

## Our Vision

To advance American Indian public health.

## Our Mission

Empower tribal nations to achieve American Indian public health equity through community-driven education, policy, research, and services.



## Native STAND Culture Camp



In August, with 20 youth leaders from the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe we launched the Native STAND (Students Together Against Negative Decisions) Culture Camp. Native STAND is a sexual health education curriculum that is comprehensive, medically accurate, and culturally responsive for Native youth. We talked about real-life topics that Native youth face all while centering

culture and tradition.

Many thanks to our community partners from the **Standing Rock Youth Council, Standing Rock Community Development Corporation's Youth Development Program, Indigenized Youth, the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe Tribal Wellness Program, and the Partnership to Advance Tribal Health.**

## MDH Tribal SHIP and Tribal Tobacco Evaluation



Since 2017, we have partnered with 10 Minnesota tribes and the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) to evaluate the Tribal Statewide Health Improvement Partnership (SHIP) and Tribal Tobacco Program utilizing the Indigenous Evaluation Framework from the American Indian Higher Education Consortium (AIHEC). 10 tribal governments in Minnesota are funded by state grants to reduce and prevent commercial tobacco use by youth, to promote community-driven commercial tobacco prevention, to increase physical activity in the community, and to expand healthy eating and nutrition with traditional foods.

Tribal SHIP and Tribal Tobacco grantees developed program evaluation plans that specifically included the unique traditional values and cultures of each of the 10 tribal communities. **Tribal grantees include the communities of Red Lake, White Earth, Upper Sioux, Lower Sioux, Prairie Island, Mille Lacs, Fond du Lac, Leech Lake, Bois Forte, and Grand Portage.**

## 2019 Tribal MCH Symposium

Over 70 people attended our 2019 Tribal Maternal Infant and Child Health (MCH) Symposium November 20-21, hosted by the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe in Fort Yates, ND, at Prairie Knights Casino and Resort. The results of the ND Tribal Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring Survey (PRAMS) anchored the program and highlighted necessary improvements in prenatal care, access to oral health care, and health insurance coverage for North Dakota's tribal communities. Rain McNeil of the California Indian Health Board served as keynote speaker with a presentation on lateral oppression.

On the first night of the Symposium, the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians, and the CDC Tribal High Obesity Program hosted a community dinner and a cultural fitness demonstration by students from McLaughlin High School. This year's event was made possible through support from the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, ND Dept of Health Maternal and Infant Health Division, Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Dakota Caring Foundation, and the Awesome Foundation of Cass-Clay.

## New Leadership



VANESSA TIBBITTS,  
AIPHC PROGRAM  
LEADER

Vanessa Tibbitts (Oglala Lakota) was promoted to Program Leader of AIPHC in May. She continues to hold the Services Project portfolio and previously served as the Education Project Manager. Vanessa joined AIPHC in 2014 and has worked in the public health field for over 15 years. She is a graduate of Oglala Lakota College with a BS in Human Services and a MA in Lakota Leadership and Management.

In August, Dr. Pamela Jo Johnson was appointed Chair of the Department of Public Health at NDSU. She has a Master's degree in Public Health and a PhD in social epidemiology. Dr. Johnson is experienced with community-engaged research, having collaborated with community organizations, healthcare delivery systems, state and local public health units, and American Indian tribes. Prior to graduate school, she worked as the director of youth programs at an American Indian community center in Minneapolis where she developed culturally-appropriate health education programs for American Indian youth in collaboration with American Indian professionals and elders.