



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

## Fast Facts

### Non-Profit Day

**Native Nonprofit Day** is a giving initiative aimed at increasing support for Native-led organizations nationwide on May 19th!

## Highlights

### IRB Member Denise Lajimodiere

TNRG IRB Member Denise Lajimodiere becomes North Dakota's first Native American Poet laureate.

# QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

717, Chief Little Shell St. NE, Belcourt, ND | June 2023 | [www.tnrg.org](http://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:

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

## OLD NEWS

### Tribal Nations Research Group Hosts TCUP Research Symposium

The Tribal Nations Research Group (TNRG) in partnership with the National Science Foundation (NSF) hosted the Annual TCUP (Tribal College and Universities Program) Research Symposium on February 23rd, 2022. After over 20 years of holding an in-person research symposium, TNRG and NSF decided this year would be a good time to offer it virtually. It had been over two years since the last symposium was held due to the COVID-19 pandemic. TCUP funded tribal colleges/universities showcased current research by students and faculty to over 60 participants from across the nation, including several federal agencies. In total, twelve student researchers and seven faculty presented their research on a broad range of topics which have potential to greatly impact the ability for tribal communities to build infrastructure, plan for future use and care of land and resources, and monitor ongoing climate changes within their communities. Dr. Carty Monette opened the symposium with a warm welcome along with Dr. Jody Chase and Dr. Diana Elder, both from the NSF. Part of the TCUP goal is to encourage Tribal College and University students to conduct research in a way that utilizes common research practice through the lens of tribal people & communities. To express how important research and the TCUP program is to tribal communities, Dr. Jody Chase, lead program director of the National Science Foundation stated, "TRS is something that meant so much to the students in particular, it meant a lot to the NSF, it meant a lot to the faculty, but it really meant a lot to the students. Being able to host the symposium virtually, after the real possibility of having seen our last TRS, made this real for our community again". Anita Frederick, TNRG President, stated, "Community based research is so important to our communities, and immersing yourself into the communities and learning about them it's going to have such a great payoff in the end for our communities."

## TMHLC

### North Dakota Healthy Outcomes Program (NDHOP) selected to receive the NDPHA "Public Health Team of the Year Award"!

The Turtle Mountain Healthy Living Coalition will receive this award at the 2023 Awards Banquet during the Dakota Conference on Rural and public Health on June 15th, 2023. This award honors a team that has worked collaboratively on a unique, creative, or outstanding public health effort, program, or goal.





## UPDATES

### UND, Reginal Universities Receive National Science Foundation Engines Grant

Along with five other reginal universities, UND has been awarded nearly \$1 million from the U.S. National Science Foundation's Regional innovation Engines (NSF Engines) program. UND leads one of the 44 teams nationwide in receiving one of the first- ever NSF Engines Development Awards, which aims to help partners collaborate to create economic, societal and technological opportunities for their regions. UND and its partners from across four states in the region will work to build a framework ( the "engine") that catalyzes autonomous system development and fielding, enabling the accelerated realization of economic and humanitarian benefits from autonomous systems technology across a wide range of use cases.

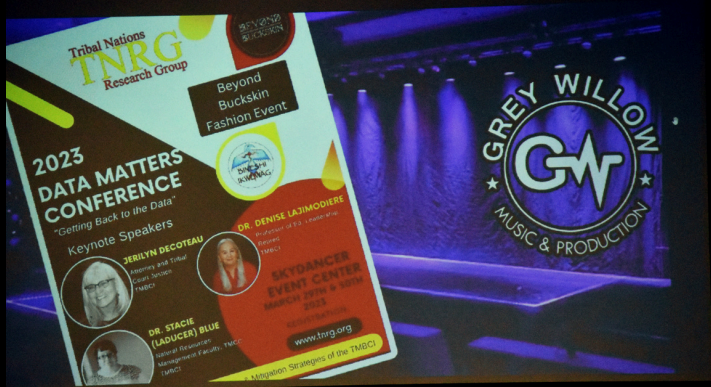
Und will focus on uncrewed aircraft, transportation, energy, national security, and rural health initiatives. The other reginal partners in the grant, as well as their focus areas, are: Tribal Nations Research Group (TMBCI), data protection mining, management, and tribal partner outreach; Montana State University, smart optical sensors; Montana State University MilTech, technology transition from research to commercialization; South Dakota Mines, mining and autonomous mining



A UND Research Institute of Autonomous Systems UAV is used to inspect a field. UND image

## Data Matters Conference

The 2023 Data Matters Conference was a huge success! We had an amazing turn out with 20 booths registered and about 200 attendees! The Data Matters Conference was one and a half day event and was held at the SkyDancer Event Center. The conference kicked off with Anita Frederick welcoming everyone and explaining a little about the conference. All together there was 13 presenters including the evening event panelists. All the presentations explained how data is used in different areas of work. Each presentation had it's own unique information/ data about their organization or study. The Data Matter Conference featured two keynote speakers Jerilyn DeCoteau and Dr. Stacie Blue both successful TMBCI enrolled members.



The Evening fashion show event put on by Dr. Jessica MetCalfe owner of Beyond Buckskin featuring Bineshi Ikwewag owned and operated by Dr. Angela LaRoocque and her family brought in a crowd of almost 300. The fashion show showcased not only beautiful pieces but beautiful native people as well! Grey Willow Production really did an amazing job with making our conference run smoothly and look amazing as well as the SkyDancer Casino staff! All in all the conference was successful and we look forward to the next one!

## UPDATES

## HIGHLIGHTS

### TNRG IRB Member Denise Lajimodiere becomes North Dakota's first Native American Poet Laureate!

North Dakota lawmakers have appointed Denise Lajimodiere a Chippewa woman as the states poet laureate, making her the first Native American to hold this position in the state and increasing attention to her expertise on the troubled history of Native American boarding schools. Dr. Lajimodiere, an author and retired university professor, hopes she can be a mentor to young writers from underrepresented communities in North Dakota



"I'm honored and humbled to represent my tribe. They are and always will be my inspiration."

"Indigenous Long Term Supports and Services: Elders, Traditional knowledge, and Tree Rings"



### Doctoral Presentation for Cole Allick-TNRG Assoicate Member!

Cole Allick, MHA (Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians), is the first PhD candidate in the Department of Indigenous Health to hold their doctoral defense. Cole is a Practice Based Research Network (PBRN) Coordinator and Tribble Liaison. His Primary role is developing, planning, and leading research engagement and outreach activities focused on urban and rural American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) populations, locally, regionally, and nationally.



### TNRG Associate Member Dr. Stacie (Laducer) Blue receives her doctorate!

Dr. Stacie (laducer) Blue, PhD earned a Bachelor of Science in Fisheries and Wildlife Biology from UND-Grand Forks, a Master of Science in Science Education from MSU Bozeman, MT, and Doctorate in Natural Resources Sciences from NDSU-Fargo. Stacie has worked for Turtle Mountain Community College for a total of 20 years. While at TMCC she has worked as an administrative assistant, project director, and science faculty member. She has also served as a research advisor to TMCC studets during the summers, and always looks forward to the next summer of student experiences which integrate Anisinabe culture and the Local environment

## HIGHLIGHTS

### TNRG Associate Member Dr. Rhea N. DeCoteau: PhD Nursing, B.S. Masters Nursing Master Education

Rhea received her Bachelor's of Science in Nursing in 2005 and Master's in Nursing- Education in 2009 both from the University of North Dakota. Her entire nursing career has been dedicated to the health and wellbeing of the Indigenous people She has worked as an both an operation room and public health nurse within tribal communities. In addition, she has worked as a clinical and didactic instructor wit the tribal college nursing LPN program. Most recently Dr. DeCoteau graduated from the University of Arizona with her PhD in Nursing focusing her dissertation research on health disparities and diabetes among American Indians; her dissertation is titled: "The Associations Among Seasonality, Food Insecurity, and Diet Quality on Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus Among American Indian Young Adults"



### TNRG Associate and IRB Board Member Publication Identification of Cancer Related Risk and Protective Factors for American Indian Youth: A Mixed Studies Review



Dr. Melanie Nadeau, aka Dr. Mel, is an enrolled citizen of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians in Belcourt, North Dakota. She Completed both her Master's in Public Health in community health education with a concentration in health disparities and her PhD in social/ behavioral epidemiology at the University of Minnesota School of Public Health. Dr. Mel is a community engaged scholar and has worked more than 18 years on various research and evaluation projects with tribal communities. She has successfully engaged a multitude of tribal health stakeholders from across the

nation and is dedicated to improving the health and well-being of Indigenous peoples. Dr. Mel currently serves as Health PhD program at the University of North Dakota School of medicine & Chippewa Indians Research Review Board, the American public Health Association's American Indian/ Alaska Native/ Native Hawaiian board, and as co-chair for the American Evaluation Association Indigenous Peoples in Evaluation Topical Interest Group.



# 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)**

## Esser Learning Loss Turtle Mountain Schools Grant

### What is the Esser Learning Grant?

The Esser Learning Loss Turtle Mountain Schools Grant supports individuals in the TMCS school district who like teaching and learning projects pertaining to closing the learning loss gap our students have experienced. The intent of the grant is to support proactive individuals in our district that want to integrate current or new strategies focused on increasing student achievement. These projects are new to TMCS and are expected to change or transform learning in community at the school, grade, or department in which they are implemented.

### Who is Eligible to Apply?

TMCS school employees, community members, individual teachers or collaborative teams including two or more teachers or staff members may apply. If a team applies, an individual must be identified at the primary contact. Guidance counselors may apply for the grant if the project will benefit students in the classroom.

### Application Guidelines:

- All Applicants must include assurance of school administration approval
- Grant applications may include some professional development and training.
- Grant may be used to fund initiatives promoting increasing student achievement.
- All expenditures will be managed through the district
- The project must be completed and have expenditures by 2 weeks after project closing.
- A final reflection on the project and documentation of all expenditures is required.
- Information about the grant projects and recipients will be published on the school webpage

## DATA CENTER

Tribal Nations Research Group has been working consistently to get the Data Center up and running. We currently are dealing with some road blocks but Kylie Keplin Director of Operations has been working diligently to make sure the Data Center will be easy to work with for those who are researching or just collecting data. Presently all the policies are drafted and the website is currently being built. TNRG's number one goal is to create a safe space where the TMBCI's data is protected as well as for those seeking public knowledge to be able to access it without any struggle!



### REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

OPEN TO THE COMMUNITY!!

Belcourt School District #7 is currently requesting proposals from the community to address the learning loss that TMCS students experienced during and after the pandemic.

Tribal Nations Research Group will provide technical assistance with proposal writing and reporting procedures, so your proposal comes to life!

We invite you!



#### How to submit a proposal:

1. Visit: <https://tnrg.org/tm-schools-tech-assist> to review the requirements of your proposal.
2. Submit your first draft.
3. TNRG will review your draft, provide feedback, and offer support to create a proposal that fits the requirements.
4. Submit final draft for District Superintendent review.

For more information,  
please contact  
Tribal Nations Research Group

Website:  
<https://tnrg.org/tm-schools-tech-assist>

Phone: 701-477-5526  
Email: [admin@tnrg.org](mailto:admin@tnrg.org)

## FUTURE EVENTS

### TCUP Research Symposium

Tribal Nations Research Group will be facilitating Tribal Colleges & Universities Program Research Symposium funded by the National Science Foundation on August 9th & 10th, 2023 in Washington D.C

Save The Date  
**2023 TCUP Research Symposium**

August 9th & 10th, 2023  
Washington D.C  
[www.tnrg.org](http://www.tnrg.org)  
[www.nsf.gov](http://www.nsf.gov)



## 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**



**Administration for Native Americans**



**Turtle Mountain Band of  
Chippewa**



**University of North Dakota**



Committed to the future of rural communities.

**United States Department of  
Agriculture**

**Tribal Chartered**

**501c3**

**Non-Profit Organization**

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**The Bush Foundation**

