Keynote Speaker

Professor Linda Tuhitself Smith
BA, DipTch MA(Hons), Ph.D
Ngāti Awa / Ngāti Porou
Pro Vice-Chancellor Māori
Professor of Education and Māori Development

Professor Linda Tuhitself Smith is currently Pro-Vice Chancellor Māori at the University of Waikato. She has worked in the field of Māori education for many years as an educator and researcher and is well known for her work in Kaupapa Māori research. Professor Smith has published widely in journals and books. Her book “Decolonising Methodologies Research and Indigenous Peoples” has been an international best seller in the indigenous world since its publication in 1998. More recently Professor Smith was a Joint Director of Nga Pae o Te Maramatanga, New Zealand’s Māori Centre of Research Excellence and a Professor of Education at the University of Auckland. She is well known internationally as a public speaker. Professor Smith is from two iwi in New Zealand, Ngāti Awa and Ngāti Porou.

Other Participants (in order of April 16-17th agenda placement)

John Lowe, Cherokee, PhD, RN
Associate Professor
Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing
Florida Atlantic University.

Dr. John Lowe's contributions to the profession are heavily based in his research program, which has evolved from his doctoral dissertation, "Cherokee Self-Reliance", which investigated cultural values that contribute to the Cherokee Nation's health and well-being, particularly in regards to the substance use and abuse. He has developed and published "A Cherokee Nation's Prevention and Therapeutic Management Self-Reliance Model," that was conceptualized during his dissertation work. The dissertation and his doctoral studies were supported by the EMFP. Dr. Lowe has continued to focus on research that was initially developed during his fellowship years, and he has been successful in attaining funding for several of his research initiatives. Examples of funded studies that have evolved from his dissertation include:

"The Teen Intervention Project - Cherokee (TIP-C)", is an intervention study that utilizes a combined student assistance program and the Cherokee Self-Reliance Model. The interventions are specifically designed for Cherokee Nation teen substance abuse prevention, and are conducted within Cherokee Nation Schools. The National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism Minority Supplemental Grant to R01 AA10246-05S1 funds this study.
"The Teen Intervention /Prevention Project- Cherokee (TIPP-C)", is a research investigation being conducted at schools within the Cherokee Nation. It is designed to examine the relationship between self-reliance and HIV/AIDS knowledge, attitudes, and behaviors among Cherokee adolescents. The Association of Nurses in AIDS CARE (ANAC) funds this study.

"Nursing and the Native American Culture" is ongoing and being conducted with other doctorally prepared Native American Indian nurses. Its purpose is to examine the phenomenon of nursing in the Native American Indian culture. A conceptual framework and models of Nursing in the Native American Culture are evolving and being fine-tuned. This initiative is funded by a grant from Johnson and Johnson Co.

Dr. Lowe is a prolific writer, and has published his research and scholarship in numerous refereed journals. These refereed publications are available on the Internet through PubMed and Medline. Additionally, he writes for local groups and community based organizations that center on mental health issues in Native American Indian populations. Dr. Lowe shares his knowledge and wisdom with other professionals, community groups, and academic and health related organizations. His commitment to service is self-evident: American Nurses Association's Ethnic Minority Fellowship Program National Advisory Committee; American Nurses Foundation research grant reviewer; U.S. Department of Health and Human Services grant reviewer; U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Special Project of National Significance expert adviser; Cherokee Nation Healthy Nations consultant; Florida Nurses Association Board of Directors; Florida Nurses Foundation Board of Trustees; Alumni, Tribal Institutional Review Board of Southern California; National Native American AIDS Prevention Technical Support Center Advisory Board Member, and others. Dr. Lowe is one of the few Native American Indian male nurses who have attained a doctoral degree, and the EMFP assisted him in all aspects of his journey.

Tassy Parker, PhD, RN
Assistant Professor : Family and Community Medicine and Nursing;
Associate Director: Research and Development, Center for Native American Health; and
Senior Fellow: RWJF Center for Health Policy
University of New Mexico, Health Sciences Center - School of Medicine.

A medical sociologist and registered nurse, Dr. Parker is an enrolled member of the Seneca Nation. She belongs to the Beaver clan and was born and raised in the Burning Springs community on the Cattaraugus Territory in Western New York. She is a health advocate with American Indians nationally through co-learning, participatory research, and the continuing development of culture-specific and decolonizing approaches to decrease persistent health inequities. Her community-engaged scholarship includes co-development of mentoring and cultural programming for incarcerated American Indian youth, partnering to improve off-reservation American Indian health, advocating for American Indian community health workers, and promoting history and the theory of historical trauma as a distinct and integrated dimension of indigenous health. Dr. Parker’s previous research includes examining mental health conditions in American Indian primary care, investigating psychosocial and cultural factors associated with American Indian teens’ health perceptions, and examining the psychosocial health of incarcerated American Indian youth. The latter investigation received national recognition. Current research includes an NIAAA-funded study to examine psychological distress as risk factor for American Indian maternal alcohol use, an NHLBI-funded study to examine pediatric obesity and cardiovascular conditions in American Indian youth.
disease prevention among American Indian children, a UNM-funded community-based participatory research initiative to establish an off-reservation American Indian women’s Community Advisory Board to examine depression and depression care, and tribal-funded research to continue a study about historical trauma and contemporary health.

Dr. Parker is a founding member and past co-chair of the cross-national Native Research Network; an executive committee member and research mentor in the NIMH-funded Mentoring and Education Program (MEP); primary research mentor for American Indian medical students, President of the Board of Directors for the First Nations Community HealthSource, and an appointee to the American Indian Health Advisory Committee by the Secretary of the NM Department of Health. At UNM, she co-leads a campus wide effort to recognize and reward faculty community engaged scholarship, and co-lectures on community-based participatory research in a SOM grand rounds format. Dr. Parker has two sons, Tommy and Max, and her significant other is Marcello Maviglia, MD, MPH.

Robert O. Valdez, Ph.D.
Executive Director
University of New Mexico’s Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Center for Health Policy.

Dr. Valdez also serves as Associate Director of the University’s Office of Community Health, where he is engaged in improving the delivery of health promotion and primary care services to New Mexicans. Dr. Valdez is the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Professor of Family & Community Medicine and Economics. Prior to his current positions, Dr. Valdez was the founding Dean and Professor of Health Policy and Management at the Drexel University School of Public Health in Philadelphia. Prior to that he was a Professor at the UCLA School of Public Health and a Senior Health Scientist with RAND.

In the early 1990’s, Dr. Valdez served both as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Health and as Director of Interagency Health Policy for the Health Care Financing Administration in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. At the state level, Dr. Valdez has worked on policy analyses throughout the Southwestern States, especially on issues related to public programs and the uninsured. More recently, he has worked in California to improve the quality of primary care available to low income communities. He is the author of numerous studies on children’s health and health care finance, and serves on the boards of many national service organizations, including the Public Health Institute, the nation’s largest non-profit public health research and services organization.

Vida Khow, MA, RN

Vida holds a master’s degree in Health Services Administration from Central Michigan University. After 18 years of nursing, she was appointed CEO of the Winslow Indian Health Center in Arizona. During her nine-year tenure as CEO, Vida pioneered many programs. She established the first Indian Traditional Medicine Program in the Indian Health Services and successfully integrated complementary medicine in an allopathic clinical setting. Vida’s revolutionary work won her the prestigious 1999 American Hospital Association Federal Sector Special Achievement Award for Innovative Leadership.
With her extensive experience in health system operations, strategic planning, and financial turnaround, Vida created **Native American Healthcare Solutions**, as a branch of Walking in Beauty, LLC. NAHCS specializes in Interim Healthcare Management, cost-effective patient services, and revenue cycle improvement.

Native American Healthcare Solutions, is comprised of successful and accomplished executive consultants with experience in Indian Healthcare, which allows us to address health care and financial revenue issues with personal expertise.

**Gregory A. Cajete, Ph.D**
Director of Native American Studies
Associate Professor, American Indian Education
Associate Professor, Division of Language, Literacy and Socio cultural Studies, University of New Mexico College of Education

Gregory Cajete, Native American educator whose work is dedicated to honoring the foundations of indigenous knowledge in education. Dr. Cajete is a Tewa Indian from Santa Clara Pueblo, New Mexico. He has served as a New Mexico Humanities scholar in ethno botany of Northern New Mexico and as a member of the New Mexico Arts Commission. In addition, he has lectured at colleges and universities in the U.S., Canada, Mexico, New Zealand, Italy, Japan and Russia.

He worked at the Institute of American Indian Arts in Santa Fe, New Mexico for 21 years. While at the Institute, he served as Dean of the Center for Research and Cultural Exchange, Chair of Native American Studies and Professor of ethno science. In 1995, he was offered a position in American Indian education in the University of New Mexico, College of Education.

Currently, he is Director of Native American Studies and an Associate Professor in the Division of Language, Literacy and Socio cultural Studies in the College of Education at the University of New Mexico. Dr. Cajete earned his Bachelor of Arts degree from New Mexico Highlands University with majors in both Biology and Sociology and a minor in Secondary Education. He received his Masters of Arts degree from the University of New Mexico in Adult and Secondary Education. He received his Ph.D. from International College – Los Angeles New Philosophy Program in Social Science Education with an emphasis in Native American Studies.

Dr. Cajete is a practicing ceramic, pastel and metal artist. He is extensively involved with art and its applications to education. He is also an herbalist and holistic health practitioner. In this capacity, he has researched Native American, Chinese and Ayurvedic healing philosophies and the cultural perspectives of health and wholeness.

Karine Crow, Cherokee, PhD, RN, is an Associate Professor and Coordinator of the American Indian Program at Northern Arizona University, School of Nursing. This program is the first reservation-based, baccalaureate nursing program in the United States. Dr. Crow has had the honor and privilege of serving as a Faculty/Mentor for the National Institute of Health Nursing Division, National Alaska Native American Indian Association and Indian Health Service collaboration, being a Wakanese Fellow, and a resident research fellow at the International Institute for Qualitative Methodology: University of Alberta in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada under the direction of Janice M. Morse, Ph.D.

Her commitment to American Indian Nursing Education has resulted in presenting in international, national and regional forums along with accepting board memberships past and present in St. Michaels Association for Special Education, Native Alaska Native American Indian Nurses Association, Pathways to Health Governing Board, Critical Cultural Competency Forum; Arizona Hospital and Healthcare Association, Advisory Board for Navajoland Nurses Board, Native American Scholars Institute, and National Advisory Committee for Project 3000 by 2000 Health: Professions Partnership Initiative, Association of American Medical Colleges, Robert Wood Johnston Foundation and Kellogg Foundation.

Barbara A. Overman, CNM, Ph.D, MPH, MSN is an Associate Professor in the University of New Mexico’s College of Nursing. Dr. Overman is the former Principle investigator of the New Mexico Partnerships for Training Project and Principle Investigator of the “Mentorship for Nursing Careers on the Navajo Nation”. She is a former Director of the Certified Nurse Midwifery Program at UNM. She is presently a member of the board of Navajoland Nurses United for Research, Service and Education (N-NURSE). She has worked extensively on projects to increase access to health professions education in New Mexico. Dr. Overman’s focus areas are Maternal and Child Health clinical practice, public health program development and community action research in multicultural populations.

She is currently pursuing post doctoral education in clinical and translational research with a focus on the role of indigenous method and cultural values in translational research with native communities.

R. Lisa Bourque RN, BScN, MN, PhD (Provisional Candidate)
Faculty of Nursing, University of Alberta, Edmonton Alberta, Canada

Lisa Bourque-Bearskin and her family are from the Beaver Lake Cree Nation, near Lac La Biche Alberta. She has been a practicing nurse for over 20 years and is in her second year of PhD studies, alongside raising two sets of twins as a single parent. Her interests are rooted in Indigenous philosophies and her studies focus on cultural knowledge in nursing education that promotes culturally safe nursing practice. She searches for culturally appropriate ways to engage in research that will bring the greatest benefits to communities and at the same time maintain her integrity as a Cree / Métis researcher. She does this through the intent to listen, learn, and be respectfully responsive to the teachings of Indigenous and Non-Indigenous researchers regarding the processes, politics, policies, and power dynamics of
Indigenous health research needed to build reciprocal trusting relationships with Indigenous people both locally and globally.

Chris Percy, Co-Chair, National I.H.S. Health Promotion Initiative

Chris is born of the Wooden Shoe people (Dutch) and the Eats lots of Potatoes people (Irish). Although he is originally from Wisconsin, he has been part of the Navajo family for over 20 years. Chris is a family practice physician with Northern Navajo Medical Center in Shiprock, New Mexico. He serves multiple roles as the Director of Community Health Services and as the Health Promotion/Disease Prevention Consultant for the Navajo area. Dr. Percy played a key role in creating and implementing the National Health Promotion/Disease Prevention Initiative across Indian country. Working to improve the health and wellness of Native communities, he has been a champion of communities being in the driver seat and using Navajo traditional philosophies to guide the work towards healthier Native communities.

Shelley M. Frazier, National ‘Just Move It’ Coordinator

Is Dzíłt’áhni, born for Kin lichíí’nii, maternal grandparents are Tsin sikaadnii, and paternal grandparents are Táchii’nii. Working as Health Promotion Specialist and National "Just Move It" Campaign Coordinator, the Indian Health Service Shiprock Health Promotion Program and National Prevention Initiative, Shelley (Navajo) coordinates a wide variety of activities aimed at building and strengthening healthy families and communities. As the coordinator of the successful Navajo Nation "Just Move It" physical activity promotion program, Shelley has seen the program grow from 482 participants in 1993 to over 45,000 in 2006. The lessons learned from this effort have been used to develop the National "Just Move It" Campaign. Shelley is a key partner in many other community health promotion efforts from the local to the national level. Shelley received her Masters in Public Health from the University of New Mexico. She lives in Beclabito, New Mexico, and is a mom of two cool boys who are high school wrestlers. She and her husband manage a youth wrestling program for Shiprock and surrounding communities.

Marita Jones, Director, Healthy Native Communities Fellowship

Marita Jones (Navajo) is Bitterwater clan born for Manygoats clan, her maternal grandparent is Folded Arms Clan and paternal grandparent is Towering House Clan.

Community health promotion and education work creates connections with people in community that brings about new learnings that keep her on this journey of life. Marita has been honored to work with several
communities throughout Indian country and across multiple cultures. Marita has a Master of Public Health degree in Community Health Education and Promotion from Loma Linda University, CA. Current multiple hats include: Field Coordinator with National Health Promotion Initiative, Director of Healthy Native Communities Fellowship, helps coordinate the Community Wellness Champion Forums and is part of the Healthy Native Communities Partnership effort to work with Native communities to realize their own vision of wellness.

**Rose Martial**, Indigenous Research Advisor  
NEAHR-ACADRE University of Alberta

Rose Martial is Chipewyan/Dëne Suliné from Cold Lake First Nation and a visionary in the health care environment. From her lived experiences she has firsthand knowledge on what it is like to suffer grief and loss and understands the importance of faith and the power in the Creator. She has extensive experience and background in doing workshops that promote the health of Aboriginal People. Building on the knowledge from the Institute of Fours Worlds, Nechi Institute, Life Skills Coaching and work as a Community Health Representative, she brings a broad range of knowledge. She values humor and incorporates laughter into her workshops on healing. Her current endeavour is in the area of research and works closely with The Aboriginal Capacity and Developmental Research Environments (ACADRE) Network at the University of Alberta. She is the lead Elder in a team of researchers investigating ways to improve Access to Health Care Services for Aboriginal People in Alberta, Canada.

**Ursula Knoki-Wilson, MPH, CNM, MSN, RN**

Ms. Ursula Knoki-Wilson is the Director of Nurse-Midwifery Service at Chinle Comprehensive Health Care Facility and the Indian Health Service (IHS) Chief Clinical Consultant for Advance Practice Nursing. She also serves as a Community Liaison for the Office of the CSU Chief Executive Officer to assist with community projects and the Canyon De Chelly Comprehensive Health Services, Inc. Board with their health planning activities. She is a member of the Navajo Nation, born in Farmington, New Mexico, and lives in Ganado, Arizona. She began her IHS career in 1970. Over the years, she has held positions in Public Health Nursing, in Pediatric Outpatient Nursing, as a Staff Nurse Midwife and as Supervisory Nurse Midwife. She also served as Dean of an Associate Degree Nursing Program at the formerly Navajo Community College, now Dine College as well as an assistant professorship in the School of Nursing at Northern Arizona University. She has served as adjunct faculty and/or consultant to Schools of Nursing at University of New Mexico, University of Utah, Arizona State University, University of Colorado and Georgetown University. She has lectured nationally on integrating cultural aspects of care to Navajo and Native American patients.