

11th N-NURSE Symposium



Bits'i'yishtłizhii sáanii dóó alchíní bah á' dahwiizaágo bits'íís bah'ahá yqh:

Indigenous Pathways to Maternal and Child Health

The symposium offers a unique opportunity to engage in meaningful dialog bridging Indigenous and Western perspectives on maternal and child health wellness. Participants will embark on a transformative journey along the Pathway of the Sun guided by Indigenous leaders who excel in clinical care, environmental stewardship and policy advocacy.

Guided by Diné Native Medicine Leaders;
Roland Begay and Sheila Goldtooth

November 5-7, 2025

Indian Pueblo Cultural Center
Albuquerque, New Mexico

Join N-NURSE!

Learn from our featured speakers.

Celebrate regional native student scholars and a new Living Legend Awardee at the Honoring Banquet.

Engage and Network with speakers, participants and authors.

Practice self care.

SYMPOSIUM AIMS:

1. Examine social, environmental and structural determinants of maternal and child Health.
2. Strategize to leverage practice, cultural and policy approaches to achieve cultural safety and justice in maternal and child health.
3. Engage in dialog and mentorship to understand justice imperatives for improving indigenous health.
4. Reflect and evaluate pathways to reconciliation in health for indigenous families and communities.

Learn about the Symposium featured speakers:

REGISTER NOW

Saraswathi Vedam, PhD, RM, FACNM, SciD

Birth Place Lab Principal

University of British Columbia

<https://scienceofbirth.ubc.ca/people/saraswathi-vedam>

Johnnye Lewis, PhD

Navajo Birth Cohort Study Founding PI

University of New Mexico

<https://hsc.unm.edu/directory/lewis-johnnye-cc.html>

Margaret Moss, PhD, JD, RN, FAAN, FADLN, [Hadatsa/Dakhó]

Associate Dean, Nursing and Health Policy

University of Minnesota

<https://nursing.umn.edu/our-faculty-staff/our-faculty/margaret-moss>

Jennifer Richards, PhD, MPH

Center for Indigenous Health

Johns Hopkins University

<https://cih.jhu.edu/our-team/jennifer-richards/>

Nicolle L Arthun, BSN, MSN, CNM, FACNM

Founder, Changing Woman Initiative

CEO, Transcending Strategies LLC

<https://healthpolicyfellows.org/directory/nicolle-arthun-rn-cnm-facnm/>

Tina Pattara-Lau, MD, FACOG

Maternal and Child Health Consultant

Office of Clinical and Preventive Services Indian Health Service

https://www.ihs.gov/sites/MCH/themes/responsive2017/display_objects/documents/pattaralau.pdf

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N-NURSE ELEVENTH SYMPOSIUM AGENDA

Preliminary Program

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November 5-7, 2025 Indian Pueblo Cultural Center
Albuquerque, New Mexico

Bits'i'yishtlizhii sáanii dóó alchinií bah á' dahwiizaágo bits'íís bah'ahá yqh: Indigenous Pathways to Maternal and Child Health

Wednesday, November 5, 2025

7:30 AM Registration and Breakfast Buffet



East: Nitsáhákees

Beginning; Thinking in more ways than one; Awareness

8:00 - 8:30 am *Opening Prayer and Song, Roland Begay, Native Medicine Coordinator, Chinle, AZ*

Opening Remarks, Ursula Knoki-Wilson, MSN, MPH, President N-NURSE, Inc

*Welcome, Dean Rosario Medina, PhD, RN, FNP-BC, ACNP, CNS, FAANP, FAAN
University of New Mexico, College of Nursing*

8:30 - 10:00 am *We have met the enemy and they are us: How do pregnant service users define quality and safety?*

*Saraswathi Vedam, PhD, RM, FACNM, SciD
Professor of Midwifery and Birth Place Lab Principal
University of British Columbia*

10:00-10:30 am *Health Break*

10:30—Noon *East: Birth of White Shell Woman*

Sheila Goldtooth, BA, MA, Native Medicine Coordinator, Gallup, NM

Noon – 1:00pm **Poster Session and Box Lunches**



South: Nahat'á

Planning; Expectations; Finding one's voice/expression

1:00—1:30 pm *Puberty Rite of Changing Woman*

Sheila Goldtooth, BA, MA, Native Medicine Coordinator, Gallup, NM

1:30—3:00 pm *Understanding Navajo Children's Developmental Trajectories, Risks, and Actions to Maximize Potential through the Navajo Birth Cohort Study*

*Johnnye Lewis, PhD
Professor Emeritus and Founder & current co-Director of Navajo Birth Cohort Study
University of New Mexico*

3:00 – 4:00 pm **Poster Session and Break**

4:00 – 5:00 pm

*Living Life Powerfully:
Johanna and Waylon Pee Pahona
Native Lifeway*

5:00- 6:00 pm **Poster Session**

Thursday, November 6, 2025

[REGISTER NOW](#)



West: liná

Bring improvement to life; Application based on values

Breakfast Buffet

8:00 – 8:30 am Welcome – Traditional Prayer
Sheila Goldtooth, BA, MA Native Medicine Coordinator, Gallup, NM

Living life, Warrior Twins and Peaceful Living
Roland Begay, Native Medicine Coordinator, Chinle, AZ

8:30 am – 10:00 am *Achieving Health through Truth and Reconciliation* Margaret Moss, PhD, JD, RN, FAAN [Hadatsa/Dakhó] Professor and Associate Dean for Nursing and Health Policy University of Minnesota

10:00—10:30 am *Health Break and Breath Work*
Johanna and Waylon Pee Pahona, Native Lifeway

10:30—Noon *Navajo parenting education and doula study*
Jennifer Richards, PhD, MPH
Assistant Professor, Center for Indigenous Health
Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health

Noon – 1:00 pm **Lunch on your own**
Student Luncheon; Regina Eddie, PhD, RN and Vanessa Tahe, DNP, RN, CPNP-PC, facilitators

1:00 pm – 2:30 pm *Panel Discussion: Living Mentorship and Cultural Safety*
Moderator: Regina Eddie, PhD, RN
Vice President, N-NURSE, Inc
Associate Professor, Northern Arizona University

2:30 pm – 3:00 pm *Break*

3:00 pm – 4:30 pm *Medicine Bundle for Living Life: Engagement and application* led by Margaret Moss, PhD

6:00 pm **Honoring Banquet and Silent Auction**

FRIDAY, November 7, 2025



North: Siihasin

Reflecting; Silence; Being rather than doing; Wisdom; Self efficacy

Breakfast Buffet

8:00 - 8:30 am	<i>Traditional Prayer</i> Roland Begay, Native Medicine Coordinator, Chinle, AZ
	<i>Elders and Opening Door Cane</i> Roland Begay, Native Medicine Coordinator, Chinle AZ
8:30 – 9:30 am	<i>Beyond the Birth Room: Sustainability through relationship building, policy, and politics</i> Nicolle L. Arthun, BSN, MSN, CNM, FACNM. CEO, Transcending Strategies, LLC Founder, Changing Woman Initiative
9:30—10:00 am	<i>Health Break and Breath Work</i> Johanna and Waylon Pee Pahona, Native Lifeways
10:00 -11:00 am	Pathways in Maternity Care in Indian Health Service Tina Pattara-Lau, MD, FACOG Maternal and Child Health Consultant, Indian Health Service
11:00 – 12:00	<i>Reflection Panel: Symposium speakers</i> Ursula Knoki-Wilson, MSN, MPH, President, Facilitator, President, N-NURSE, Inc
12:10 pm	<i>Closing Session: Sacred Mountains and Journey Song</i> Roland Begay, Native Medicine Coordinator, Chinle, AZ

REGISTER NOW

***Book a hotel for the
Symposium***