

Chris Aloia

From: Institute of Child Nutrition <naac+theicn.org@ccsend.com>
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The logo for the Native American Advisory Committee (NAAC) features the acronym "NAAC" in large, bold, white capital letters on a red rectangular background.

Native American
Advisory Committee

Bi-Monthly Newsletter

May 2022

Native American Advisory Committee (NAAC) Second Quarter 2022 Newsletter

The NAAC newsletter is intended to update and inform the Institute of Child Nutrition's (ICN) NAAC, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), and partners of ICN's accomplishments and activities. It also features members of the NAAC in an effort to enhance relationships and provide recognition of members' achievements.

This edition of the newsletter features:

- ICN Applied Research Division (ARD) Native American Expert Panel Meeting held on April 5-6, 2022
 - Upcoming NAAC Hangout presenter
 - NAAC meeting dates
 - Report on ICN's attendance at conferences and planned activities
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Figure 1. Shemah Crosby, 2021–2022 Choctaw Indian Princess, gave a welcoming address to ARD's Expert Panel Meeting

Native American Expert Panel Meeting

ICN ARD held a Native American Expert Panel for the Native American School Nutrition Needs Assessment Survey. The panel met on April 5-6, 2022, at the Choctaw Pearl River Resort in Choctaw, Mississippi. It was attended by school nutrition professionals currently working in Native American schools and State agency representatives that support school nutrition operations across the country. The panel met to review the interview data collected from phase one of ARD's needs assessment study and provide suggestions for further development and distribution of needs assessment surveys in phase two of this research. ARD will use the information from the expert panel to draft surveys that will be disseminated to school nutrition and State agency professionals nationwide.

The NAAC Hangout

ICN hosts quarterly informal Zoom meetings called NAAC Hangouts. At these Hangouts, ICN and NAAC members share their perspectives on Native American/Alaskan Native Child Nutrition Programs, as well as personal stories and concerns about Native American communities and schools in their part of the country.



The 2022 second quarter Hangout will feature NAAC member Donna Tall Bear on **May 18, 2022, at 2:00 p.m. CT**. Zoom credentials will be emailed the week prior to the meeting.

Donna Tall Bear is a certified health educator, health coach, and health-fitness specialist. As part of completing her master's degree at Springfield College, Donna came to Oklahoma in 2004 to conduct thesis research with the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma, looking at psychosocial self-efficacy and self-management behavior in Native Americans with type 2 diabetes. Donna also completed an internship with the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribe's diabetes program. After receiving her master's degree, Donna worked for the University of Oklahoma's Children's Diabetes Center as their diabetes educator for American Indian children with type 2 diabetes. She also

assisted the center with community outreach activities, working with the Native Youth Preventing Diabetes camp and the Oklahoma City Indian Clinic Turtle Camp. She is currently a full-time instructor for the Health and Exercise Science department at the University of Oklahoma Norman Campus, where she teaches several classes, including Wellness in Native Communities, introducing undergraduate students to cultural competence and health promotion programming with First Nations communities. Donna is married to Chris Tall Bear, a member of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma, and the proud grandmother of 11 grandchildren and an aunt to 17 nieces and nephews.

The Next NAAC Meeting

The NAAC is undergoing many changes, with four members retiring and/or leaving positions. The Program Manager has contacted tribes and tribal schools, inviting school nutrition professionals and others to join the Native American Advisory Committee. ICN welcomes recommendations for potential NAAC members. We hope to have new members before our next meeting, tentatively planned for fall 2022 or winter 2023.

Conference Activities

The Native American Initiative (NAI) team attended the 2022 Tribal Public Health Conference, held virtually on April 19-21, 2022. The conference was sponsored by the 7th Generation and the Southern Plains Tribal Health Board. This year's theme was "Community: Rising to a Changing Public Climate," focusing on experiences living

through a global pandemic and how tribal communities have had to adapt, adjust, and rise to the challenges of a constantly changing public health climate.

The NAI team is planning to attend the Seeds of Native Health Fifth Annual Conference on Native American Nutrition on May 22-25, 2022, in Prior Lake, Minnesota, and the New Mexico School Nutrition Association 2022 Annual Conference on June 7-9, 2022, in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Questions, Comments, Feedback

We want to hear from you. Email naac@theicn.org of the ICN staff members below:



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