

Faculty Development Friday  
Professional Development Series

Good Medicine: The Healing Connection with the  
American Indian/Alaska Native Community

Michelle Singer  
(she/her | Navajo)

Former OHSU Native Professional  
Local Portland Native Community Member

# Yá'át'ééh! Hello!



**Michelle Singer, B.S.**

(She/Her)

Navajo

I love music and sports.

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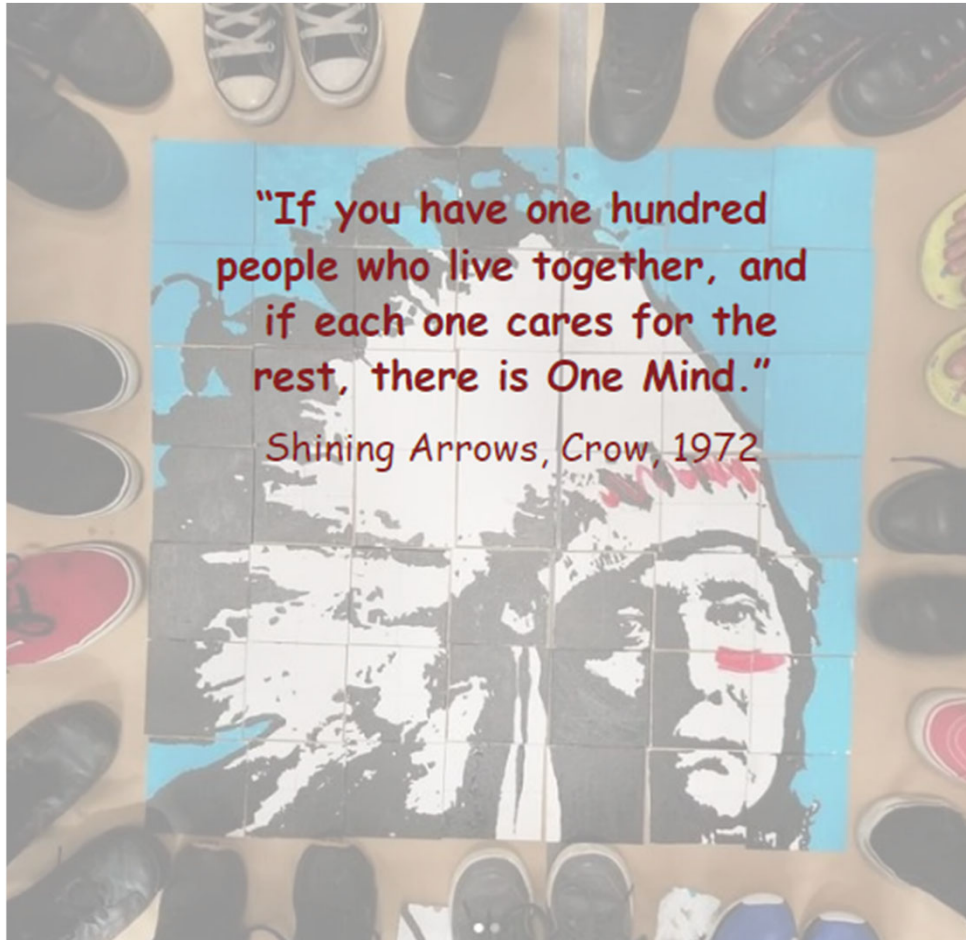
- Currently reside in Portland
- 30+ years work experience in Indian health, education, government affairs, research & community engagement.
- Nearly 14 years at OHSU:
  - One Sky Center National Resource Center for AI/AN Health, Education, and Research housed in SOM Psychiatry Research.
  - Center for Diversity & Inclusion Diversity Outreach Specialist
  - Center for Healthy Communities: Oregon Prevention Research Center in Dept of Public Health & Preventative Medicine
  - Native American Employee Resource Group original member
  - Portland Indian Leaders Roundtable (PILR) OHSU Native Delegate

# Today's Goals

- **Winter Season is Storytelling Time**
  - Setting the Stage for Indian Health
  - Indian Affairs and Indian Health 101
  - Oregon Landscape: Rez & Urban
  - Cultural Norms & Communications
  - Story of OHSU & AI/AN Initiatives
  - OHSU & Connections to Serve
  - Practice In Action: OHSU Scavenger Hunt

# Welcome & Words of Wisdom

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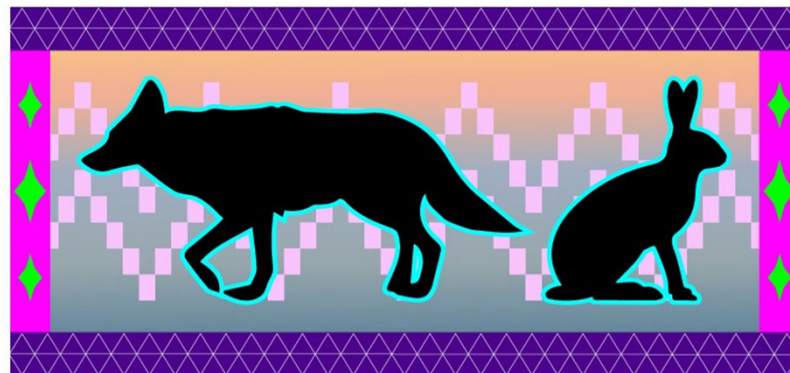


Use the Chat Box to tell us:

- Your Name & Role
- What do you want to learn today?

# Winter Time is for Storytelling

Reflection, Gratitude, and Learn in Planning



We acknowledge the original inhabitants and traditional village sites of the land Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU) is occupying and built upon:

the Multnomah, Kathlamet, Clackamas, Tumwater, Watlala bands of the Chinook, the Tualatin Kalapuya, Molalla, Wasco and many Indigenous nations of the Willamette Valley and Columbia River Plateau.

We take this opportunity to thank the original caretakers of this land - past, present, and future.



# Setting the Stage: Indian Affairs & Indian Health

- Overview & Goals
  - To gain an understanding of Indian Affairs as it relates to policy, law and health delivery
  - Oregon Landscape: Reservation & Urban
  - Cultural Norms & Communications
  - Educational Resources

# Indian Affairs & Indian Health 101

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## **Fundamental Guiding Legal Principles**

- Tribal Nations are sovereign and hold a political status, it's not race-based.
- The federal government has a government-to-government relationship with Tribal Nations established by the U.S. Constitution, treaties, Executive Orders, statutes, case law, etc.
- Collectively, these are the foundations of the legal, moral, and ethical responsibility of the United States to Tribal Nations which we know as the trust responsibility.
- From Administration to Administration, Congress has appropriated funding to Tribal Nations in honor of trust and treaty obligations, and the political status of Tribal Nations.
- Healthcare is of one of the many contractual obligations owed to Tribal Nations.



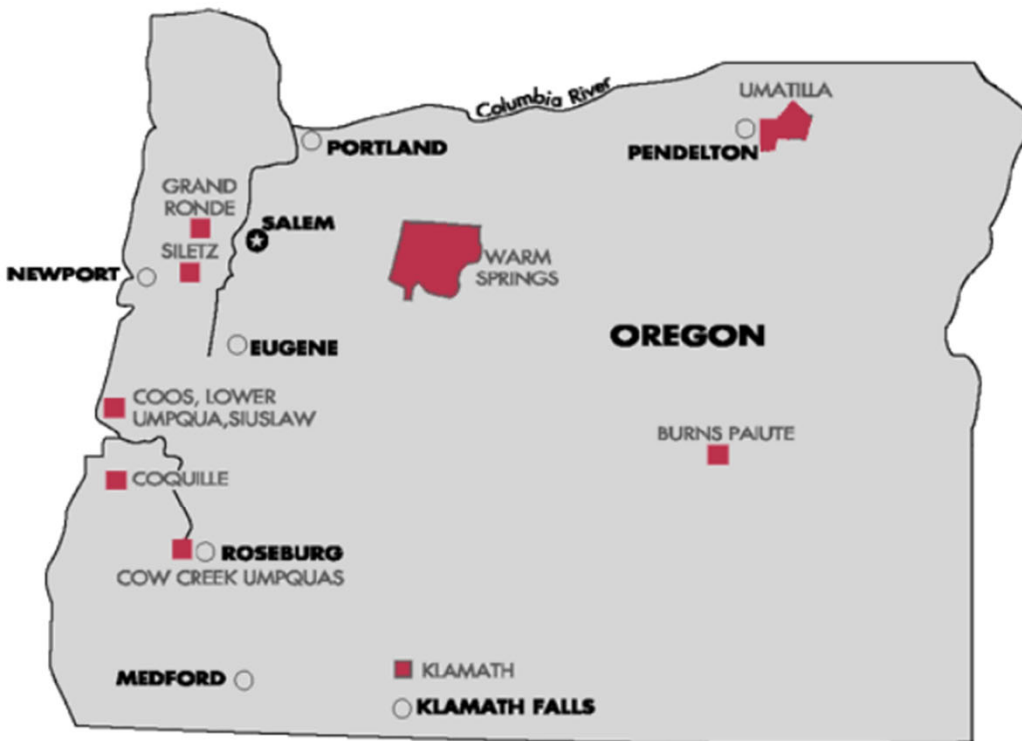
# DEI Executive Orders Do Not Apply AI/AN citizens have political status

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- On February 25, 2025, HHS Office of General Counsel (OGC) released an Advisory Opinion (25-01) stating that three recent Executive Orders (EOs) do not abridge the Department's legal obligation to provide healthcare for Indian Tribes and their citizens, the government-to-government relationship, and underlying Trust and Treaty obligations, which are **distinct from** the programs described in the recent EOs (EO 14151; EO 14168; EO 14173).
- The Advisory Opinion aligns with the Department of Interior's Secretarial Order 3416 acknowledging that **EO 14151 does not affect the trust and treaty obligations to Tribal Nations.**
- This also aligns with a recent HHS memorandum which became public that EOs affecting **DEIA programs do not apply to programs serving AI/AN citizens, as AI/AN citizens have a political status.**

# Oregon Landscape: Reservation

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- Burns Paiute Tribe
- Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation
- Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians
- Coquille Tribe
- Cow Creek Band of Umpqua
- Grand Ronde Tribes
- Klamath Tribes
- Siletz Tribes
- Warm Springs Tribes

- **Nine Federally Recognized Tribes in Oregon**
- **Treaty Making Era of 1848 to 1855**
- **Termination Era of 1954**

**Free: Guide to Oregon Indian Country**

<https://traveloregon.com/places-to-go/tribal-nations/>

# Oregon Landscape: Urban

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**NAYA Portland Indian Leaders  
Roundtable Leading with Tradition  
Brochure**

- **Portland: 9<sup>th</sup> Largest Urban Indian population**
- **Impact of Federal Indian Historical Policies**
- Off-Reservation Boarding School
  - Chemawa Indian School in Salem, Oregon
- Termination Era
  - Klamath & Western Oregon Tribes
- Relocation
  - Termination Impacts
  - Employment & Academic Opportunities
  - Family Ties
- Federal Agencies
  - Bureau of Indian Affairs
    - Bureau of Indian Education
  - Indian Health Service

<https://nayapdx.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/Leading-with-Tradition.pdf>

# Cultural Norms & Communications

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- Cross Cultural Communication and World Views
  - Power of Language
  - Eye Contact Sensitivity
  - Visual Learning
  - Humor and Laughter as Medicine
- Relevant Health Promotion Marketing – example: COVID PSA video:  
<https://youtu.be/LeQ1Q0HXmSs>

Western	Native
I / Me	We/Us
Linear	Circular
Education	Wisdom
Mine	Ours
Recognition / Ego-driven	Humility / Humble
Time Sensitive	Flexible
Lead / Leader	Team / Group Consensus
Designate	Partnership

## **SAMSHA AI/AN Culture Card**

<https://library.samhsa.gov/sites/default/files/sma08-4354.pdf>

# Downloadable Resources...

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## **Indian Health & Policy 101 Resource Link**

<https://www.nihb.org/education/indian-health-101/>

## **Urban Indian Health Knowledge Resource Center Link**

<https://ncuih.org/research/knowledge-resource-center/>

## **Tribal Directory of Indian Nations**

<https://www.ncai.org/tribal-directory>

## **Indian Health Service (IHS) Website – For Providers**

<https://www.ihs.gov/>

# Presenter's Reflections

## Winter Time is for Storytelling

**Reflection:** Remember and Respect

**Gratitude:** Appreciate and Honor

**Learn:** Lessons and Planning

**Plant the Seeds for Spring**



# Story of OHSU & AI/AN Initiatives

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- **Partnership: Oregon Prevention Research Center: Center for Healthy Communities and Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board**
  - Core Research Projects:
    - Dangerous Decibels Project: Noise Induced Hearing Loss Prevention
    - Native Students Against Negative Decisions (STAND) Dissemination, Implementation & Evaluation
  - Summer Research Training Institute – Tribal Public Health Capacity Building & Pathways
- **One Sky Center: National Native Resource Center for American Indian/Alaska Native Health, Education, and Research**
  - Evidence Based Practice and Native-to-Native Mentorship Initiative in Substance Abuse Research
- **OHSU Diversity Wall**
  - American Indian/Alaska Native inclusion in National and OHSU timelines

# Story of OHSU & AI/AN Initiatives

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- **Partnership: Tribal Leadership Forum and One Sky Center: National Native Resource Center for American Indian/Alaska Native Health, Education, and Research**
  - Tribal Relations – Intergovernmental Trainings on Indian health, education, and policy
  - Event: OHSU Oregon Tribal Summit for Strategic Outreach & Planning
- **Portland Aerial Tram Blessing and Naming of Landing Platforms**
  - The station names come from the local Tualitin language.
  - The lower station is named Chamanchal ("on the river")
  - The upper station is named Chemeffu ("on the mountain")
- **OHSU – Marquam Hill Arts Council with Native American Business Partnership**
  - Quintana Galleries - Portland's only Indigenous Art Gallery
  - American Indian/Alaska Native artwork on Marquam Hill
- **Schnitzer Diabetes Health Center**
  - Native American Board Member representation to connect AI/AN portfolio



# Story of OHSU & AI/AN Initiatives

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- **OHSU Native American Employee Resource Group**
- **OHSU Diversity & Inclusion Award – Diversity Community Partner**
  - Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board
- **OHSU Diversity Action Plan 2013**
  - OHSU Tribal Summit with Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board Tribal Health Delegates from 43 Federally recognized Tribes, Indian Health Service, OHA
  - **Manuals:**
    - Faculty Recruitment
    - Student & Employee Guide: Diversity & Multicultural Resources
    - Serving LGBT Patients, Employees, and Students
    - Summer Research Handbook
- **Partnership: CMOP | Center for Coastal Margin Observation & Prediction and Columbia River Inter Tribal Fish Commission**

# Story of OHSU & AI/AN Initiatives

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- **Casey Eye Institute Mobile Outreach Van**
  - Outreach to Oregon tribal communities and urban Indian locations, such as “Dancing In the Square Celebration” in Pioneer Square
- **Partnership: Tilikum Crossing – Bridge of the People**
  - “Tilikum” – Chinook Wawa word for “people” “tribe” “relatives”
  - OHSU, City of Portland, TriMet, and stakeholders including Tribes
- **OnTrack OHSU**
  - Connections with Oregon Indian Education Association
  - Program Reach: Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs & Klamath Tribes
- **Oregon Office of Rural Health**

# Story of OHSU & AI/AN Initiatives

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- **Knight Cancer Institute**
  - High School Summer Internship Program
  - Partnership: Center for Healthy Communities & NPAIHB Cancer Control Prevention
  - Faculty Recruitment: Native American Gynecologic Cancer Specialist
- **Partnership: OHSU MoAs with Oregon Tribal Clinics for PA, SoM for Preceptor Sites**
  - OHSU Presidential swings to Rural & Tribal areas
  - Vice President of Strategic Outreach: Relationship building with Oregon Tribes
  - Oregon Office of Rural Health outreach, relationship building, program collaboration and education
- **OHSU – PSU School of Public Health**
  - Diversity Committee for Development, Accreditation, and Tribal Public Health inclusion
  - Community connections: OHSU, PSU, NPAIHB, and other community public health entities
  - NW NARCH ties, alumni, and native community connections

# The Journey comes Full Circle

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Listen. Learn. Reflect. Vision. Plan. Act.

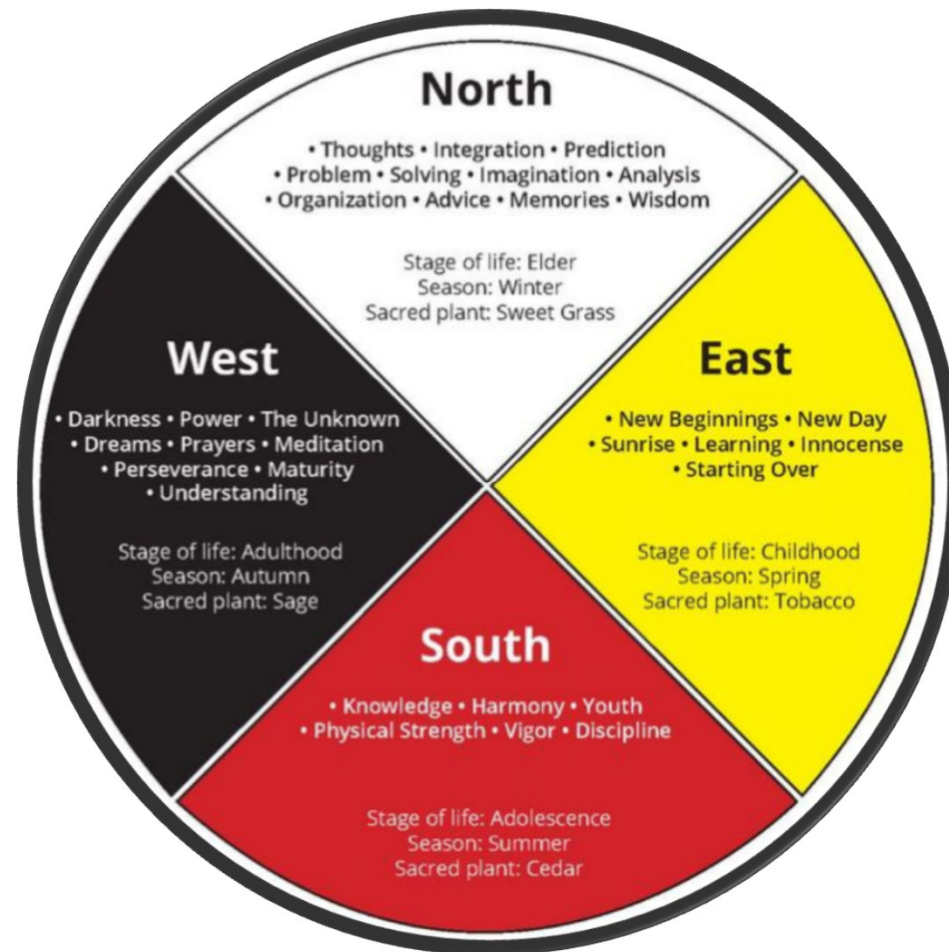
Northwest Native American Center of  
Excellence Video: The Path

# Story of OHSU & AI/AN Initiatives

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- **Northwest Native American Center of Excellence (NNACOE)**
  - Includes 24 research team members comprised of clinicians, faculty, and staff who work across OHSU
  - One of the highest concentrations of AI/AN medical students in the nation
  - Robust partnerships with Tribes, Native-serving organizations, regional universities, and with tribes in Oregon and beyond.
  - OHSU-wide resource for AI/ANs + NNACoE serves AI/AN students and academic clinical faculty nationally
  - Multiple initiatives for Academic Health Pathways for AI/ANs
    - SOM, SON, SOD
    - Consultation on Recruitment, Retention, Training in Pharm and Public Health
    - Health Pathways Coaching
    - Faculty Development and Training
    - Native American Health Seminar Series
    - Research Initiatives
    - Social Marketing Campaigns for Health Professions
      - We Are Healers

# Discussion, Questions, Practice in Action



# OHSU & Connections To Serve

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**Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board (NPAIHB)**

<https://www.npaihb.org/>

**Tribal Epidemiology Centers (TEC)**

<https://tribalepicenters.org/>

**NW Native American Center of Excellence (NNACOE) Publications**

<https://www.nnacoe.org/our-publications>

**We Are Healers**

<https://www.wearehealers.org/>

# Practice In Action: Scavenger Hunt

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- **Visit NNACOE.org website**
  - View AIAN Learning at OHSU Page
  - Watch a Native American Health Webinar Series video
- **Visit the OHSU Diversity Wall**
  - Find Indian affairs and health policy timeline markers
  - Find OHSU AI/AN timeline markers
- **Visit the Portland Aerial Tram – South Waterfront Platform**
  - Learn about Platform Names
- **Walk the Tilikum Crossing – North Side**
  - Information relating to OHSU and Tribal Significance
  - Artwork on west end and east end on walkway near esplanade
- **Find Native Art at OHSU**
  - University Hospital, Kohler Pavillion, School of Nursing
  - River Guardian art installation – South Waterfront Park





# Ahe'hee! Thank you!

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[Planting the Seeds for Spring & Renewal](#)

[Tribal Health Scholars Video: The Promise](#)

<https://youtu.be/6t6Jk1hNc64>