Deborah Unger, Erik Fromme, Nora Downey, Suzanne Engelder
Strategies to Improve Serious Illness Care Across Your Organization

Cyndi Martin & Mike McCarthy
Chronic Illness and Caregiver Support in Arizona

Nick Stolzberg
Hospice Myths & Mysteries: Accurate Information as a Foundation for Effective Communication

Kathy Morse
Starting a Palliative Care Program in a Tribal Community

ASU Project ECHO

Mayo Clinic Palliative Medicine Team
Pearls & Perspectives

Daniel Calac
Adult & Pediatric Palliative and Hospice Experiences

Bethany Reed & Alfonso Havatone
Navigating Goal-Aligned Care with Complex & Aging Tribal Patients

Valerie Tsosie (2 sessions)
Bridging Traditions & Healthcare and Alzheimer's in Indian Country: A Cultural Perspective

**BOOK YOUR
TICKET NOW**



29 June 2024 6:30a to 5p



More information
480-362-3140



Visit our website
[Goals of Care Tickets](#)

Legislative Updates:



Every year, the AACIHC identifies and tracks legislative bills that may have a potential impact on the American Indian health care system in Arizona. Please see the information below on the bills we are currently tracking:

MMIP Bills:

[HB2764- long-term care; enforcement; memory care](#)

Sponsor: Representative Dunn

Status: Do pass recommendations in the Senate Committee of the Whole on 04/03/24

[HB 2205: fraud unit; investigations; annual report](#)

Sponsor: Representative Livingston

Status: Do pass (DP) in the Senate Appropriations committee on 03/19 and awaiting assignment to the Rules committee agenda.

[HB 2587: adult protective services; reporting; records](#)

Sponsor: Representative Dunn

Status: Senate 2nd read on 3/11/2024 and awaiting assignment to the HHS and Rules committee agendas.

[HB 2249: residential care institutions; inspections](#)

Sponsor: Representative Carter

Status: Held in the Senate HHS Committee on 03/05//24 and awaiting assignment to the Senate Rules committee agenda.

[SB 1655- behavioral health entities, regulations](#)

Sponsor: Senator Hatathlie

Status: Failed in the House HHS committee on 03/21/24 and is currently awaiting assignment to the Rules committee agenda.

[SB 1361: sober living homes](#)

Sponsor: Senator Carroll

Status: Passed Rules committee on 03/26/24 & YES in the House Majority & Minority Caucus on 03/26/24

Oral Health Bill:

[SB 1037: AHCCCS; comprehensive dental care](#)

Sponsor: Senator Shope

Status: Thus far, there has been no movement. Please see possible next steps.

Next Steps: A budget reconciliation bill (BRB) will most likely be considered sometime in April; waiting for a revised budget from the Governor's office.

Other Social Determinants of Health Bills:

Please see our [Legislative Tracker](#), to learn more about other bills surrounding the social determinants of health.

If you have any questions regarding legislative initiatives, please reach out to: Corey Hemstreet (she/her), AACIHC Legislative Specialist | Email: corey.hemstreet@aacihc.az.gov

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Click or scan the QR Code below to learn more!



AACIHC's Office Location



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The AACIHC, utilizing its knowledge of Indian healthcare issues and tribal sovereignty, serves as a resource for Tribal governments and the State of Arizona, and supports prevention, training, education, and policy development as the keys to meeting the unique health care needs of the Arizona Indian population.

**AZ Advisory Council on Indian Health Care
602-542-5725**

**Visit the AACIHC
website**

