

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 tribal 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

Register Here



Deadline to register: 5/1/26

<https://cvent.me/P81e9D>

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 for 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 needed to design and evaluate culturally relevant health programs for AI/AN teens and young adults. We will demonstrate how 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 research methods used to design We R Native. We will share examples, best practices, and case studies to demonstrate evidence of effectiveness. By the end of the course, 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 & Tom Becker, MD, PhD

In this course, you will gain foundational knowledge in cancer prevention and control. We will define cancer and explore concepts used to characterize cancer. Course topics will include: cancer screening, cancer surveillance, public health surveillance, measures of disease frequency and association, and age-adjusted rates. We will also discuss cancer in terms of epidemiological study designs. The course will end with learning how to identify and utilize 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 will be an introduction to community-based participatory research (CBPR) as a form of community-engaged research with tribal communities. You will learn key concepts of effective CBPR, including 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 applying CBPR techniques in 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 to secure funding for research projects and public health programs. In this workshop you will learn the basics of grant writing, including: how to write effectively and persuasively, the various components of proposals, creating budgets, and strategies to increase your success. We will explore several types of grants (depending on your needs) and learn the secrets of grant review. You will spend time working on your own writing process, discussing and practicing strategies to improve writing productivity, and develop your writing style. We will also offer individual coaching for those interested.

Introduction to Epidemiology

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

Learn basic principles of epidemiology through a combination of lecture and hands-on exercises on these topics: (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)

This course provides the opportunity to learn more about developing grant budgets for NIH (National Institutes of Health), techniques for monitoring grant spending, and methods for tracking grant benchmarks/achievements in an efficient manner. We will use Excel software extensively, so please bring your laptop to class. Each day will include hands-on exercises, short quizzes, and problem-solving for real-life grant-related challenges. Dr. Burhansstipanov 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)

During this course, you will learn the NIH grant writing process, from developing an idea to submitting a strong application. Please come to class with a grant idea that you can develop and refine throughout the week. We will use Poll Everywhere, so be prepared to access it on your smart phone. 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 principles, project summary, bio sketch, a walk-through NIH forms, and what happens to your grant once submitted online. You will also receive a brief summary of additional funding sources and mechanisms under-utilized by Indigenous programs. 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)

During this course, you will learn how to use graphic design principles to enhance digital and print health promotion and research materials. You will explore key concepts such as visual hierarchy, spacing, typography, and color to create more effective communications. No prior design background is needed. Please bring a current project (or an idea) to develop throughout the week. Your instructor, an Indigenous principal graphic designer, will provide hands-on guidance and feedback during dedicated time to work on your project. You are welcome to use any graphic design platform you are familiar with such as Canva, InDesign, Illustrator, Word, or Pages. On the last day, you will 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. This course will provide an introduction to several data science techniques frequently used in health sciences. You will see examples of analyses of Native-focused datasets and demonstrations in R and RStudio. You will have access to datasets to practice during class, so please bring your laptop. As a group, we will discuss some opportunities and challenges of working with high-dimensional data.

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 provide an introduction to 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. During this course, 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

Join us for this introduction to ArcGIS Online (AGOL), a web-based GIS tool for visualizing/analyzing spatial data and creating maps. With hands-on help from your instructor, you will learn how to create an interactive map that conveys information clearly with publicly available datasets. We will provide a named user license for ArcGIS and send information on how to get started before the first class session. No previous experience with creating maps is necessary to take this course.

Introduction to Data Visualization

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

During this course, you will learn how to create charts and graphs using Excel. We will cover strategies for effective data visualization, including how to choose the right chart type, tailor visuals to your audience, and use data to tell a clear story and focused message. You will have the chance to work on charts and graphs during class. By Friday, you will leave the course with a set of custom templates to use in your future data visualization work.



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



Native American Research
Centers for Health



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 Questions? Email us at
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