

VOLUME III  
ISSUE III  
NOVEMBER 2018-  
FEBRUARY  
2019

# TRIBAL NATIONS RESEARCH GROUP

## NEWSLETTER

### Mission

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

### SAVE THE DATE

Save  
The  
Date!

2019  
Data Matters Conference  
March 20 & 21, 2019

Hosted By  
Tribal Nation Research Group

For more information, visit  
[www.tnrg.org](http://www.tnrg.org)

Tribal Nations  
**TNRG**  
Research Group

Tribally Chartered 501c3  
Non-Profit Organization

P.O. Box 1906  
Belcourt, ND 58316  
Phone: 701-477-5526

### WHAT'S INSIDE

- TNRG Updates
- Women in History Month
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P.O. BOX 1906  
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# Women in History Month

March 2019

TNRG INITIATES THE 1ST ANNUAL RECOGNITION OF WOMEN TRIBAL LEADERS

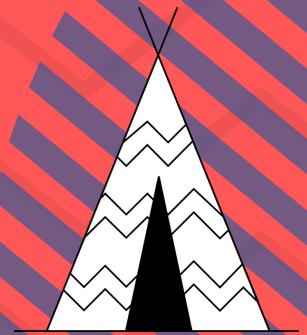
Dr. Carol Davis



Dr. Ramona Klein



Marie Elma Wilkie



# Dr. Carol Davis, Ed. D.

## LEADER, EDUCATOR, PROTECTOR

Carol is an enrolled member of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa. She has given a lifetime of service to educating tribal members including 40 years of service to Turtle Mountain Community College. Please join me by congratulating Dr. Carol Davis as she enters retirement.

Only a few people know that it was Carol Davis who is responsible for the funding that started the college. It happened in 1971, on a return airplane flight from Seattle, writing on napkins, Carol composed a proposal for a federal grant that eventually resulted in the funding. Carol had paid for the trip to Seattle with her own money. Without a doubt this created a financial hardship for her young family. Carol knew it was important that someone argue for the Turtle Mountain Chippewa Tribe before a group of national educators who were meeting in Seattle to create a consortium of newly established tribal colleges. Not surprising Carol was convincing and the group gave their support for a tribal college at Turtle Mountain. One year later, in November 1972, the Turtle Mountain Community College was established by tribal resolution. Today, 40 years later, hundreds of tribal members have successfully attained a college education and are enjoying good jobs and a better life because Carol Davis had a vision, and because of that proposal she wrote on airplane napkins 40 years ago.

Carol has been a leader in many aspects of TMCC planning, development, and implementation. During the formative years either acting alone or by applying her ability to work with others she helped to secure a unique legal relationship between TMCC and the tribal government. Later she helped to build essential relationships with the North Dakota State Board of Higher Education, with federal agencies, and accrediting associations. When Carol joined TMCC in the mid 1980's as its Vice President she quickly engaged herself in accreditation, improving quality of instruction, and by service to students and community. Over the years she marshaled the writing of numerous successful proposals. Her contributions are many including the first fully accredited elementary teaching degree at a tribal college and a 4-year secondary teaching degree with an emphasis in science and mathematics education. Promoting the development of STEM initiatives, including a very successful program that is still functioning today that has brought several Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math experts to Tribal Communities around the state. Carol's passion for promoting STEM education didn't end with her work at TMCC. In 2005, Carol left the college and was immediately hired by North Dakota State University as the EPSCoR liaison to tribal colleges. In this capacity she assisted students who are pursuing 4-year and graduate science and engineering degrees and with developing research potential at tribal colleges.

# Dr. Carol Davis, Ed. D.



Although Carol will always be known for her work in Indian Education. Carol is an advocate for many other causes that protect and build the TMBCI community. Carol along with a group of water protectors educated and informed tribal leaders in 2011 about the dangers of allowing hydraulic fracking within the Turtle Mountain Community. On November 22, 2011 the TMBCI Tribal Government passed a resolution banning fracking on the TM Reservation or lands held within trust of the reservation. The resolution also directed the Bureau of Indian Affairs to cancel a request for bids on 43 parcels of land for oil and gas exploration on TM Tribal Land. The Bureau complied and cancelled the bids. To this day no fracking has been conducted on TM Tribal Land.

Most recently Carol and her partner Carty Monette, along with fellow tribal member Dr. Paula Morin Carter were concerned about the lack of research oversight within the TM Band of Chippewa community. The trio approached the Tribal Government and asked if they could seek funding to implement a process that would build research and data building infrastructure within the TMBCI Community. The Tribal Government agreed, the group applied for a small infrastructure grant through Sanford Research Collaborative Research Center for American Indian Health. This small grant is what grew the infrastructure for what is now the Tribal Nations Research Group a 501c3 organization located in Belcourt, ND. The organization has quickly flourished and has recently received a planning from the National Science Foundation to conduct the first longitudinal study in Indian Education conducted by an organization led by American Indian Researchers and operating on a reservation.

Much more can be said about Carol and her work. Carol has been involved in several important state and national education initiatives, has given many public presentations, and has served on numerous advisory boards. With her many professional accomplishments Carol and her family have earned the right to be proud of each one. Telling her story would fill a book. When a comprehensive history of Turtle Mountain tribal education and of Turtle Mountain Community College is written the book will include the many contributions of Dr. Carol Davis. Carol would be the first to acknowledge the hard work of those with whom she has served, the boards and staffs at the college, those in the schools, and the people of the Turtle Mountain community.

Carol "Monette" Davis is married to Lynn Davis, they have six children, Frank L Davis, Jacklyn Walette, Sheri Trottier, Joe Davis, Daniel "Danny" Davis, and Cleo and several grand-children, and great grandchildren.

# Dr. Ramona Charette-Klein

First woman from Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa to earn a  
Doctorate Degree

Indian control of education has a very short history. It wasn't until 1960's and through the 1970's when Tribes across the nation were able to take control of their own education systems. Turtle Mountain became a leader in providing higher education services to the community by creating one of the first six tribal colleges in the nations. The development of the college promoted the value of education to many of its tribal members. Today Turtle Mountain is often referred to as the tribe with most advanced degrees earned per capita of all tribes in the nation. Dr. Ramona Klein, Ed D. led the way for the female tribal members by being the first female enrolled member of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa to earn a doctorate degree! Anita Frederick, TNRG President had the awesome opportunity to visit with and interview Ramona, the following is a short biography of Ramona's life and summary of the visit.

Ramona Charette Klein is the fifth child of John B. Charette and Barbara Stella (Charette) Malaterre. Ramona had four brothers John, Jerome Damian, Duane and Earl Charette, three sisters Shirley (Ray) Delorme, Carmon (Michael) Cymbal and Brenda, Jackie (Valentine) Cartwright. Ramona has two daughters and sons-in-law and one granddaughter. She and her husband Chuck Klein enjoy working and playing and traveling together. They enjoy USA and international travel.

Ramona attended school at Turtle Mountain Community Schools, Fort Totten Indian Boarding School, St. Ann Indian Mission and Rolette Public School. Ramona dropped out of high school and later earned a GED. She attended the University of North Dakota, Grand Forks where she earned a Bachelor of Science degree in elementary education, a Master of Education in Special Education and in May of 1985 earned a Doctorate of Education in Education Leadership.

Ramona has taught students in Kindergarten through Graduate studies. She has had the opportunity and privilege to teach in Bureau of Indian Affairs (now BIE), Public Education high school, state and private college and universities, where she earned full professorship. Ramona has had the honor of working in all fifty states in such capacities as consultant, trainer, and board of examiner and speaker. She was a Women's Leadership Trainer for the National Education Association. She has served on local, state, regional, national and international boards and or committees. Ramona provides consultation and professional development training through her business Eagle Consulting, Inc.

What main things guided you to pursue a doctorate degree?

The one thing that guided me to pursue more education was that I wanted to learn how the education system worked and I wanted to be a part of the decision making process.

# Dr. Ramona Charette-Klein

How did you feel knowing you were the first woman from TM to earn a Doctorate degree?  
I didn't know that I was the first woman from TM to earn a doctorate degree until Ken Davis told me that I was the first woman to earn a terminal degree. I believe that I was humble about it. All I wanted to do was to learn how to do my job better so that I can do a better job for the students that I was responsible for providing an education.

Have you encouraged others to pursue education?

Encouraging others to pursue an education is one of my passions. I usually have a few women under my wing to coach and mentor.

Who was the one person you admired most? Why?

I have admired and respected many people over time but the older I "grow" the more I appreciate and admire by ancestors, especially my mother. My mother was widowed when she was 43 with 8 children under 16 years of age. She had a fourth grade education and used physical labor (picking potatoes, house cleaning, etc.) to make a living trying to support us. There are times I think of what she must have worried about; just trying to have enough food to feed us and enough wood to make fire to heat the house. I think of my uncles and aunties who traveled from ND to the West Coast to work and they didn't read. How did they make it? How did they know where to go ask for work? How did that old truck get them and their families to their destination? All questions that I have and the respect that I have for them. My ancestors' struggles and accomplishments were so much greater than mine.

What was the hardest thing you ever had to do?

The hardest thing that I had to do was to learn to live away from the TMs without a support system. I was naïve and inexperienced about life away from TM. I had to learn life skills, signing a lease for housing, later buying a home; how to learn to drive in a city, how to manage money to make it a whole month and most of the time I had more month than I had money. Life skills was the most difficult for me. I found that I could do the academic work but even with that I questioned my ability. I was mighty surprised when I earned the highest score in a graduate class and I was the only Native American student in class. Another very hard thing was to learn and believe that I was a capable person and that I could be independent. Learning self-confidence was a challenge for me and it taught me a lesson that I use when I mentor and coach others.

Another very difficult thing for me to do was to speak in front of people. I was so scared that I suffered from cotton mouth but when I got people to listen it was an "aha" moment for me. People wanted to hear what I had to say. One of my goals is to be asked to speak for a group when I am 85 years old.

Who/What was the greatest influence in your life?

My daughters were the greatest influence in my life. I knew that I was the only person who had to provide a living for them. Everything I did I did to try to provide a better life for them.

# Dr. Ramona Charette-Klein



As you look back, what are the three most fantastic changes you witnessed?  
As I look back the three most fantastic changes that I witnessed are EDUCATION, EDUCATION, and EDUCATION. I am so proud of the people who go on to pursue an education in any field and to see them happy with their life choice. There are so many talented people in the TM area that doing very positive things. They are doing things that I didn't dream of doing when I was a young person. The opportunities that are available for people to grab onto and go as far as they want to go to pursue their dreams.

What are some of the principles that you have lived by? What guides you?  
The principles that I live by are the seven teachings of the Ojibwa culture. I remember reading them for the very first time and they made so much sense to me. It was like I was home. I had a TM artist make a wall hanging for me with the seven teachings and it hangs in my granddaughter's bedroom. I want for her to embrace the seven teachings.

What would you tell young women from TMBCI today about education particularly pursuing an advanced education?  
I mentor young women on a regular basis I usually tell them to set goals and if need be I help them set their SMART goals. Stay focused. Education will open many doors for you. Education will allow you to think differently and see the world with a new lens. I encourage them to become an independent thinker, out smart people by knowing your content inside and out. You are a capable and strong woman. You got this; you can do this. I encourage them to take risks and to choose an area of study that makes them happy and they will not have to work at their career choice because your work will give you joy and satisfaction. Become an independent woman and when the academic work is heavy and the house work piles up and you haven't had time to dust. Dim the lights and no one will know that you didn't dust. Most of all be happy with what you do.

# Marie Elma Wilkie

## EDUCATOR, CULTURAL, & HISTORY ADVISOR

Marie Elma Davis Wilkie, “Waabishkibinesik” White Thunderbird Woman, an enrolled member of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa, was one of 12 children born to Alexander and Adele (Laverdure) Davis on Feb. 21, 1923. She was raised speaking Michif, a language that consisted of French, English, and the original Chippewa.

Elma was educated at Country School No. 2 in Belcourt. Her father died when she was 9. She signed herself up for boarding school against her mother’s wishes. At an early age she realized that an education was important. Bravely she jumped on a “double decker” bus not really knowing where she was going. All she knew was that she was going to a place called Bismarck. She took with her a lunch, a dress, and a doll. To her surprise she ended up at the Fraine Barracks, built in 1883. It was an old Milwaukee Brewery that was built by the Missouri River that had been turned into a boarding school. There the teachers her from speaking her language.

“I used to lie in bed at night and say every word I could remember in my own language so I wouldn’t forget,” she once told a reporter.

She was saddened when the Boarding School closed in 1937. Her education could have easily ended there but she went onto graduate from the Flandreau Indian Boarding School in 1942. Then in 1944 she graduated with an Associate of Science Degree in business from the North Dakota State School of Science.

With her education in hand she went to work for the BIA in Chicago which was short-lived. At the age of 21, she contracted tuberculosis and ended up spending a year in San Haven, where she underwent a pneumonectomy (lung removal). After her recovery, she briefly went to work in New York City. Then in 1949, she returned to North Dakota and took a job at Fort Totten. It was here where she was reacquainted with Lawrence Wilkie, her future husband. They had kept in touch through letters during World War II. He had also suffered and recovered from tuberculosis while serving in the U.S. Navy in the Pacific theater. They married in 1951 and made a home in Bloomington, a suburb of Minneapolis, Minn. where their children Juliane, Leslie (born in Belcourt), Lawrence Jr. “Son Son” and Tracy were born. They moved to Riverside, Calif. where Lawrence worked for the Roy Aircraft Corporation as a computer tab operator and their fifth and sixth children, Russell and Lee “Butch,” were born. On a trip to Disneyland, she discovered that her children were afraid of Indians dancing in a program. “All this time we thought we were bringing our kids up as Indians and they were scared.” The family returned to the Turtle Mountain Chippewa Indian Reservation in the early 1960s where Lawrence was elected as a tribal councilman. Since those were the days that councilmen worked without pay, Lawrence found work on the Minuteman Missile site in Langdon, N.D. It was an era of deep economic depression for the people of the reservation. Elma and Lawrence were involved in the work toward payment of the McCumber Agreement, or the “Ten Cent Treaty” as it has been called by the public. Up until her passing she was an active member of those representing the Pembina Ojibway in the federal court case seeking full restitution for the BIA’s mishandling of treaty money.





# Marie Elma Wilkie



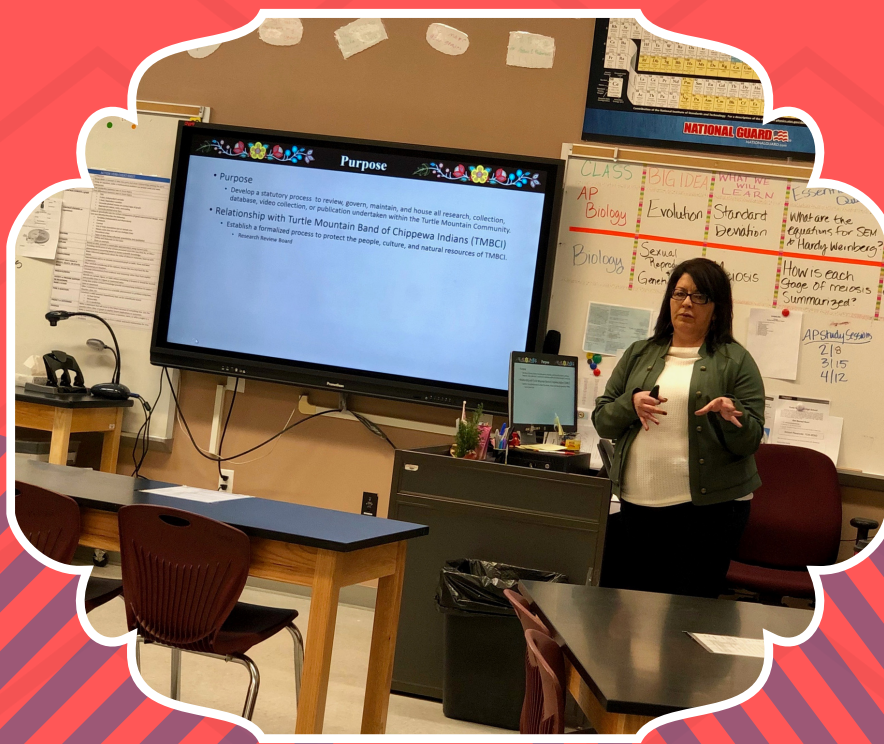
Around 1965, under the Economic Opportunity Act, she worked as the Director of the Neighborhood Youth Corps (NYC) for the Turtle Mountain region. NYC was a special program combining work opportunities with part-time schooling leading to high school diplomas. As the Director she expressed the importance of education and helped to instill the belief that there are more opportunities for better paying jobs if you were an educated tribal member. For Tribes to participate in NYC, the tribe had to submit a proposal to the Department of Labor, which operated the program for the office of Economic Opportunity in Washington, D. C. During this period she helped set up a drop-out program and a GED program for the youth. She resigned from NYC in the early 1970's to join her husband in Grand Forks, who was attending the University of North Dakota in the art department. Elma worked as a tribal liaison for the newly established Indians into Medicine (INMED) program, while attending classes. She was involved with organizing the INMED pow-wow. As tribal liaison, she recruited potential Indian students into nursing and doctoral medicine. She traveled throughout five states: North and South Dakota, Montana, Wyoming and Nebraska, and covered 23 Indian reservations.

"They told me I put in 34,000 miles in 18 months," she said.

One of her recruits was Dr. Richard Larson, who later became her doctor and took care of her even up to her final days. While at UND, she also assisted Dr. Crawford with preservation of the Cree language and served on the board for the Eagle Feather Day Care Center which was associated with the Center for Teaching and Learning. In 1974, while still a student, Lawrence was killed in a car accident. The family's hopes and dreams were shattered. Through it all, Elma persevered. She continued her education and graduated in 1976 from UND with a bachelor's degree in social work. She was 53 years old.

"The fact that she went back to college when she was probably in her 50s is very important to this tribe," said Carty Monette, former president of the Turtle Mountain Community College. Elma returned to Belcourt and went to work for the Turtle Mountain Community College as a curriculum developer and full-time teacher. She served as director of the board for the Anishinaabeg Cultural Center. During this time, she helped to secure funding for cultural activities and log buildings such as the traditional round hall. She was responsible for bringing the Flame of Peace, which had been run around the world and to all four corners of the U.S. to the Turtle Mountain Chippewa Indian Reservation. She served as a member of the Tribal Constitutional Revision Committee hoping to empower tribal people instead of the BIA. She advised future generations not to give up the effort to end corruption and to work to improve tribal government.

"Elma represents in a person what the college is trying to do for the reservation, she is invaluable and has been for years for years to this institution and to this tribe. The impact of her instruction here is going to be felt for many many years," Monette said. He asked her if the college could name a building in her honor or do something to commemorate her many contributions. Elma suggested they sponsor a special dance for traditional women dancers at the Turtle Mountain Pow Wow each year instead, which continued after her passing.



THE TURTLE MOUNTAIN HIGH SCHOOL AP BIOLOGY CLASS WILL BE ATTENDING THE 2019 DATA MATTERS CONFERENCE WITH EXCITING RESEARCH!



In February, Tribal Nations Research Group participated in the National Congress of American Indians monthly webinar. The webinar included all five tribal partners that are in collaboration with the Collaborative Research Center for American Indian Health (CRCAIH): Oglala Sioux Tribe, Rosebud Sioux Tribe, Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate, Tribal Nations Research Group, and the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior. Each tribal partner was able to discuss their research review activities and the benefits of their unique collaboration.

## NCAI POLICY RESEARCH CENTER *Monthly Webinar Series*

**FEATURING  
CRCAIH  
TRIBAL  
PARTNERS**

*Fond du lac Band of Lake Superior  
Oglala Sioux Tribe  
Rosebud Sioux Tribe  
Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate  
Tribal Nations Research Group*

**FEBRUARY 28, 2019 | 4:00-5:00 PM EST**

**DURING THE WEBINAR, THE PARTNERS WILL DISCUSS  
THEIR RESEARCH REVIEW ACTIVITIES AND  
THE BENEFITS OF THEIR UNIQUE COLLABORATION**



# TRIBAL NATIONS RESEARCH GROUP PRESENTS THE 2019 DATA MATTERS CONFERENCE

AT THE SKY DANCER CASINO EVENT CENTER, BELCOURT ND

MARCH 20-21, 2019

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REGISTER VISIT

[WWW.TNRG.ORG](http://WWW.TNRG.ORG)

## KEYNOTE SPEAKER



DR. DUANE CHAMPAGNE  
TURTLE MOUNTAIN BAND OF CHIPPEWA  
UCLA SCHOOL OF LAW  
LOS ANGELES, CA

## CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

DR. COLLETTE ADAMSON, ED. D.  
*OVERVIEW OF TRIBAL ELDER DATA FROM IDENTIFYING OUR NEEDS: A SURVEY OF ELDER*

CHAD DAVIS  
*CYBER SECURITY PROGRAM*

DR. MICHELLE TOMAS ED.D.  
*EXAMINING THE RELATIONSHIP OF EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE AND TEACHER BURNOUT IN NATIVE AMERICAN SCHOOLS.*

DR. JENNIFER GIROUX, MD, MPH  
SEAN JACKSON  
*GREAT PLAINS TRIBAL EPIDEMIOLOGY CENTER (GPTEC)-SUPPORTING THE USE OF PUBLIC HEALTH DATA FOR THE 18 TRIBES IN THE GREAT PLAINS REGION*

DR. MELISSA WALLETT MCGEE, DNP, MSN, BSN, FNP  
*USING DATA FOR DIABETES EDUCATION*

AARON BERGSTROM  
*FUTURE OF DATA-BIG DATA, DATA CARPENTRY AND DATA SCIENCE*

SPECIAL GUEST:  
FACULTY ADVISOR: KYLIE KEPLIN  
*TURTLE MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL ADVANCED PLACEMENT STUDENTS RESEARCH POSTERS AND PRESENTATIONS*

## EVENING EVENT FEATURING

RHEA AZURE  
COMMUNITY MEMBERS  
RIBBON SKIRT PRESENTATION

LES LAFOUNTAIN  
FACULTY, TURTLE MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
ESSENTIAL INFORMATION ON THE  
TURTLE MOUNTAIN BAND OF CHIPPEWA INDIANS

HORS D'OEUVRES WILL BE SERVED



Tribal Nations Research Group Presents: Data Matters  
Tentative Conference Agenda March 20-21, 2019

Wednesday, March 20, 2019	
7:45 am to 8:30 am	Registration-Continental Breakfast
8:30 am to 8:45 am	<b>Opening Ceremonies:</b> Prayer/Drum – Cody St. Claire ( <b>invited</b> ) Carty Monette and Carol Davis Senior Associates Introductions TNRG Staff, Board of Directors Opening Remarks-TMBCI Chair Jamie Azure, and Tribal Council Members
8:45 am to 9:45 am	<b>5-year overview of TNRG, collaborations with Tribal Partners</b> Anita Frederick, President Tribal Nations Research Group, Belcourt ND Guests: Simone Bordeaux Rosebud Katie Blindman, Pine Ridge CRCAIH Staff-Melissa Buffalo & Michaela Seiber
9:45 am to 10:00 am	<b>Break-Refreshments Served</b> <b>TM High School AP Class Poster Presentations</b>
10:00 am to 11:00 am	<b>Data Activity</b> TNRG
11:00 am to 12:00 am	<b>Overview of Tribal Elder Data from Identifying our Needs: A survey of Elders</b> Dr. Collette Adamson, EdD Director of UND Center for Native American Aging University of North Dakota
12:00 am to 1:00 pm	Lunch-Provided <b>Poster TM High School AP Class Poster Presentations</b> Turtle Mountain Community High School Biology AP Class Kylie Keplin, High School Instructor
1:00 pm to 2:00 pm	<b>Importance of good data-experience from research, writing, and publication</b> Duane Champagne, Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Professor of Sociology and American Indian Studies Emeritus Professor of Law Emeritus UCLA, Los Angeles CA
2:00 pm to 2:45 pm	<b>Cyber Security Program Turtle Mountain Community College-Invited</b> Chad Davis, Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa IT Director Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa
2:45 pm to 3:00 pm	<b>“Networking and Jam/Jelly Tasting with local provider Steve DeCoteau”</b> <b>TM High School AP Class Poster Presentations</b>
3:00 pm to 3:45 pm	<b>Examining the Relationship of Emotional Intelligence and Teacher Burnout in Native American Schools</b> Dr. Michelle Thomas Ed D, Principal Dunseith Day School
3:45 pm to 4:00 pm	<b>Closing Remarks-Winners announced for Poster Presentations</b>

Wednesday, March 20, 2019 Evening Event	
5:00 pm to 7:30 pm  Hors d'oeuvres	Ribbon Skirt Presentation- Rhea Azure Community Members  Presentation-Les LaFountain-Invited TBA
Thursday, March 21, 2019	
8:00 am to 8:30 am	Registration-Continental Breakfast Welcome and overview of previous day events
8:30 am to 9:15 am	<b>Great Plains Tribal Epidemiology Center (GPTEC)-Supporting the use of Public Health Data for the 18 tribes in the Great Plains Region</b> Dr. Jennifer Giroux, MD, MPH, Medical Epidemiologist Sean Jackson, GPTEC Data Coordinator
9:15 am to 10:00 am	<b>High Obesity Program</b> Jacob Davis, ND PCANN Erin Garrison, TNRG
10:00 am to 10:15	Break-refreshments provided
10:15 am to 11:15 am	<b>Using Data for Diabetes Education</b> Dr. Melissa Walette McGee, DNP, MSN, BSN, FNP Lake County Health Department and Gerald Ignace Indian Health Center Lake County Health Department, Zion IL
11:15 am to 12:00 noon	<b>Future of Data-Big Data, Data Carpentry and Data Science</b> Aaron Bergstrom, University of North Dakota-Invited Dane Skow, North Dakota State University-Invited Anita Frederick, TNRG
Noon	<b>Closing Remarks-Thank you</b>

*Register Now!*

<http://www.tnrg.org/data-conference-registration.html>



# Collaborative Research Center for American Indian Health

## 7th Annual CRCAIH

# SUMMIT

*save the date*

“Nurturing the Future of  
Native Youth Through Research”

Sanford Center | Sioux Falls, SD

April 30, 2019



*Topics include:*

- ▶ Achieving Health Equity for Native Communities
- ▶ Tribal Partner Panel
- ▶ Student Research Panel
- ▶ Project Venture on the Pine Ridge Reservation
- ▶ Guardians of the Living Water: Partnering with Youth to increase Environmental Health Literacy
- ▶ Engaging Communities in Research to Support Healthy Development for American Indian and Alaska Native Children and Adolescents
- ▶ Community Mobilization for Suicide Prevention: Description and Preliminary Outcomes of Promoting Community Conversations About Research to End Suicide (PC CARES)



[www.crcaih.org](http://www.crcaih.org) | [info@crcaih.org](mailto:info@crcaih.org)

Project is supported by the National Institutes of Health under Award Number U54MD00861

The intent of CRCAIH was to bring together Tribal communities and health researchers, from multiple disciplines, to work in the development of cutting-edge transdisciplinary research to address the significant health disparities experienced by American Indians in South Dakota, North Dakota and Minnesota. The Annual Summit provides a forum for American Indian health researchers, tribal communities, practitioners, healthcare entities, and other various stakeholders to gather to learn about innovative research being conducted in AIAN health, share challenges and lessons learned, and discover new resources and techniques. It also serves to strengthen our partnerships and identify new areas for collaboration.

# Tribal Nations Research Group and NDSU Tackling Obesity



Tribal Nations Research Group, within the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians Tribe, is teaming up with North Dakota State University to combat obesity in Rolette County.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) awarded the NDSU's Extension and Department of Public Health \$568,750 through the CDC's High Obesity Program for the first year of a five-year project titled Promoting Healthy Outcomes through Indigenous Food Systems. This grant will provide NDSU the opportunity to work with the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe in Sioux County and the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians in Rolette County through the project.

The High Obesity Program funds land-grant universities to leverage local relationships and Extension to implement evidence-based strategies to increase access to healthful foods and physical activity in counties with an adult obesity rate of more than 40 percent. The partners in Promoting Healthy Outcomes through Indigenous Food Systems hope to receive a total of \$2.8 million from the CDC for the project during the next five years.

"Promoting Healthy Outcomes Through Indigenous Food Systems approaches obesity prevention through the context that indigenous people experience health disparities related, in part, to nontraditional ways of food production, consumption and inactivity," says Megan Ditterick, coordinator of NDSU Extension's Expanded Food and Nutrition Education and Family Nutrition programs. "In response to higher rates of obesity and chronic disease, tribal nations are creating more healthful communities through the reclamation of food systems and health promotion based on cultural traditions. This project seeks to build on those efforts."

Phase one of the project will include gathering community input through listening sessions and interviews, mapping of existing assets in the community, and capacity-building workshops. Following this phase, each community will select food access and physical activity projects. The local Extension office will support the projects with research-based education and outreach in areas including horticulture, nutrition, food production and food preservation.

Partners in the project include the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians, the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, North Dakota State University, Prevent Child Abuse North Dakota, and Tribal Nations Research Group.

If you would like more information about the project, please contact Erin Garrison, Local Program Manager via email – [erin@tnrg.org](mailto:erin@tnrg.org).



New

*Yvonne LaRocque*

Associate  
Member



Yvonne Larocque is BIA  
Superintendent at Fort Totten  
Agency, Fort Totten, ND.

Yvonne has a Bachelor's Degree in Business Management from the University of North Dakota and a Master's Degree in General Administration from Central Michigan University. Yvonne was previously employed as the Self Determination Officer in Aberdeen, SD and was a Level II Awarding Official. Duties included administering PL 93-638 Contracts and Grants, including construction contracts, for all Tribes and Tribal Organizations in North Dakota, South Dakota and Nebraska. Yvonne is married to Delbert "Pepper" LaRocque and together they have 3 children and 7 grandchildren. Yvonne's interests/hobbies include watching sports of all kinds, Netflix and working on crafts and DIY projects.



# THE TNRG TEAM

is excited to announce the recent purchase of their new building!



The building was gutted and renovations started immediately. Anita's husband, Darrin, was kind enough to undertake majority of the project, after working all day at his day job. Along with the TNRG Team, there were many helping hands that volunteered their time.







Anita Frederick  
President

Erin Garrison  
Research Liaison



Larretta Hall  
Grants Coordinator



Lucinda LaRocque  
Office Technologist

Christa Monette  
Data Collection



**VISTA**  
Volunteers in Service to America