



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

Fast Facts

Woman's
History Month

Woman's History Month starts
in March, highlighting the
contributions of women.

Highlights

TNRG Associate Member Dr.
Shane Martin Superintendent

Also featuring Kylie Keplin!
! Page 6

NEWSLETTER

717, Chief Little Shell St. NE, Belcourt, ND | 2025 | www.tnrg.org



Tribal Nations Research Group

Tribal Nations Research Group promotes high quality research relevant to the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians. The research results provide custom fit data and data ownership, promotes public and private economic development and opportunity, and upholds positive images of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Community.

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What We Do:

Research Review Board
Community Engagement &
Education
Research and Development
Planning & Professional Services

WELCOME

Message from TNRG President Anita Frederick



Welcome, and thank you for visiting the Tribal Nations Research Group (TNRG).

At TNRG, we are deeply committed to empowering our tribal communities through high-quality research, data sovereignty, and culturally grounded methodologies that reflect the values and priorities of our people. Our work is guided by the principle that tribal community-led research leads to better outcomes—because we know our communities best.

As the President, I'm proud to lead a dedicated team that works collaboratively with tribal nations, organizations, and partners to produce research that is respectful, accurate, and impactful. Whether we are collecting vital data, evaluating programs, or supporting community-driven research initiatives, our mission remains clear: to ensure that tribal voices are not only heard but centered in every step of the research process.

Our vision is a future where tribal nations have full ownership of their data, where decisions are informed by reliable and relevant research, and where our children, families, and elders benefit from knowledge rooted in Tribal values and wisdom.

Thank you for supporting our work and for being part of this journey with us.

With gratitude,
Anita Frederick
President
Tribal Nations Research Group

UPDATES

Data Matters Conference 2025

“Coming Together with Data”

The 2025 Data Matters Conference was a successful event. It was a one and a half day held at the SkyDancer Event Center with about 150 attendees and 14 registered booths. The conference kicked off with an opening prayer with a song from Sipising Drum group following with introductions. All together there was 13 presenters including the panelists. Each presenter showcased the different ways data is used in their areas of work/ studies. This years conference was also unique in a way that it incorporated culture revitalization efforts!

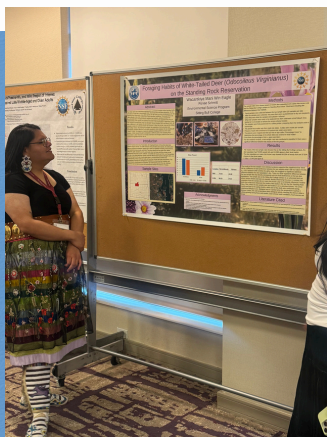
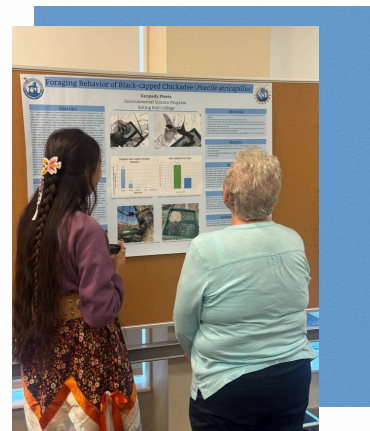
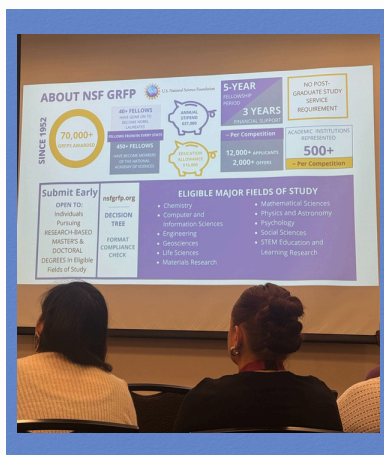
The Data Matters Conference was created to showcase the work and expertise of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Citizens and Researchers. TNRG hopes that at the Data Matters Conference you will learn about data and research and the importance of using both to identify problems and understand areas of concern and implement problem solving strategies. It's also an opportunity to create partnerships and connections with not only TNRG staff & associates, tribal members, and guests from other tribal communities, Rolette County, and our in and out of State friends.



UPDATES

2025 Tribal Colleges & Universities Program Research Symposium

The TCUP Symposium almost didn't happen! With everything going on shutdowns, holds, and so on TNRG and the NSF team were at a stand still and really had to figure out a way to make this event happen. With it's major up's and downs the 2025 TCUP Symposium turned out to be a successful one! With careful but quick planning from TNRG & NSF as well as much patience from the students and staff everyone was able to come together and learn from one another. This years Keynote Speaker was our very own TMBC tribal member Dr. Kelsey Morin from learner to leader. She was able to inspire the students by sharing her own story of success as well as make connections with other Tribal College staff. All together there were 10 oral presenters and 22 posters ranging from different topics such as wild life to maternal Pre-eclampsia. Each presenter brought their own unique research and were able to gain more information as well as a new experience for some! TNRG has another year of planning for the 2026 TCUP Symposium.



OLD NEWS

TNRG President Anita Frederick Speaks on Data Sovereignty at the 2024 Res Conference.

Anita Frederick attended the 2024 Res conference where she was asked to sit on a panel. The panel “Harnessing Tribal Wisdom: Data-Driven Strategies for Building a Stronger Economic Future” Anita was able to talk about the work TNRG is doing with data and how important data sovereignty is in Indian Country.

Tribal nations have a rich history of data use and strategy, dating back to ancestral knowledge of celestial patterns. This panel explores how the intersection of strategic planning, AI, machine learning, and data science can amplify tribal economic advancement. How can tribes leverage their historical data-driven approach to create a competitive edge in modern economic development? What role does ancestral wisdom play in shaping the future of tribal economic strategy and technology? Join us for an enlightening discussion on the fusion of tradition and innovation.



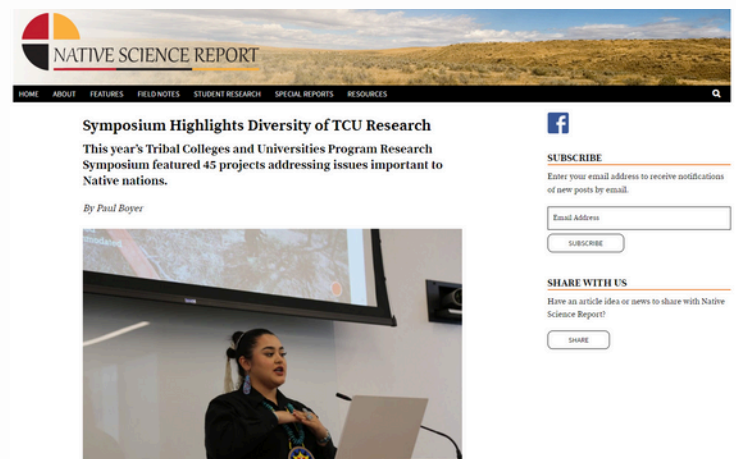
OLD NEWS

Native Science Report features Symposium Highlights TCU Research!

2024 Tribal Colleges and Universities Program Research Symposium, held Feb. 28-29 at the National Science Foundation in Alexandria, Virginia. Organized and facilitated by the Tribal Nations Research Group, the annual symposium spotlights the diversity of student and faculty-led research taking place at tribally controlled colleges and universities, as well as recognized Native-serving institutions.

This year's gathering featured ten oral and 35 poster presentations from 11 tribal colleges and the University of Alaska Fairbanks Northwest Campus, located in Nome. Represented disciplines ranged from biology, ecology and agriculture to chemistry, engineering and epidemiology.

To read more please click on the link below!
<https://nativesciencereport.org/2024/03/symposium-highlights-diversity-of-tcu-research/>



OLD NEWS

ESSER Learning Loss Grant Program

The ESSER Learning Loss Grant program was an initiative that the former Superintendent of the Belcourt School District, Dr. Michelle Thomas-Langan, initiated in the summer of 2023. The program's primary mission was to address the learning loss that the Belcourt School District students experienced during and after the COVID-19 pandemic. An additional goal of this program was to support the efforts of the Belcourt School District to enhance the community stakeholder's involvement in the school system

Tribal Nations Research Group (TNRG) was approached by the Belcourt School District, specifically Dr. Thomas-Langan, to assist in creating a review process for the ESSER Learning Loss Grant program. The intention with the partnership was to create an unbiased application process that offered technical assistance to potential grant applicants. It was expressed by the Belcourt School District that the process needed to be streamlined and guidelines were to be set in place. After much conversation, the overall purpose of the partnership came to be and it was determined that TNRG would provide district leaders with an equal and equitable third-party review process for community wide proposals and to provide technical assistance to proposal writers.

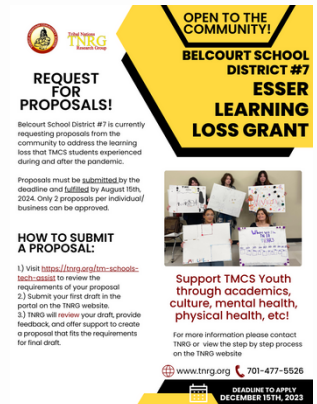
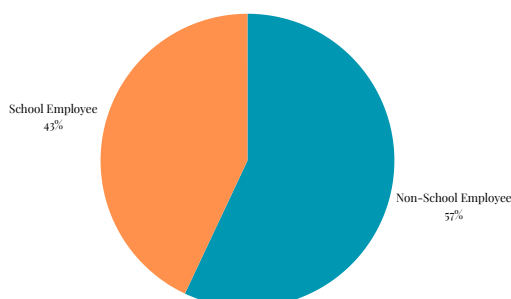
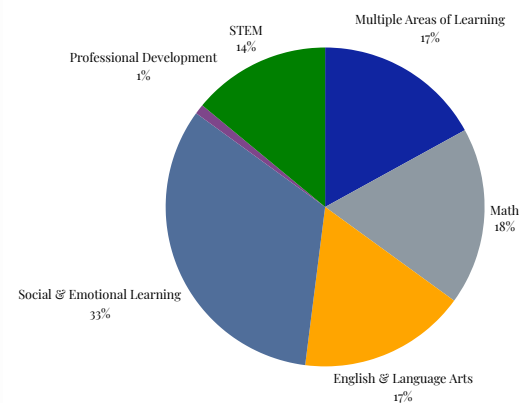


Figure 1 displays the percentage of the 101 proposals that were connected to each required learning area. In this figure, the data has shown that a large majority of proposals were connected to Social & Emotional Learning. This included cultural programs, cooking programs, digital literacy programs, physical activity programs, and so many more creative programs. The other areas were equally distributed, excluding professional development. Professional development was eventually excluded from the application process and these proposals were directed to the building administrators as we felt it wasn't our place to determine what was appropriate for each school.



One of the goals shared between TNRG and Belcourt School District was to promote positive stakeholder involvement with the school systems. The ESSER Grant Program allowed for those outside of the school system to offer programming that they have found, through research-based evidence, to positively influence the academic achievement and the social and emotional growth of students. Out of the 101 programs that were provided to Belcourt School District students, 57 of those programs were offered from stakeholders outside of the school system; Figure 2 reflects this.

HIGHLIGHTS

TNRG Employee Kylie Keplin

Kylie Keplin has been with TNRG since it's beginning, although she did work outside the organization she still managed to offer her assistance with different projects. She worked many jobs around the science/ data fields sharing her knowledge with the TMBC community especially the youth. She was an instructor at TMCHS for a couple years and helped students advanced in the science field and showed them different things like how to make a poster and present them, which a group of students did at the 2019 Data Matters Conference. She gave the students a step up by providing this information and helping them prepare for college especially around the science field. She is currently back at TNRG as the Director of Operations. Kylie offers valuable insight to the team as well as to her community through projects she has been diligently working on. While working Kylie has also been going to school dedicated to pursue her education and utilize it for her community.



Director of Operations



TNRG Associate Member Dr. Shane Martin Superintendent/ Athletic Director

Dr. Shane Martin is an enrolled member of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians (TMBCI) Tribe. He lives in Belcourt, N.D. and works at the local high school, Turtle Mountain Community High School on the TMBCI reservation. Dr. Martin received his Doctorate of Philosophy from the University of North Dakota.

Dr. Martin's professional interests include helping children become successful citizens. He does this with leadership and mentoring and serves as a volunteer. He enjoys helping the local community grow through infrastructure and programming. His areas of expertise are in community development and youth programming. He has assisted in many endeavors across the reservation in construction and programming and he feels that is his biggest asset.

Dr. Martin professional memberships and involvements include but are not limited to a current member of the Tribal Health Board, North Dakota Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association, Tribal Research Review Board, Turtle Mountain Middle School Parent Action Committee, Byron Dorgan Youth Wellness Center Board-President, National Strength and Conditioning Association, Certified Strength and Conditioning Association, Department of Public Instruction Certified Administrator and Educator, and was a past Board Member of the North Dakota High School Athletic Association.

NEW ASSOCIATE MEMBER

Dr. Tyler Parisien Allied Health Instructor, TMC

Dr. Tyler J. Parisien is an enrolled citizen of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa and currently serves as faculty at Turtle Mountain College. He holds a Doctorate in Higher Education Leadership from Concordia University, a Master of Science in Medical Laboratory science, and Bachelor of Science in Clinical Laboratory Science from the University of North Dakota. Dr. Parisien's professional interest include Indigenous education, higher education, higher education leadership, faculty development, and public health. He has extensive experience in accreditation, curriculum development, and student success strategies. His leadership has contributed to the development and oversight of several academic programs and grant-funded initiatives supporting Native student achievement.



He is a lifelong advocate for culturally responsive education and research, having published on topics such as decolonizing methodologies, Indigenous STEM education, and public health equity. He has served as Principal Investigator and Co-PI on grants through the U.S. Department of Education, NIH, and NSF. A Sequoyah Fellow and lifetime member of the American Indian Science & Engineering Society (AISES), Dr. Parisien also serves on the Faculty Advisory Board for the American Indian College Fund and reviews scholarships for Native Forward and the Cobell Scholarship. His dedication to advancing Indigenous representation in higher education has earned him national recognition, including the NCAIED 40 Under 40 Award. Dr. Parisien is deeply committed to serving Tribal communities through education, leadership, and mentorship, and continues to promote systems that support equity, access, and cultural sustainability in education.

Recent Publications:

Parisien, T. et al. (2022). "Recruiting Native Students into Science: Evaluating the Impact of Biomedical Genetic Research at Turtle Mountain Community College." Tribal College and University Research Journal, Volume 6.

Parisien, T. (2021). "To Have a Heart: Health Education at Turtle Mountain Community College." Tribal College Journal, 32(4).

Johnson, C. & Parisien, T. (2022). "Research with a Purpose: Decolonizing Methodologies at Turtle Mountain Community College." Tribal College Journal, 33(4).

Contributing author in Laboratory Screening and Diagnostic Evaluation: An Evidence-Based Approach. Springer Publishing (2021).

APPROVED RESEARCH

Genetics and Pre-eclampsia Study

PI: Lyle Best, Co-PI: Kelsey Morin

07/10/2024

The Molecular Basis of Inherited Reproductive Disorders

PI: Lyle Best, External PI's: Stephanie Seminara Ravikumar Balasubramanian Genetic Counselors: Cassandra Buck, Kayla Sheets

08/14/2024

Tissue and genotype specific expression of C-reactive protein: relation to cancer biology

PI: Lyle Best, External PI's: Dr. Gregg Gapp

08/14/2024

Multi-Site Implementation Evaluation of Tribal Home Visiting (MUSE)

PI: Nancy Whitesell External PI: Kate Lyon

02/12/2025

Modified Whittaker Plots as an assessment and monitoring tool for vegetation in the Turtle Mountains.

PI: Stacie Blue

04/09/2025

STEM Innovation Needs: Setting priorities for students from low resource communities

PI: Annmaria De Mars

08/14/2024

Measuring Rolette County Citizen Knowledge of Local Plants

PI: Stacie Blue, External PI's Dr. Christina Hargiss, NDSU School of Natural Resources Science

04/09/2025

Phase 1 of 2: Creating and Administering a Tribally Informed Risk and Protective Factor Survey utilizing an Indigenous Mixed Methods Approach

PI: Melanie Nadeau

08/14/2024

National Child HELP Partnership

PI: Elissa Brown, Co-PI's Jennifer Faul

08/14/2024

EAR-Climate Impacts of Recent Wetting on Cold Region Hydrologic Change in the Northern Great Plains

PI: Stacie Blue

04/09/2025

Multi-Site Study of State-Tribal Collaboration in Home Visiting (MUSE-STC)

PI: Nancy Whitesell, External PI's Erin Geary

02/12/2025

OPPORTUNITY

Become an Associate Member!

What is an associate member?

An Associate Member is an enrolled member of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians who wants to actively participate in research and initiatives that will improve the standard of living for American Indians. The Mission driving the Tribal Nations Research Group is "To improve the quality of life for all tribal members through culturally-competent, custom-fit research". Associate Members can either directly or indirectly apply their knowledge, expertise, and experiences toward addressing the publicly stated mission. An Associate Member can contribute independently or collaboratively with TNRG serving at the Catalyst for positive change among the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians (TMBCI).

Do I have to be enrolled?

We require that all associate members are enrolled members of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians tribe. This assumes that all associate members will have an intrinsic motivation to positively improve the welfare of the TMBCI community

How will I contribute?

We lean on our associate members in their areas of expertise and call on them often to help in different realms of our systems. We also promote their accomplishments on our website and at our events to help promote their careers.

**We want you to become an Associate Member
today to help shape a better tomorrow for the
Turtle Mountain Community Tribe!
To Locate the associate member page on our
website at [www. tnrg.org](http://www.tnrg.org)**

FUTURE EVENTS

Tribal Colleges & Universities Program Research Symposium 2026



SERVICES

- Community Assessments
 - Community Health Assessment
 - Food Sovereignty
- Community Surveys
- Data Collection & Analysis
- Research Review Board
- Research Catalog
- Program Evaluation
- Data Center
- Community Health Profile & Research Priority Coordination
- Conference Planning and Organization



PROJECTS

Using GIS to Leverage Data to support the TMBCI Community



PLATFORMS

Tribal Nations Research Group is currently on Facebook, Instagram, and updating our Twitter account. Be on the lookout for updates, news, events, and information. We also do a Quick Fact Friday and Lunch & Learns. Check it out!



TNRG Partnerships

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National Science Foundation



University of North Dakota



**Turtle Mountain Band of
Chippewa**



**Turtle Mountain Community
Public Schools**

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P.O Box 1906

(701)477-5526

www.tnrg.org

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