

2026



NWTEC
NPAIHB



Summer Research Training Institute

for American Indian and Alaska Native Health
Professionals and Students

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NW NARCH

NORTHWEST NATIVE AMERICAN RESEARCH CENTER FOR HEALTH

The goal of the NW NARCH is to improve tribal health by increasing the number of American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) people who are engaged in biomedical and social science research and who can **bring the benefits of academic research into their communities**. The Summer Research Training Institute (SRTI) is just one of many NW NARCH programs designed to improve your research skills.

Dates

June 8-19, 2026

Location

Residence Inn Portland
Downtown/RiverPlace
2115 S River Pkwy,
Portland, OR 97201



**Training for the next
generation of tribal
health researchers**

Details

Hotel Block

Fill out this form if you would like to be added to our hotel block at the **Residence Inn Portland Downtown /Riverplace.**



<https://forms.office.com/r/kJkQvHhUdi>

Who Should Attend

Anyone interested in developing **research skills** to benefit AI/AN health including:

- Native health professionals
- Undergraduate and graduate students
- Health administrators
- Community health workers
- Researchers
- Program managers

Build your own course schedule

1. Choose your courses
2. **Register on CVENT**
3. Wait for registration approval
4. Accept course calendar invites
5. Accept invites to classes on Canvas to access course materials

SRTI Schedule

Customize your schedule to fit your needs.

Week 1

Pacific Time	Monday 6/8	Tuesday 6/9	Wednesday 6/10	Thursday 6/11	Friday 6/12
9 AM- 12 PM	AI/AN Adolescent Health				
	Cancer Prevention & Control				
	Community-Based Participatory Research				
Break					
1:30- 4:30 PM	Introduction to Grant Writing				
	Introduction to Epidemiology				
	Grant Management & Budgeting				

Week 2

Pacific Time	Monday 6/15	Tuesday 6/16	Wednesday 6/17	Thursday 6/18	Friday 6/19
9 AM- 12 PM	NIH Grant Writing & Research Design				
	Graphic Design & Health Promotion				
	Intro to Data Science			Data Wrangling in R	
Break					
1:30- 4:30 PM	Research Ethics in Indian Country				
	Designing Surveys	Intro to ArcGIS		Intro to Data Viz	

Course Descriptions

Week 1

AI/AN Adolescent Health

6/8-6/12 from 9 AM - 12 PM

with Celena Ghost Dog, MPH, CPH (Navajo), Amanda Gchachu Kakuska, MAT (Zuni Pueblo), & Michelle Singer (Navajo)

Join members of the NPAIHB Adolescent Health team to build the skills and know-how needed to design and evaluate culturally relevant health programs for AI/AN teens and young adults, and to assess the readiness of your community to select and implement adolescent health programs. The class will feature the Implementation Mapping process used to design the Healthy Native Youth website, share youth-led research and evaluation models, and discuss the mixed methods research methods used to design We R Native - sharing examples, best practices, & case studies to demonstrate evidence of effectiveness. By the week's end, you will have a better understanding of how culturally relevant frameworks are created through a youth-centered lens.

Cancer Prevention & Control

6/8-6/12 from 9 AM - 12 PM

with Charles Wiggins, MSPH, PhD

In this course, you will gain a foundational knowledge in cancer control and prevention. We will begin by defining cancer and learning about basic concepts used to characterize cancer. Then, the course will dive into cancer surveillance, with topics on public health surveillance, measures of disease frequency and association, and age-adjusted rates. Next, you will learn how to screen for cancer and understand cancer in terms of epidemiological study designs. The course will end with identifying and utilizing internet based cancer control resources.

Community-Based Participatory Research

6/8-6/12 from 9 AM - 12 PM
with Victoria Warren-Mears, FAND, RND, PhD

This course will provide an introduction to community-based participatory research (CBPR) as a form of community-engaged research with tribal communities. This class will introduce concepts of effective CBPR, discuss standard methods of gathering information, and the value of community involvement in data collection through the use of representative CBPR studies. Upon completion of this course, you should have more confidence and competence in using CBPR techniques with their tribal communities.

Introduction to Grant Writing

6/8-6/12 from 1:30 PM - 4:30 PM
with Rachel Dresbeck, PhD

Writing successful proposals is important for public health professionals, whether they are trying to secure funding for a research project or fund an important program. This workshop will cover the basics of grant writing, including how to write effectively and persuasively, the various components of proposals, basic budgeting, and strategies to increase success. We will cover several types of grants (depending on participant needs) as well as the secrets of grant review. We will spend time on your own writing process, discussing and practicing strategies for improving writing productivity and developing your writing style. You will be able to benefit from individual coaching, if desired.

Introduction to Epidemiology

6/8-6/12 from 1:30 PM - 4:30 PM
with Marc Emerson, PhD (Diné and Jemez)

This course will involve content & exercises on basic principles of epidemiology: (1) epidemiology uses & thinking, (2) measures of disease frequency and association, (3) basic statistics, bias, and confounding relevant to these measures, and (4) commonly used study designs.

Grant Management & Budgeting

6/8-6/12 from 1:30 PM - 4:30 PM
with Linda Burhansstipanov, DrPH, MSPH (Cherokee Nation)

You will learn more about development of grant budgets for NIH, techniques for monitoring grant spending, and methods for tracking grant benchmarks/achievements in an efficient manner. We will make extensive use of Excel software. Each day will include hands-on exercises, short quizzes, and problem-solving for real-life grant-related challenges. The instructor has many decades of experience with grant management and is delighted to share her expertise. No pre-requisites, although some familiarity with Excel will help make the learning process more efficient.

Course Descriptions

Week 2

NIH Grant Writing & Research Design

6/15-6/19 from 9 AM - 12 PM

with Linda Burhansstipanov, DrPH, MSPH (Cherokee Nation)

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) grant writing course will focus on the NIH grant process. Be prepared to come to class with a grant idea as we will work on it throughout the week. The course also will briefly summarize additional funding sources and mechanisms under-utilized by Indigenous programs. Process evaluation data will be collected using Poll Everywhere and requires that trainees have their smart phone with them daily. You will have a chance to share your grant idea to the class. Class topics will include, but not be limited to, overviews and/or practice using: NIH resources and sample applications, NIH grant review criteria, grant mechanisms, grant titles, detailed description, research questions and hypotheses, specific aims statements, specific aims page, approach (research strategy)/significance & innovation, timeline, budget and budget justification, data management and sharing plans, NIH protection of human subjects, data and scientific evidence, finding a study section, partnerships/community-based participatory research (CBPR) principles, project summary, bio sketch, a walk-through NIH forms, and what happens to your grant once submitted online. Each day will have in class and/or after class homework. Polling and quizzes will be administered during the week. Your satisfaction with the training will be collected on Friday.

Graphic Design for Health Promotion

6/15-6/19 from 9 AM - 12 PM
with Jill Neumeister, BS (Pawnee)

In this course, you'll learn how to use graphic design principles to enhance digital and print health promotion and research materials. You'll explore key concepts like visual hierarchy, spacing, typography, and color to create more effective communications. No prior design background is needed. The course encourages active participation, letting you work with familiar layout tools such as Canva, InDesign, Illustrator, Word, or Pages. Please bring a current project or an idea for a project to develop during the week. Each day includes dedicated time to work independently on your project, supported by hands-on guidance and feedback from the instructor. On the last day, you'll have the opportunity to present your finished work to the class.

Introduction to Data Science Methods

6/15-6/16 from 9 AM - 12 PM
with Alicia Johnson, MPH

Data science is a rapidly evolving field that includes many content areas that may be familiar: data wrangling and visualization, statistical inference, and regression modeling. But data science also encompasses techniques that efficiently search datasets that are large, and sometimes enormous, to discover patterns or clusters – this is known as “machine learning”. In this session, you will be exposed to several data science techniques commonly employed in the health sciences. We will provide examples of a variety of methods, some with Native-focused datasets, and will include demonstrations of some analyses in R and RStudio. You will have access to the code and datasets to practice using these methods. As a group, you will have the opportunity to discuss some of the opportunities and challenges of working with high-dimensional data. Please bring your laptop to class.

Data Wrangling & Summarizing in R

6/18-6/19 from 9 AM - 12 PM
with Jessica Minnier, PhD

In this two-day course, we will introduce the freely available statistical software programs R and RStudio. No prior experience is necessary. We will cover how to use RStudio to write and run code, introduce data structure types, and demonstrate commands for working with data: loading, viewing, summarizing, plotting, cleaning, and saving. You will learn basic R data wrangling and plotting principles, and how to use them to create high-quality reproducible documents to present your work. Please bring your laptop to class.

Research, Ethics, & Values in Indian Country

6/15-6/19 from 1:30 PM - 4:30 PM
with Rosalina James, PhD (Lummi and Duwamish)

During this course, you will learn about the importance of research with AI/AN communities in the role of ethics and review processes. The curriculum will cover case studies detailing historical research missteps and trauma, best practices on conducting research with tribes, overview of human subjects research and institutional review board, informed consent, and emerging ethical issues. By the end of this course, you will develop a mock research idea concerning a tribe and deliver a presentation outlining best practices and research ethics.

Designing Survey Instruments

6/15 from 1:30 PM - 4:30 PM
with Barbara Brumbach, PhD

Surveys can be a very useful tool for gathering data, and this course provides guidance on how to get started. You will learn some tools for thinking through whether to make use of existing surveys or write your own from scratch, and in the latter case, how to construct questions that will shed light on your research question. Using several case studies as examples, we will think through cultural considerations, discuss pitfalls such as built-in assumptions, and talk through strategies for measuring things that are difficult to capture directly.

Introduction to ArcGIS

6/16-6/17 from 1:30 PM - 4:30 PM
with Joshua Tootoo, MS, GISP

This course will provide a gentle introduction to ArcGIS Online (AGOL) a web-based GIS tool for visualizing/analyzing spatial data, and creating maps. You will learn how to create a map that conveys information clearly, and will have the opportunity to create an interactive map of your own with publicly available datasets. No previous experience with creating maps is necessary to take this course. We will provide named user licenses to registered students. We will send information on how to use these licenses before the first-class session. Please bring your laptop to class.

Introduction to Data Visualization

6/18 from 1:30 PM - 4:30 PM
with Nicole Smith, MPH & Karuna Tirumala, MPH

This course will get you started in creating charts and graphs using Excel. You'll have the opportunity to do some hands on work with the help from your instructors. We will discuss strategies for effective data visualizations, including choosing the right chart type, tailoring to your audience, and using data to create a story and focused message. We'll be constructing charts in Excel together and you'll leave with a few custom templates to use in your future data visualization work.



Sponsors, **thank you** for your ongoing support.



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Questions? Email us at
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