



*Tribal Nations Research Group*

**2025**

# **DATA MATTERS CONFERENCE**

Building Stronger Tribal  
Communities Through  
Data & Research

March 18th & 19th, 2025

Belcourt, ND



# Welcome

Tribal Nations Research Group was established in early 2013 with a vision to create an organization that would assist the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa in regulating research on the reservation or with citizens of the Tribe. Since its inception, TNRG has expanded its mission to serve as a Tribal Data Center, the only center of this type throughout Indian Country.

It is our pleasure to welcome attendees to the 2023 "Data Matters" Conference. You will find an exciting array of sessions showcasing the excellent work and expertise of our Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Citizens and Researchers. Our Senior Associates, Staff, and Volunteers hope that throughout the one and a half day conference you will learn about data and research, the importance of using both to identify problems and understand areas of concern, then develop, test, and implement problem solving strategies to address identified issues.

Our goal of this year's conference is to provide examples of practical applications for data and highlight a few research projects conducted in the last few years.

During the event, you will have opportunities to interact not only with TNRG staff Associates, tribal members, but also with our guests from other Tribal Communities, Rolette County, and our in & out of State friends.

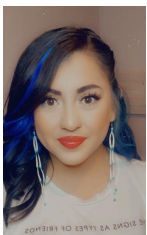
Thank you to the outstanding volunteers, presenters, and TNRG Staff who worked hard to make this year's Conference very valuable for attendees. We look forward to seeing many familiar faces and meeting new ones throughout these next few days. We do, indeed, live in a time where data collection, analysis, and use is becoming more of a requirement from our local, state, and federal agencies. Our hope is that what you learn throughout the conference will make data more meaningful and useful in your every day practices.

Thank You

The Tribal Nations Research Group Senior Associates and Staff



**Anita Frederick**  
President



**Mollie Lilley**  
Community Engagement  
Coordinator



**Kylie Keplin**  
Director of  
Operations



**Laretta Hall**  
Grants Coordinator

## TNRG STAFF

## SENIOR ASSOCIATES BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Vincent Grant, III**



**Carol Davis**





Tuesday, March 18, 2025

7:45 am to 8:30 am	Registration Breakfast
8:30 am to 8:45 am	Opening Ceremonies: Prayer Drum: Siipising Drum Group Welcome
8:45 am to 9:45 am	<b>Tribal Nations Research Group-Data Matters</b> Tribal Nations Research Group
9:45 am to 10:00 am	Networking, Refreshments Served
10:00 am to 11:00 am	<b>Current and Future Initiatives of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa</b> Jamie Azure- TMBCI Tribal Chairman Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa
11:00 am to 12:00 pm	<b>Tribal Sovereignty: Determining Relations and Balance</b> Richard Monette J.D. Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa
12:00 pm to 1:00 pm	<b>Lunch- Provided</b>
1:00 pm to 1:45 pm	<b>Healing and Wellness Through Culture</b> Jackie Frederick & Alex DeCoteau Turtle Mountain Community High School Culture Team
1:45 pm to 2:30pm	<b>Ojibwe/Michif Math Video Project</b> Danny Luecke, PhD Turtle Mountain College
2:30 pm to 2:45pm	<b>Networking</b> Pie Social
2:45pm to 3:30 pm	<b>Using GIS to Leverage Data to Support the TMBCI Community</b> Kylie Keplin Tribal Nations Research Group
3:30 pm to 4:15 pm	<b>Panel Presentation</b> <b>Culture Revitalization Efforts in the TMBCI Community</b> Jackie Frederick, Wes Davis, Danny Luecke, PhD, Julie Cain
4:15 pm to 4:30 pm	<b>Day 1 Reflection</b> Questions/ Comments/ Ideas for Future Conference Topics/ Professional Development Ideas



Wednesday, March 19, 2025

8:00 am to 8:30 am	Breakfast- Registration, Welcome and Overview of previous day events
8:30 am to 9:15am	<b>Detecting Freshwater harmful algal blooms (HABs) with Remote Sensing</b> Ananth Ramaseri, Marlin Allery Turtle Mountain College
9:15am to 10:00 am	<b>Artwork: Healing and Identity Development</b> Bobbi Lynn Frederick Arizona State University
10:00 am to 10:45 am	<b>Wastewater Surveillance in Indian Country</b> Christa Monette Turtle Mountain Public Health Department
10:45am to 11:00 am	Break, Refreshments Served
11:00 am to 11:45 am	<b>Data Considerations at Turtle Mountain College</b> Ace Charette Turtle Mountain College
11:45am to 12:30 am	<b>Native Elder Voices: Findings from the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Tribal Elder Needs Assessment Survey</b> Colette Adamsen. PhD, MPA University of North Dakota
12:30 pm to 12:45 pm	Day Two Reflection/ Lunch to go



# Conference Sessions



## ***Tribal Nations Research Group- Data Matters***

This session will be an overview of Tribal Nations Research Group's accomplishments, lessons learned, and current work. In addition will discuss Data Sovereignty and steps moving forward.



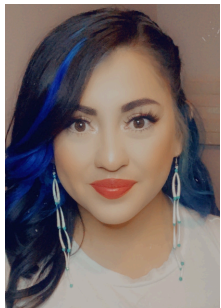
**Anita Frederick**  
**President**  
**Tribal Nations Research Group**

Anita is an enrolled citizen of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians and is the President of Tribal Nations Research Group (TNRG) a 501c3 non-profit Tribal organization, located in Belcourt ND on the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Reservation. Anita holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Education and a Master's Degree in Information Management with a focus on Executive Support Systems Management from Minot State University, a graduate certificate in Institutional Research from University of Missouri, St Louis. Anita is currently ABD in the Doctorate of Education program at the University of North Dakota. Prior to her work at TNRG, Anita worked at Turtle Mountain Community College for 18 years in various positions with the most recent as the Dean of Students. She is a former Bush Foundation Fellow, Association of Institutional Researchers Data Policy Institute Fellow, and recipient of the 2016 National Indian Health Board Local Impact Award. Anita is married to Darrin and together they have three children, Darrin Jr, Cole, and Ivie.



**Kylie Keplin**  
**Director of Operations**  
**Tribal Nations Research Group**

Kylie is an enrolled citizen of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians and is the Director of Operations at Tribal Nations Research Group (TNRG) since October of 2022. Kylie holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Secondary Science from TMCC, a Master's Degree in Curriculum and Instruction from University of Phoenix, and a Master's Degree in Teacher Leadership and Administration from the University of Mary. Kylie is married to Cory Keplin and together they have 5 children, Connor, Chale, Carter, Carson, and Kalli.



**Mollie Lilley**  
**Community Engagement Coordinator**  
**Tribal Nations Research Group**

Mollie Lilley is an enrolled citizen of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians and has been with TNRG since 2019 as the Community Engagement Coordinator. Mollie is currently enrolled at Turtle Mountain Community College and is pursuing Leadership & Management. She is married to Brian Lilley Jr. and together they have 3 kids, Khale, Melanie, and Jaxton.



**Laretta Hall**  
**Grants Coordinator**  
**Tribal Nations Research Group**

Larretta Hall has more than 40 years of experience in Tribal Communities in North Dakota including serving a Sponsored Programs Officer, grants writer, evaluator, program developer and administrator. Her experience includes work with tribal governments, tribal colleges and community organizations. Hall has a Bachelor's degree from Morehead State University, Morehead, KY. She is an enrolled member of the TMBCI and a veteran.

# Conference Sessions



## ***Current and Future Initiatives of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa*** **Chairman, Jamie Azure** **Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa**

Jamie Azure is an enrolled member and chairman of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians (TMBCI). Chairman Azure attended the University of Minnesota and earned Bachelor's of Science Degrees in Business Management, Advertising and Promotion, and Political Science. He has served on the TMBCI Tribal Council since December 2016 and served as the TMBCI Chairman since January 2018. Chairman Azure was reelected with 69 percent of the vote and continues to strive for Native solidarity, economic development, and youth/elder advocacy. Jamie also serves on the UTTC Board of Directors.



## ***Tribal Sovereignty: Determining Relations and Balance*** **Richard A. Monette J.D.** **Emeritus Professor of Law- University of WI- Madison and Attorney at Law**

Sovereignty is determining right relations and proper balance between and among all things, against the backdrop of indigenous cultural mores that “all things are alive” and “all things are related”, including governments and intergovernmental relations, civic relations between governments and citizens, relations between individual citizens, relations between territory and property, and relations between citizens and property. The Infinity symbol of the Cree (Dine), Chippewa (Anishnabe), and Metis (Michif) represents the entire indigenous cosmology of sovereignty. Sovereignty requires Territory, Peoples, and Recognition. Sovereignty, culture, and identity are the indigenous Three Sisters- Corn, Squash, and Beans. Finally, Sovereignty is not something you have; sovereignty is something you do.

Richard Monette grew up in Turtle Mountain. Richard was a “housing kid”. He graduated from Belcourt High School in 1977. He attended Turtle Mountain Community College, Mayville State College, University of North Dakota, University of Oregon, and University of Wisconsin, earning several degrees and culminating in an LL.M degree in Constitutional Law. Richard’s work experience includes clerking at the US Attorneys Office in Oregon, in Washington DC as staff attorney for the US Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, in Washington DC as Director of the Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs- Indian Affairs, and as Professor of Law at the University of Wisconsin in Madison. Richard has written many published journal articles and given numerous presentations, speeches, and workshops on the constitutional side of Federal Indian Law in countries around the world, including Japan, Costa Rica, France, New Zealand, Germany, Canada, and Puerto Rico. Richard also practices law.



# Conference Sessions

## ***Healing and Wellness Through Culture***

**Jackie Frederick (left) & Alex DeCoteau (right)**

**Turtle Mountain High School Culture Team**



Healing and Wellness Through Culture is the professional development held at Turtle Mountain Community High School in the summer of 2023. The purpose was to open the door and create a safe space to learn about Turtle Mountain Ojibwe culture, teachings, and practices. The plan was to immerse the staff first, then the students in the fall. The bottom line was to Indigenize teaching and learning at TMCHS. The Eurocentric education pedagogy has only marginalized Indigenous students. With this understanding, there must be a call to action to Indigenize teaching and learning at every level. We will demonstrate the importance of that and how TMCHS got started.

Jacqueline (Jackie) Frederick (Noodin Aadizookaan) is an enrolled citizen of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa. She is also Karuk from northern California, and Tohono O'dham from Arizona. This is what the Indian Relocation Act looks like in the flesh. She applied to Turtle Mountain Community College's first Teacher Education Cohort in the fall of 2000. She graduated with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Elementary Education in May of 2022. That fall she began teaching at Turtle Mountain Elementary School and worked there through the spring of 2018. She obtained her certification in Library Media Science at Valley City State University and has been the Library Media Specialist at Turtle Mountain High School since the fall of 2018. Jackie is married to Darrick (Diggets) Frederick and together they have five children.

Alex DeCoteau (Gechitwaabandang) is a member of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians and a life-long student of the Ojibwe language and culture. He teaches Ojibway Language, Tribal Government, and Tribal History at Turtle Mountain Community High School in Belcourt, North Dakota. Alex discovered his life's mission in the 1990's when he met the late Francis "Eagle Heart" Cree, the Turtle Mountain Tribe's long-time spiritual leader. Alex served as oshkaabewis (ceremony apprentice) for Eagle Heart for many years and lived with the elder for a time. In 2014, Alex earned a license to teach Ojibwe Language and moved to the White Earth Chippewa Reservation in Minnesota where he taught at the Circle of Life School. After earning his BA in Education, he taught at the Waadookodaading Ojibwe Language Immersion School on the Lac Courte Oreilles Chippewa Reservation in Wisconsin. Alex's favorite part of the Chippewa language are the sacred legends because of their richness in Ojibwe language and culture. He is most grateful for the healing he and his family continue to receive from practicing Ojibwe language and culture. He earned a master's degree in education at Minot State University in 2019. He is a life-long learner participating in the healing from colonization (Indigenizing) movement that is growing strong among the Anishinaabeg (Indigenous People) across Turtle Island (Native America) and around the world.

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## ***Presentation Ojibwe/Michif Math Video Project***

**Danny Luecke, PhD**

**Math and Math Education Faculty, Turtle Mountain College**



Turtle Mountain College began the Ojibwe/Michif Math Video Project in early 2023. Dr. Danny Luecke initiated the project as part of the Indigenous Math classes he was developing in collaboration with multiple first language speakers and advanced learners. The project now collaborates with TMBCI and local school districts and has grown into an official research project. The project follows a three-step process of determining math vocabulary guided by first language speakers, developing video curriculum, and completing the cycle through implementation and feedback in local schools. The vision is eventually to have every North Dakota K-12 math and science standard have a video in Ojibwe and Michif teaching that standard. This is simply one aspect of a larger vision where all k-12 education is multilingual.

Danny Luecke is the developer/ instructor for the bachelor's degree in Secondary Math Education at Turtle Mountain College. The program has a focus on Indigenous math. He earned his Ph.D. in math and math education from North Dakota State University. His research focuses on Dakota/ Lakota Math Connections at Sitting Bull College as well as the Ojibwe/Michif Math Video Project at the Turtle Mountain College. He was born and raised in Fargo, North Dakota. His heritage is from many European nations as well as Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma where he is an enrolled member.





# Conference Sessions



## ***Using GIS to Leverage Data to Support the TMBCI Community*** **Kylie Keplin, Director of Operations** **Tribal Nations Research Group**

In this session, conference attendees will learn about how tools through ESRI's GIS platform can support Native Communities. The tools that ESRI offers provides a platform for communities, such as TMBCI, to leverage data that can be used to support efforts such as housing development, grant funding opportunities, and so much more. Although there is no current data to provide, this session will be the introduction to a new, innovative approach to data-driven decision making.

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## ***Panel: Culture Revitalization Efforts in the TMBCI Community***



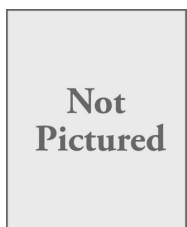
## **Jackie Frederick** **Library Media Specialist, Turtle Mountain Community High School**

Jacqueline (Jackie) Frederick (Noodin Aadizookaan) is an enrolled citizen of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa. She is also Karuk from northern California, and Tohono O'dham from Arizona. This is what the Indian Relocation Act looks like in the flesh. She graduated with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Elementary Education and began teaching at Turtle Mountain Elementary School. She obtained her certification in Library Media Science and has been the Library Media Specialist at Turtle Mountain High School since the fall of 2018. Jackie is married to Darrick (Diggets) Frederick and together they have five children.



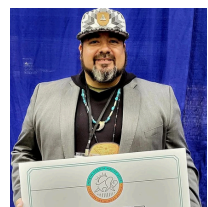
## **Danny Luecke, PhD** **Math and Math Education Faculty, Turtle Mountain College**

Danny Luecke is the developer/ instructor for the bachelor's degree in Secondary Math Education at Turtle Mountain College. The program has a focus on Indigenous math. He earned his Ph.D. in math and math education from North Dakota State University. His research focuses on Dakota/ Lakota Math Connections at Sitting Bull College as well as the Ojibwe/Michif Math Video Project at the Turtle Mountain College. He was born and raised in Fargo, North Dakota. His heritage is from many European nations as well as Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma where he is an enrolled member.



## **Julie Cain** **Licensed Addiction Counselor, Turtle Mountain Recovery Center**

Julie M. Cain (Holy Otter Women) Blackfeet married 45 years to the late Donald J. Cain, (Spotted War Eagle) Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa. Julie works for the Turtle Mountain Recovery Center as a Licensed Addiction Counselor. Julie has worked at the 5th Generation for 10 years as a LAC and was the Project Director for the Mommy and Me (TOR) Grant. Julie was the Chemical Health Center Director at United Tribes Technical for 20 years. Julie loves life and has 4 beautiful children and 7 grandchildren. Julie is an elder committee member that practices a traditional lifestyle. She loves the art world in which her and her husband Donald taught many community members the traditional way things were made and used for medicines.



## **Wes Davis** **Indigenous Energy Expert, Bear Soldier Xerg and Lightspring Solar**

Turtle Mountain Tribal Member, been in the Energy Sector for 20 years.

# Conference Sessions

Tribal Nations  
**TNRG**  
Research Group



## ***Detecting Freshwater Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) with Remote Sensing***

**Ananth Ramaseri (left) & Marlin Allery (right)**

**Turtle Mountain College**

Freshwater harmful algal blooms (HABs) pose global challenges, impacting water quality, public health, and ecosystems. Traditional detection methods, such as visual inspections and in-situ measurements, are time-consuming and often delayed. Our study suggests using high-resolution satellite imagery to automate HAB detection around the Turtle Mountain Reservation, enhancing efficiency, accuracy, and responsiveness for proactive water resource management.

Ananth Ramaseri-Chandra is a Computer Science Instructor and Program Developer at Turtle Mountain College (TMC), where he is dedicated to promoting student growth and innovation in the field of computer science. Alongside his position at TMC, Ananth is a Ph.D. candidate in Computer Science at the University of North Dakota. His research focuses on Virtual Reality, Software Engineering, and Data Analysis, and he is passionate about exploring how these technologies can be utilized to address complex real-world challenges. With a robust background in both academia and industry, Ananth is devoted to advancing the field of computer science through teaching, research, and development.

Marlin Allery is the Cybersecurity Instructor for Turtle Mountain College and has been teaching for 13 years. He worked as the IT Officer for Turtle Mountain State Bank for 2 years where he learned many of his Cybersecurity skills he has today. He was also part of the team who brought the Cybersecurity Program to Turtle Mountain College and was the lead in getting the college accredited as a NCAE-CD institution. TMC is the first and only college in the nation to receive this award.

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## ***Artwork: Healing and Identity Development***

**Bobby Lynn Frederick**

**Arizona State University**



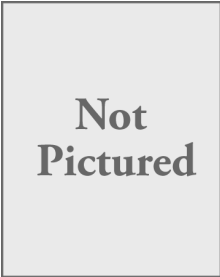
My dissertation explores how Indigenous artwork can be utilized as a tool to promote healing from issues within indigenous communities as well as influence identity development for Indigenous people. With existing issues involving intergenerational trauma since the time of colonialism, these impacts trickle into how people interact with their communities. Identity is tied to land, culture, ancestral knowledge, and spirituality. Through my personal experiences with artwork, I became rooted in my identity as an Indigenous woman through land, culture, ancestral knowledge, and spirituality and I felt a sense of healing through this work. It was also through my students at Turtle Mountain College who inspired me to pursue this journey. Identity then, through Indigenous artwork combines these four aspects, providing meaning in a personal narrative as well as through a collective sense of identity with the tribes that I represent.

Bobby Lynn Frederick is from the Crow Creek Sioux Tribe in Fort Thompson, South Dakota, and was raised on the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa reservation in North Dakota. Bobbi has been dancing fancy shawl since she was able to walk. She has traveled extensively throughout the United States and Canada dancing competitively. Bobbi also has a lifetime experience in creating beadwork and pow-wow dance outfits, and also started a small business where she sells other products such as jewelry, clutches, cross shoulder bags, and other Indigenous fashion accessories. She received her bachelor's degree in Indigenous and American Indian Studies from Haskell Indian Nations University in 2015. She earned her master's degree in Indigenous Education from Arizona State University (ASU) in 2021. She is currently enrolled in the Educational Leadership and Innovation doctoral program (EdD) at ASU. She is currently employed as an adjunct instructor at the Turtle Mountain College. Bobbie places high value on her students, family, education, and the teachings she was raised with. With her high regard for family, she is also a full-time stay at home mother and continues to dance competitively at powwows throughout the United States and Canada.





# Conference Sessions



***Wastewater Surveillance in Indian Country***  
**Christa Monette**  
**Turtle Mountain Public Health Department**

The Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians (TMBCI) serves a community of over 9,000 residents in rural northwest North Dakota. The region faces challenges such as extreme weather, seasonal tourism, limited road access, high traffic, and outdated infrastructure. Since June 2021, TMBCI has partnered with organizations like the CDC National Wastewater Surveillance System (NWSS) and the North Dakota State Laboratory to monitor SARS-CoV-2 through wastewater sampling. The session includes a brief description of wastewater surveillance and building a program infrastructure that fosters trust while protecting tribal data sovereignty.

Christa is an enrolled member of Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa and serves as the Wastewater Project Coordinator for the Turtle Mountain Public Health Department. In her role, she focuses on advancing public health through innovative wastewater surveillance initiatives, providing critical insights into community health trends. Christ is also deeply engaged in regional and community leadership. She serves on the Board of Directors for the Red River Basin Commission and the Assiniboine River Basin Commission, contributing to sustainable water resource management across the region. Additionally, she is an active member of the Turtle Mountain Heritage Center Board of Directors and the Mikinaak Oke Shelter Board of Directors, where she works to preserve heritage and support community well-being. Her dedication to environmental stewardship, public health, and community development reflects her passion for creating lasting positive impacts within her tribal community and beyond.



***Data Considerations at Turtle Mountain College***  
**Ace Charette- Director of Research, Assessment and Accreditation**  
**Turtle Mountain College**

This session will cover data trends at Turtle Mountain College that depict student success patterns and alignment to mission attainment. Attendees will consider data responsibilities within the college, as well as how data trends many inform institutional and community considerations. The presentation will include a walkthrough of various reports (and where to find them), other forms of how data is used for internal reporting, mission-specific data, and ways that this resonate with collaborative work amongst the TCU's.

Ace Charette is an enrolled member of the Little Shell Tribe and is the Director of Research, Assessment and Accreditation at Turtle Mountain College, having served in this professional role for nearly eight years. Ace enjoys supporting critical inquiries on the connection between data and student success. TCU mission attainment, and advocacy for indigenous-grounded good practice in the institutional research and accreditation roles.



# Conference Sessions



***Native Elder Voices: Findings from the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Tribal Elder Needs Assessment Survey***

**Collette Adamsen, PhD, MPA**

**National Resource Center on Native American Aging, UND**

In this session, conference attendees will learn about the “Identifying our Needs: A Survey of Elders” assessment and discuss cycle 8 data results specific to the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indian Elders. Topics to be covered will include how to use data to determine needs, the importance of reliable data, and how to use data to advocate for Native elders’ needs.

Collette Adamsen, PhD, MPA is a Research Assistant Professor and the Associate Director for Indigenous Health and Aging and Research and Evaluation at the Center for Ruel Health. She also serves as the Director of the National Resource Center on Native American Aging and the Resource Center on Native Aging and Disability at the University of North Dakota, School of Medicine and Health Sciences at the Center for Rural Health. Additional projects she oversees include the Native Urban Elders Needs Assessment Survey (NUENAS) and the Native Aging in Place Project (NAPP). Dr. Adamsen has over a decade of experience working in the areas of research, education, training, and technical assistance with American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian (AI/AN/NH) communities and with Native aging programs. In her position, she provides grant project direction and leadership, conducts both quantitative and qualitative research, manages data and specializes in working with American Indian/ Alaska Native/ Native Hawaiian (AI/AN/NH) elder populations. She is enrolled member of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians.



**Please Provide Your Feedback!**



TNRG would like to say

***Miigwech!***  
***Thank you!***  
***Merci!***

**To all the presenters, volunteers, and  
attendees!**

**&**

**A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO THE SKYDANCER  
HOTEL AND CASINO EVENT  
CENTER/CATERING STAFF AND  
GREY WILLOW LLC**