

## Tribal Nations **TNRG** Research Group

### Tribal Nations Research Group's Mission:

*"To improve the quality of life for all tribal members through culturally-competent, custom-fit research"*

### FAST FACTS:

TNRG hosted their first conference on December 8-9 titled *Applying Data to Benefit Health*.

TMBCI Master Health in partnership with TNRG is conducting their first Community Health Assessment that is written specifically for the TMBCI people.

TNRG had their grand opening on November 30, 2015 during Native American Heritage Month.

TNRG has recruited 16 Associate Members as of January 2016.

TNRG is collaborating with Turtle Mountain Master Health Program for a Community Health Assessment.

TNRG has a new Senior Associate, Gene Lafromboise, and a new staff member, Ashley Parisien.

### SENIOR ASSOCIATES



### WHAT'S INSIDE:

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### TNRG TEAM



## WWW.TNRG.ORG

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Tribally Chartered  
501c3  
Non-Profit  
Organization

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# WHATS BEEN HAPPENING



## UTTC Tribal Leaders Summit 2015



Tribal Leaders Summit & Trade Show  
September 8-10, 2015



Bismarck Event Center | Bismarck ND

STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES

Anita Frederick, TNRG President, and Kylie Keplin, Director of Community Innovation, traveled to Bismarck, N.D. to present at the United Tribes Technical College Tribal Leaders Summit and Trade Show. The discussion was well attended by area tribes. Anita spoke about why TNRG was formed, the importance of using data to make informed decisions, and the benefits of a Research Review Board. Many tribal members from other tribes expressed their interest in TNRG and have recently been in contact with TNRG. Once again, thank you to Anita Frederick for doing a wonderful job of displaying the mission of TNRG!

## Newest

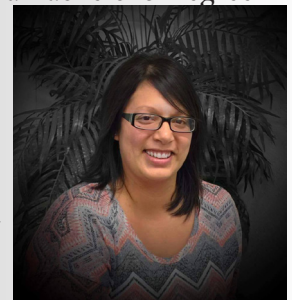
### Senior Associate

Gene LaFromboise is an enrolled member of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa. Gene has a Bachelor's Degree in Social and Behavioral Science, a Master's Degree in School Administration. Gene has served the education community for several years working as a teacher, principal, and superintendent of area schools. He has always had a love for coaching and currently spends his time as a retired educator coaching girls' basketball and teaching part-time. He has recently done some research on the Mitchif Language and Culture, and Drug and Alcohol use at TMBCI. Gene has been married to Shirley for 47 years and together they have 4 sons and 2 daughters.



## Newest Member to TNRG

Ashley Parisien, our new Research Liaison/Business Office Assistant, joined TNRG on November 16, 2015. She has a Bachelor's Degree in Business Management and a Master's Degree in Business Administration. Ashley has over ten years of business management experience and demonstrates great interpersonal skills and shares the same vision of TNRG. We are excited to have Ashley join the team at TNRG and look forward to you meeting her!



Front Row: Carol Davis, Gene LaFromboise  
Back Row: Anita Frederick, Carty Monette, Ashley Parisien, Kylie Keplin  
Not Pictured: Paula Carter-Morin

## Grand Opening



TNRG HOSTED THEIR GRAND OPENING ON  
NOVEMBER 30, 2015.

IT WAS A SUCCESSFUL EVENT WELL  
ATTENDED BY MANY  
COMMUNITY MEMBERS!

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE INVOLVED!

Research Review Board Tribal Nations Research Group oversees the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians Research Review Board. The Research Review Board is doing an amazing job of reviewing research protocols that come through the Turtle Mountain Reservation. They are very capable to approve, monitor, and review biomedical and behavioral research involving humans and non-human subject research. They conduct risk-benefit analysis in an attempt to determine whether or not research should be done. The purpose of the review process is to assure, both in advance and by periodic review, that appropriate steps are taken to protect the rights and welfare of humans participating as subjects in a research study. The protocol review assesses the ethics of the research and its methods, promotes fully informed and voluntary participation by prospective subjects capable of making such choices (or, if that is not possible, informed permission given by a suitable proxy), and seeks to maximize the safety of subjects.

We are very proud of the Research Review Board and commend their efforts in protecting the rights of all Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians.

American Indian Health Research Conference  
 Thursday, October 20, 2016  
 8:30 am - 4:00 pm  
 Alerus Center, Grand Forks



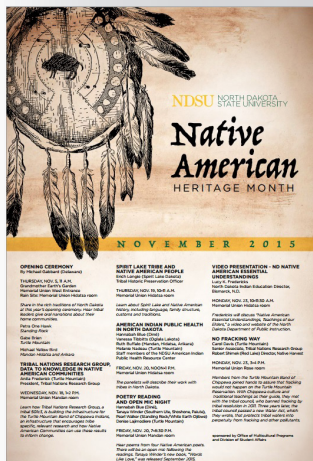
## American Indian Health Research Conference

&

## North Dakota State University

Anita Frederick, TNRG President, gave a presentation at both the American Indian Health

Research Conference in Grand Forks, N.D. and the North Dakota State University in Fargo, N.D. regarding *Using Data/Research to Inform Change*. Anita gave an overview of the importance of data use to make informed decisions. She explained the importance of correct reporting methods and how it can directly benefit tribes. We are very proud of Anita and her willingness to share her knowledge and the mission of TNRG!



## Money Follows the Person Initiative

Anita Frederick, TNRG President, gave a web presentation for the MFP TI Group. She spoke about Tribal Sovereignty: the First Step in Collecting Data and Conducting Research in Indian Country. Her titled presentation *Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa using data/research to inform change* was well attended and the attendees were very impressed with Anita's knowledge on tribal data use.

## Primers Advancing Ethical Research Conference

Anita Frederick, TNRG President, along with Temana Andalca and Jyoti Angal from CRAIH presented a poster at the Primers Association of Ethics Research Conference. The poster was titled *Innovative Tools and Approaches for Streamlining the Research Review Process for American Indian Tribal IRBs*. The poster presentation offered the opportunity to spread knowledge of tribes inherent sovereignty and to have a voice in research.





# ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Tribal Nations Research Group welcomes the following new Associate members. Associate members are available to serve as a resource to Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Citizens by establishing partnerships and mentoring opportunities.



## Meet our newest Associate Members!

### Dr. Donna Grandboise



Dr. Donna Grandbois is an Associate Professor with a dual appointment in the School of Nursing and the Department of Public Health, NDSU. She is a Master's prepared psychiatric nurse (Clinical Nurse Specialist program, UND) and has her PhD in gerontology. She teaches in the Master of Public Health graduate program in the American Indian Public Health Track and in the BSN -RN nursing degree program in the School of Nursing. She strives as a Team Member, Community Transformation Grant (CTG), State Leadership, Community Engagement, Tribal Community Pilot Projects Implementation Stage Hampton Faculty Fellow, and Spirit of Eagles American Indian Alaska Native Leadership Initiative on Cancer Research; Requires successful completion of coursework in (1) Cancer Health Disparities in AIAN, (2) Cancer and Co-morbid Conditions, (3) CBPR, (4) CBPR Evaluation, and (5) Grantsmanship.

Dr. Grandbois areas of expertise includes resilience and empowerment at the individual and community level Gerontology and Native Americans/elders Vulnerable populations Health disparities related to trauma Aging and mental health issues Equitable distribution of comprehensive healthcare, educational, and economic resources.

### Janie Schroeder

Janie Schroeder, Juris Doctor, is an enrolled member of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa. Janie resides in Grand Forks, ND and is currently employed full-time. Janie has a Bachelor's degree in Public Administration and Indian Studies and a Juris Doctorate and an Indian Law Certificate. She has an interest in data collection among reservations to analyze and create policy based on that data analysis to improve socioeconomic conditions. Janie has a large interest in policy and administration.

Janie is affiliated with the Native American Bar Association, and National Native American Law Student Association Alumni. Janie published Elder Abuse in Indian Country and is currently writing a chapter on the Native American Cultural Perspective on Elder Abuse. Janie has also presented an Overview of Elder Abuse in Indian Country.



### Misti Wilkie-Condif

Misti Wilkie-Condif, PhD, is an enrolled member of Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians Tribe. Dr. Wilkie-Condif's professional interests are higher education, American Indian Education, providing quality education to nursing students, and minority organ donation and transplantation. Dr. Wilkie-Condif's areas expertise include nursing, organ donation and transplantation, nursing research, and higher education. She is currently employed full-time at Bemidji State University

If you are interested in becoming a TNRG Associate Member please visit our website at [www.tnrg.org](http://www.tnrg.org). We welcome all tribal members interested in serving as a resource in their areas of expertise to other TMBCI members throughout the nation.

# Applying Data To Benefit Health

Tribal Nations Research Group in partnership with Tribal Master Health Program hosted their first conference held at the Fiddler's Hall in Belcourt, N.D. It was a day and a half event that included all program directors in the community. The event was proceeded with prayer by Mr. Dan Henry who gave a blessing to all that attended as well as good wishes to the Community Health Assessment endeavor. Tribal Chairman Richard McCloud and District 1 Councilman Patrick Marcellais JR gave words of wisdom and shared the importance of a community health assessment.

Anita Frederick, TNRG President, spoke to all participants regarding data use and how it can be used to inform change throughout the community. Many participants engaged in a productive conversation on their uses and issues with primary and secondary data use. Anita also gave a presentation on what a community health is which led the discussion on why it is important for our community to have a community health assessment.

Kylie Keplin, TNRG Director of Community Innovation, led the group into a world cafe that highlighted the importance of data. Participants had the opportunity to share their experiences with primary and secondary data use, the benefits, and the lessons they learned about data use. Many participants expressed the value of the world cafe because they had the opportunity to learn about different entities in the community and how they use data to inform change.

The second day of events led into the community health assessment. All participants from the previous day had the opportunity to sign Letters of Commitment to become a coalition member for the community health assessment. They were given an orientation of what it is to be a coalition member and what they can expect in the next few months.

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TRIBAL NATIONS RESEARCH GROUP IN PARTNERSHIP WITH TRIBAL MASTER HEALTH PROGRAM

## TO APPLYING DATA TO BENEFIT HEALTH

DECEMBER 8 & 9, 2015 • FIDDLER'S HALL

**DECEMBER 8**  
8:00AM - 8:45AM PRE-WORKSHOP PREPARATION  
8:45AM - 9:00AM PARTICIPANT SIGN-IN/CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST  
9:00AM - 9:20AM PRAYER/WELCOMING  
9:20AM - 9:30AM WORDS FROM TRIBAL LEADERSHIP  
9:30AM - 9:30AM TRIBAL CHAIR RICHARD MCCLOUD AND TRIBAL COUNCIL  
9:30AM - 9:40PM TRIBAL MASTER HEALTH  
9:40PM - 9:40PM BLAKE MALATERRE / STEPHANIE JAY  
9:40PM - 9:40PM TRIBAL NATIONS RESEARCH GROUP  
9:40PM - 9:50 PM TNRG PRESIDENT / BOARD / STAFF  
9:50PM - 10:00PM BRIEF PARTICIPANT INTRODUCTIONS  
10:00PM - 11:45PM BREAK  
10:00PM - 11:45PM USING DATA / RESEARCH TO INFORM CHANGE  
11:45PM - 12:00PM ANITA FREDERICK, TNRG PRESIDENT  
12:00PM - 12:45PM BUFFET STYLE LUNCH  
12:00PM - 12:45PM DISCUSSION / LUNCH - WHAT IS COMMUNITY HEALTH?  
1:00PM - 3:00PM ANITA FREDERICK, TNRG PRESIDENT  
1:00PM - 3:00PM WORLD CAFE - THE IMPORTANCE OF DATA  
3:00PM - 3:30PM KYLIE KEPLIN, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY INNOVATION  
REFLECTION / SURVEY SELECTION OF COALITION MEMBERS  
SIGNING OF COMMITMENT LETTERS

**DECEMBER 9 (COALITION MEMBERS ONLY)**  
8:00AM - 8:30AM BREAKFAST / SIGN IN  
8:30AM - 9:00AM WHAT IS A COMMUNITY HEALTH ASSESSMENT AND WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?  
9:00AM - 10:00AM COALITION'S PURPOSE AND DUTIES  
10:00AM - 10:15AM BREAK  
10:15AM - 1:00PM COMMUNITY HEALTH ASSESSMENT SURVEY DISCUSSION  
1:00PM WRAP-UP / BOXED LUNCH TO GO

WWW.TNRG.ORG OR LIKE US ON FACEBOOK - TRIBAL NATIONS RESEARCH GROUP



All attendees on the second day were able to give input on the pre-drafted community health survey. The participants took full advantage of the opportunity to offer their expertise in the design of the community health survey and how it should be dispersed through the community.

The community health assessment is an amazing opportunity for the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians to do a full health assessment of their community. This health assessment will allow the TMBCI people to drive their health priorities and to be able to create their own Community Health Strategic Plan, so we can prioritize our health needs and concerns and decide what our future holds.

*Community Health Assessment Coalition's Mission:*

*To promote health equity for enrolled members of Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians residing in or adjacent to Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians reservation through health promotion and disease prevention.*



# MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

TNRG is honored to highlight Dr. Jessica Metcalfe this issue. Dr. Metcalfe is the first Associate Member of TNRG and is a very accomplished individual in the TMBCI community!



Dorsey, Kristen. "Decolonizing the Runway: Jessica R. Metcalfe Brings Native American Fashion Into the Spotlight." *Cultural Survival. Languages and Cultures*, 28 May 2013. Web. 12 Jan. 2016.

*Dr. Jessica Metcalfe* When Dr. Jessica R. Metcalfe (Turtle Mountain Chippewa) wears one of the most prized pieces in her wardrobe, a scarlet cape intricately embroidered with white feathers by Tracy Toulouse (Ojibwe), she stands up a little straighter. To don such a piece, she says, one must "live up to the cape...it is a huge statement piece, you have to be as strong and as beautiful as that cape." The power of Native American fashion is contained within thousands of years of history, culture, traditions, and technologies, woven into each object crafted by Native American designers. These objects move beyond adornment and are powerful testaments to the resilience and vibrancy of over 500 North American Tribal Nations thriving today.



Metcalfe is the owner of the blog and online boutique *Beyond Buckskin*, a digital space dedicated to Native fashion. The dynamic lens of contemporary Native fashion allows her to engage large audiences in critical dialogues about the diversity and humanity of Native American people, breaking the norms of an industry where cultural appropriation and racist stereotypes are the status quo.

Metcalfe, an artist herself, grew up painting and drawing in her Native community in North Dakota and earned a degree in Native American Studies from Dartmouth College. But it wasn't until selecting a topic for her master's thesis at the University of Arizona that she was turned on to Native fashion, and more specifically, to the work of two distinctive designers: Margaret Roach Wheeler (Chickasaw) and Pam Baker (Squamish/Coast Salish). She explored how these designers communicated traditional values such as status and clan association through their wearable art, and when it was time to tackle her doctoral dissertation, Metcalfe took her examination of Native fashion even deeper by deconstructing European concepts of fashion theory and countering them with a uniquely Native perspective. She describes the ultimate goal of her dissertation, which focused on Southwestern Native designers and markets, as being "to provide the only comprehensive critical scholarship on contemporary Native American fashion design."

During her dissertation research, friends and colleagues entrusted Metcalfe with family photographs depicting Native adornment of past generations with an unspoken understanding that she would share the images and stories. The resulting blog, *Beyond Buckskin*, allowed Metcalfe to share her research on Native fashion designers within the fashion industry in a more immediate way and with a broader audience. *Beyond Buckskin* unquestionably fills a void: it is the main source of public education about Native American designers whose voices are often excluded from mainstream fashion. Just as crucial, the blog offers a critique of the fashion industry's perpetuation of damaging stereotypes, including its continual appropriation of Native American cultures. "As Native Americans, we have no mainstream representation, so when the fashion industry perpetuates stereotypes and is apathetic to the blatant theft of our intellectual property for profit by non-Native designers, there is a profound negative impact," she says.

The creative innovations of Native Designers are frequently excluded in favor of the non-Native vision of “tribal,” defined by a gross misuse of sacred regalia and cheap bargain-bin knockoffs of Native design. Notable examples include the recent headdress and leopard bikini ensemble modeled by Karlie Kloss on the Victoria’s Secret runway, and Jeremy Scott’s collection for Adidas which appropriated Northwest Coast totem pole designs in a tacky and distasteful way. Perhaps most egregiously, In *Navajo Nation v. Urban Outfitters*, Urban Outfitters was found to have infringed upon the Navajo Nation’s trademark “Navajo” when it labeled a collection of underwear and flasks with style names that included “Navajo.” Metcalfe cautions that stereotypes in fashion are not to be taken lightly. As she notes, “Fashion has the power to be highly damaging. When I see Urban Outfitters completely disregarding the Navajo Nation’s claim to their own name, that is a power move.”

The Beyond Buckskin Blog supports the movement to reclaim Native Americans’ visual heritage and property. When Metcalfe pushes back against cultural appropriation, she makes fashion headlines. Take the case of Paul Frank: when the junior-focused, ready-to-wear brand threw a “fashion night out” party, it did so by featuring neon, Indian-themed clothing and decor with Disney starlets yielding tomahawks and posing in war paint and feathers. Metcalfe posted a photo of the party to the Beyond Buckskin Facebook page, and outrage ensued. The Native American online community and many other allies used social networking to articulate their anger, frustration, and disappointment at the Paul Frank event. Along with Adrienne Keene, author of the popular blog *Native Appropriations*, she also posted a public letter demanding an apology and suggesting that the company atone for its racist actions by engaging with and supporting Native arts and culture organizations. The Native American online community and its allies mobilized with such energy that the company issued an apology and announced that it would take a series of positive steps. This included inviting Metcalfe to visit the headquarters to recommend Native American designers to start a new collection, proceeds from which will be donated to a Native organization. Metcalfe has blogged about the success of the Paul Frank campaign, stating that “The Paul Frank case is shaping up to be a great example of how to apologize, listen, come up with solutions and creative ideas, learn, pass on that new knowledge to others, and move forward.”

The Beyond Buckskin Boutique celebrates its one year anniversary this May, and its first year has already been filled with many successes. While the blog teaches the public why cultural appropriation is wrong, the boutique introduces fashion created by Native American fashion designers and steers buyers away from non-Native, appropriated products. The boutique also offers a unique online shopping experience by functioning as an online museum. All products for sale are enriched with links to the designer’s profile, along with stories about the item’s cultural, social, and political context. Shoppers not only leave with Native American-made designs, but also with an added understanding of their purchase. One of Metcalfe’s favorite examples of this are the top-selling “Chippewow Blossoms” earrings by designer MaRia Bird. Bird’s company, Mea B’Fly Designs, creates colorful, graphic earrings combining Native history with vibrant patterns. When the shopper reads the full description of the earrings, she gets a history lesson about the floral beadwork created by Chippewa women for the last several hundred years.

The Beyond Buckskin Boutique is unique in bringing designers together as allies. Metcalfe explains: “The conventional fashion industry is one of the most elitist industries around, and it takes a lot of money and resources to get noticed.” Rather than viewing each other as competitors, the Beyond Buckskin artists find a welcoming, supportive community where every new artist, blog post, and media headline drives more traffic to the site, benefitting all. Metcalfe plans to add more designers, creating a second, all-Native produced lookbook showcasing Beyond Buckskin products within a fashion editorial layout, and adding print and video documentation of Beyond Buckskin content so that fans 50 years from now will have access to a complete Beyond Buckskin archive. Her future plans also involve high profile fashion shows, seed grants for Native American designers, and breaking into the international market.

Metcalfe is one of those rare individuals who unites many under one mission, and there is no doubt that she will succeed. As she says, “the voice of many is more powerful than the voice of one. This same philosophy has allowed our Native communities to survive genocide and remain strong, and through Beyond Buckskin, it will allow our Native Designers to flourish as cultural ambassadors for our people.”

## American Indian Perceptions of Obesity and Its Effects on Healthy Lifestyles”

Project PI: Morgan J Foster, MPH, Walden University

To identify perceptions, beliefs, opinions, and attitudes about obesity and its effects on healthy lifestyles in TMBC community.

## “The National Baseline Study (NBS) Examining Violence Against American Indian and Alaska Native Women Living in Indian Country and Alaska Native Villages”

Project PI: Ada Pecos Melton, MPA, American Indian Development Associates LLC.

to obtain an accurate national victimization rate of violence against American Indian and Alaska Native women who live on tribal lands through an examination of the prevalence of violence.

## “ASPIRE North Dakota”

Project PI: Amy Armstrong, North Dakota Center for Persons with Disabilities (NDCPD), Minot State University

the purpose of understanding whether or not providing coordinated case management services to youth who receive SSI (Supplemental Security Income) and their family’s improves post-secondary outcomes.

## “Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians Housing Research and Prototype Design”

Project PI: Aleksandra Jaeschke, Harvard University

Is to design new homes for the Turtle Mountain Community which will help reduce the cost of heating, improve the quality of life, and accommodate the demands for multi-generational living.

## “Native Women, Intimate Partner Violence, and Substance Abuse: The Protective Effect of Culture and Identity”

Project PI: Katie Schultz, University of Washington, Indigenous Wellness Research Institute

This analysis expands on one of the original aims of the grant and procedures described and approved in the IRB application, “Tribal College & Universities Epidemiology Behavioral Wellness Study (Epi BeWll)” originally approved by the TMBCI Research Review Board on February 26, 2015.

## “Frack Attack”

Project PI: Hillary Aidun, Yale Law School

The purpose of this research is to interview Carol Davis about Turtle Mountain’s fracking ban. He plans on writing a paper concerning fracking bans and moratoria around the world.

## “Tourism Surveys”

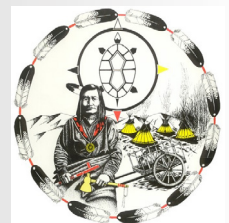
Project PI: Dr. Don Hawkins, George Washington University

The purpose of this research is to gain a better understanding of the tourist profile in Turtle Mountain and their preferences regarding visitor activities.

The TMBCI Research Protection Act was signed into law by TMBCI resolution on July 31, 2014. All research conducted on the TMBCI Reservation and TMBCI Tribal Lands are required to adhere to the Act. All comments and/or need for additional information should be directed to Anita Frederick-Research Liaison at 701-477-5526 or [anitafrederick@gmail.com](mailto:anitafrederick@gmail.com), mailing address PO BOX 1906 Belcourt, ND 58316.

You can find an application for initial review for research on the TNRG website, [www.tnrg.com](http://www.tnrg.com)

No research may proceed on the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indian Reservation unless approved by the TMBCI RRB.





Anita Frederick  
Using Data/Research to Inform Change  
Family Week  
CHR Health Fair 2016  
February 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Skydancer Casino

The Collaborative Research Center  
for American Indian Health  
4th Annual Health Summit  
March 30-31, 2016 at Candeska Cikana  
Community College in Fort Totten, N.D.

# SAVE THE DATE!

## OUR PARTNERS



Collaborative Research  
Center for American  
Indian Health (CRCAIH)



Pathways to Prosperity



Turtle Mountain Band of  
Chippewa Indian Tribe



Bush Foundation



Tribally Chartered 501c3  
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