



Mission

To alleviate the unequal burden of cancer among Native Americans of the Southwest through research, training, and community outreach programs in collaboration with the communities we serve.

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The Partnership for Native American Cancer Prevention (NACP) is a partnership of Native American communities, Northern Arizona University, the University of Arizona Cancer Center, and the National Cancer Institute to address cancer health disparities in Native Americans.

Greetings!

To a large extent, the success of the partnership’s efforts is measured by a positive impact on Native American communities. A common theme for this month’s articles is community-focused efforts to reduce the burden of cancer. We hope that you enjoy reading this issue.

Jani Ingram

Francine Gachupin

Jason Wilder

Margaret Briebl

Insights on Breast Cancer from Dr. Andrew Kraft

Great strides have been made in the treatment of breast cancer. Hormone blockers and other agents can be used before surgery to kill the tumor, making surgery extremely effective. Tests can now be done to determine who would benefit from chemotherapy so that unnecessary treatment will not occur. Cutting-edge agents to treat metastatic disease are now much less toxic. However, the only way to truly cure breast cancer remains to catch the tumor when it is small and before it has spread. Getting yearly mammograms and doing frequent self-examinations are still the best ways of detecting this disease and preventing bad outcomes.

Congratulations Kellen Polingyumptewa



Kellen Polingyumptewa then and now

Kellen Polingyumptewa, former NACP Community Health Liaison and now Program Coordinator for the Hopi Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program has taken a non-traditional journey to his success. Kellen first started with NACP in 2011, as a volunteer for a community health event held for men on the Hopi Reservation.

Through his work, he was asked to apply for a position at HOPI Cancer Support Services under NACP. From there, Kellen has made significant contributions to Native American cancer education on Hopi and within Northern Arizona during his 7 years with NACP Outreach.

His most notable work is developing a Cultural Competency presentation to educate researchers on Hopi Culture. Now he has returned to a program where his journey began and is coordinating a National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program grant funded under the CDC. He hopes to continue work with cancer research and education partnering with NACP in his new capacity.



National Breast & Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program



Recently, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) celebrated 30 years of the National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program. One of the programs highlighted in the celebration was the Navajo Nation Breast & Cervical Cancer Prevention Program directed by Curtis Briscoe, a community partner of the NACP Outreach Core. The program was featured in a video that can be accessed at NBCCEDP 30th Anniversary Awardee: Navajo Nation - Hi Res on Vimeo or at <https://vimeo.com/624065750>. NACP is honored to work with Mr. Briscoe and the Navajo Nation Breast & Cervical Cancer Prevention Program on such an impactful effort.

Northern Arizona Cancer Support Community Grand Opening



NACP Students at the NACSC

On October 8 and 9, Northern Arizona Cancer Support Community (NACSC) celebrated the grand opening of their northern Arizona offices. NACP and NACSC have a growing partnership in supporting Arizona folks dealing with cancer. The mission of Cancer Support Community Arizona is to ensure that all people impacted by cancer are empowered by knowledge, strengthened by action and sustained by community. At the event, NACP had an information table on the Partnership. The Navajo Healthy Stomach Project research project funded by NACP also had a table to provide information to those attending the event.

American Indian Science & Engineering Society Recruiting



AISES Recruiting Event

The annual National AISES conference is a highly attended three-day event for Indigenous peoples of North America and the Pacific Islands in STEM studies and careers. This year the University of Arizona's NACP Research Education Core Program Coordinator, Carolina Pineda and Administrative assistant, Jedzia Rodriguez, tabled at the conference's College and Career Fair. They spoke with many high school students and their accompanying teachers about research opportunities that are available once the students start their undergraduate studies. Many high school teachers took away informational tri-folds to show their schools and students across the United States. NACP researchers and students networked with each other and with corporate and college programs to find opportunities to broaden their future endeavors.

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