



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!

Like everything during these past months, NACP's work has been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. We know that Native American communities have particularly suffered from the sickness caused by the virus. While following the guidelines that the Centers for Disease Control's has issued to prevent the spread of COVID-19, though, we need to be mindful of other aspects of our health. Please continue with the recommended cancer screenings.

We hope you enjoy reading this issue.

Jani Ingram

Margaret Briebl

Francine Gachupin

Navajo Nation Donations Drive

In response to a request from a Community Advisory Committee member, Cora Phillips, we held a very successful donation drive for the Navajo Nation in late May. NACP relies on the Community Advisory Committee to inform us of the community's greatest needs around cancer. In a correspondence with the Community Advisory Committee, Margaret Briebl asked if there was anything NACP could do to ease the devastating effects that COVID-19 was having on Native communities. Cora, who has been working with the Navajo Nation government, inquired within the community. She provided a list of the most urgent needs that included water, canned food and paper supplies.



Debbie Aguirre, Tiffani Begay, Margaret Briebl, Maria Prevatt



Dennis Ray, Sofia & Matthew Prevatt, Margaret Briebl, Meucci Illunga, Maria Prevatt

Jani Ingram, Francine Gachupin, and Margaret Briebl decided that a donation drive was an appropriate response to the needs of the Navajo Nation. The Cancer Center Director, Joanne Sweasy, agreed and recommended including Megan Guthrie, in the plan, she is the Cancer Center Assistant Director for Communications. She helped us reach out to all Cancer Center members and the greater University of Arizona community. As a result, the call for donations was broadly distributed. Many donors said that they learned about the drive from the Dean of their colleges.

The response was overwhelming. Within a few hours on the collection day, the donors provided 443 rolls of paper towels, 57 gallons of water, 1,384 single serve water bottles, 257 cans of corn, 113 canned peaches and 50 containers of hand sanitizer along with miscellaneous food items, face masks, gloves and cleaning products. The team assisting with the curbside collection consisted of: Tiffani Begay, NACP's Research Education Core Program Coordinator; Debbie Aguirre, NACP Administrative Associate; Maria Prevatt, NACP's Research Administrator, Matthew Prevatt, and Margaret Briebl. The facilities manager for the Cancer Center, Dulantha Dahanayaka, supplied disinfectant and paper towels that the team used to wipe down all the donations as they arrived.

Following the drive, the donations were boxed up for easy distribution. Maria, Matthew, and Sofia Prevatt, Margaret Briebl and her husband, Dennis Ray, and a former NACP student, Meucci Illunga, loaded the supplies into a U-Haul truck. Margaret and Dennis drove the supplies to Cora in Flagstaff, Arizona. Delivering the donations to a location in Flagstaff was more practical since the Navajo Nation has a weekend curfew whereby no one is allowed to be on the road between Friday evening and Monday morning. Cora then took charge of delivering the supplies across the Navajo Nation. She took particular care to bring supplies to elders living in isolated areas.

NACP is grateful for the generosity of so many donors, and we will have another drive in the future.



Navajo citizens receiving donations



2020 Peer Recognition Award: Sheena Hale



Sheena Hale, the Program Coordinator for NAU's Research Education Core, has received a 2020 Peer Recognition Award from the Classified Staff Advisory Council at NAU. This award is based on accomplishments and exceptional service to NAU students, faculty, colleagues and the public. Sheena has been described as, "an atlas of resources and connection." Students look to her for guidance and support on their journey upward. Congratulations, Sheena!

NACP Student Highlight: Dana Clashin



Yá'át'ééh. Shí éí Dana Clashin yinishyé. Shí Bįįh bitoodnii nishį́, Táchii'nii bashishchiin. Hello. My name is Dana Clashin. I am Deer Spring clan born for Red Running Into the Water People clan.

I live in Flagstaff, AZ and am from Fort Defiance, AZ. I will be beginning my first year pursuing my master's degree in chemistry at Northern Arizona University this fall. I have been conducting research through NACP, working with my mentor, Dr. Jani Ingram, in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry since my junior year as an undergraduate. My research projects have been focused on the chemical characterization of environmental contaminants from the areas on the Navajo Nation. Specifically, I survey and quantify uranium in the areas surrounding abandoned uranium mines on Navajo lands. My area of interest has been in Cove, AZ where in collaboration with the Cove Chapter, University of New Mexico, and Diné College, we have been able to collect soil, water, and plant samples to analyze. Our sampling and subsequent analysis has thus far provided a better understanding of the various exposure routes and risk of uranium contamination for the Cove community.

I believe obtaining proficiency in the chemistry field is difficult and demanding, but it is also representative of what I hope to achieve academically and professionally. My time in Dr. Ingram's environmental analytical chemistry laboratory has provided me the opportunity to grow as a researcher and as a student. I am beginning my first year of my master's program and am excited to continue using my skillset to address environmental concerns on the Navajo Nation.

Early projects in NACP focused on the link between environmental contaminants and cancer; specifically, projects investigated the link of uranium exposure to cancer on Navajo. This work continues as part of other research projects that are an outgrowth of their initial NACP support.

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