



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!

May is an exciting month as we celebrate graduation for some students and welcome new students into summer training programs. This year, in particular, we have reason to celebrate the accomplishments of NACP’s outstanding faculty members along with its trainees.

Jani Ingram Francine Gachupin Jason Wilder Margaret Briebl

Congratulations Dr. Jani Ingram



Dr. Ingram with her student

Northern Arizona University and the Arizona Board of Regents have recognized Dr. Jani Ingram for her outstanding achievements by selecting her as a Regents’ Professor. This title is the highest academic honor conferred within the university system. Recipients must be full professors who have achieved national and international stature in their field. The number of Regents’ Professor at a university at any one time cannot exceed 3% of the total number of tenured and tenure-track faculty. Dr. Ingram was recognized for the contributions that she has made through her research and training of Indigenous students and students from other groups that are underrepresented in science. The NACP team is thrilled that Dr. Ingram has received this well-deserved honor.

Congratulations Dr. Robin Harris



Dr. Harris

At the University of Arizona, Dr. Robin Harris received an honorable mention for the 2021 Excellence in Postdoctoral Mentoring Award. This award recognizes faculty for their effectiveness in encouraging and supporting trainees who are in the career stage between completing the doctorate degree and starting an independent position. Dr. Harris is described as “the type of leader who, turns and looks behind her, extending a hand to those coming up. She creates empowering and safe spaces for personal development and growth.” Many of the postdoctoral trainees mentored by Dr. Harris have gone on to careers working to reduce cancer health disparities. NACP thanks Dr. Harris for her dedication to nurturing the next generation of cancer researchers.

Congratulations Sharia Betsoi



Sharia Betsoi

An NACP trainee, Sharia Betsoi, has been selected as a 2021 Udall Undergraduate Scholar. Sharia is from Kin Dah Lichii, Arizona and is majoring in public health at the University of Arizona. She has conducted research in the laboratory of Dr. Danielle Zarnescu. Udall Scholarships are awarded to sophomores and juniors based on their leadership, public service, and commitment to issues related to Native American nations or to the environment. Sharia plans to eventually earn a Master of Science Nursing degree and return to the Navajo Nation to help serve her community.



2021 Northern Arizona University Graduates



Clayton Gonzalez

B.S., Biology

Mentor: Dr. Fernando P. Monroy



Enoque Costa Junior

M.S., Biology

Mentor: Dr. Fernando P. Monroy



Leticia Lelli

Doctor of Occupational Therapy

Mentors: Dr. Julie Armin & Dr. Heather Williamson

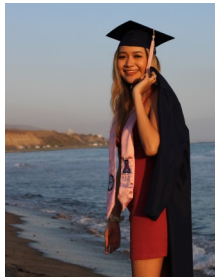


Samantha Sasse

Doctor of Occupational Therapy

Mentors: Dr. Julie Armin & Dr. Heather Williamson

2021 University of Arizona Graduates



Kayauni Tracy

Navajo

B.S., Public Health

Mentor: Dr. Francine Gachupin



Shanoa Nez

Navajo

B.S., Molecular and Cellular Biology

Mentors: Dr. Robin Harris & Dr. Heidi Brown

Collaborations Promote Colon Cancer Awareness

As part of National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month in March, the University of Arizona Cancer Center’s Office of Community Outreach and Engagement (COE) partnered with the Colon Cancer Coalition, NACP, and Native Americans for Community Action (NACA) to organize NACA’s 2nd Annual NACA Colon Cancer Virtual 5K/1 mile Run/Walk. The purpose of this virtual event was to promote colon cancer awareness and educate people about the importance of screening and early detection. This wonderful event had over 300 participants across the country and internationally.

As part of the month-long awareness promotion, the COE team held its 2nd Annual “Col-Chella” Festival. The three-day “festival” consisted of a series of one hour zoom presentations during the month of March and focused on colon cancer symptoms, screening methods, and risk factors, and prevention. The presentations were given in English and Spanish, with panel members that included UA oncologists, Federally Qualified Health Centers, and colon cancer survivors from across the state. The festival reached over 254 participants. Lastly, COE, NACP, and NACA worked with the City of Flagstaff – Office of the Mayor, Paul J. Deasy, to declare March 2021 as “Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month.”

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