The Partnership for Native American Cancer Prevention (NACP) is a collaboration between NAU and the University of Arizona Cancer Center, and the Graduate Programs Primer (GPP) is hosted by the UA NACP Training Core. It highlights the various graduate programs offered at UA along with graduate school admission and financial aid information. Additionally, tours of the medical school and NACP funded labs are provided to give insight in the research work being conducted at UA. This year’s GPP took place on Friday, January 18 - Saturday 19, 2018 in Tucson, AZ.

Before the program started, a morning blessing was performed to keep the student’s perspectives and goals in mind. After formal introductions were established, an exciting tour of the UA medical school was conducted. The group had the opportunity to explore the Arizona Simulation Technology and Education Center (ASTEC). The simulation was a mesmerizing encounter for the students, especially since ASTEC provides innovative collaborative learning opportunities for potential practitioners who practice their understanding of procedures in a high-tech, realistically simulated environment. This opportunity allows students to gain a better understanding of the types of simulations and core lessons they would be taught if they chose to pursue a career in medicine.
Shortly afterwards, the students were lead to the UA Cancer Center to briefly tour the research laboratories in Dr. Ron Hiemark and Dr. George Wondrak’s lab. Dr. Ron Hiemark’s lab researched mechanistic understanding and predictive biomarkers of metastatic cancer. It was an informative tour that gave the students a better insight of the laboratory duties and rigorous research reading that included being in a research lab. Dr. George Wondrak’s lab was in a “vegetative” state. His research examines the pathological role of oxidative and proteotoxic stress in solar photo damage and skin cancer (melanoma and nonmelanoma) aiming at the design of novel molecular strategies for prevention and therapeutic intervention. Specifically, it benefits from the expertise in small molecule therapeutic discovery and cutaneous cancer biology. His lab explores connections between vegetables such as broccoli and its relation to cancer biology. Lunch was provided after the tour, and students were devouring from Southern Arizona’s favorite sandwich shop Eegee’s.

College representatives from different colleges and departments on UA campus were present. The representatives included Amy Glicken, UA College of Public Health, Derek Honeyman, UA College of Nursing, Donna Treloar, UA Graduate College, and Tiffani Begay, UA PREP. The students had the opportunity to have a one-on-one discussion with the representatives to explore academic opportunities in Tucson.

On Saturday morning, the students had the opportunity to ask questions to students who were or have been a part of UA graduate programs. This student panel, included 1st and 2nd year medical students, a public health student, a graduate cellular and molecular student, and a PhD student in Soil, Water and Environmental Science. The students got to know the panelists and their experiences in their intended field. One of the many questions that were asked to the panel was, “How did you overcome the obstacles?” Questions like these exemplified perseverance and assured the students that their academic journey is worth while. The students positively reacted to the GPP experience and would recommend future NACP students to attend next year.
The 2018 Undergraduate Biology Research Program (UBRP) Conference

January 20, 2018

The 29th annual Undergraduate Biology Research Program (UBRP) conference was held in Tucson, Arizona. UBRP is a unique program at the University of Arizona that enhances undergraduate education by partnering with research resources within Tucson campus and provides opportunities for students to participate in mentored, self-directed work which contributes to the field of biology. The conference was an opportunity to explore different student research projects. The one-day conference was filled with poster presentations from UBRP students and included a recognition ceremony, which highlighted both student and mentor successes. It was an exceptional event that can described by an intimate interview that Kaitlyn Haskie, a NACP student researcher, had with Tasha Nez, another NACP student researcher who presented her poster Identification of Genetic Variants that Influence Human Body Weight with Altered Population Based Frequency Due to Adaptation to Environment at this year's conference:

Tasha: Ya'at'eeh! My name is Tasha Nez. I'm Salt Clan for the Near the Water Clan, I'm from Black Mesa, AZ. My major is Environmental Studies with a minor in biology.

Kaitlyn: What internship did you go to this summer? Is that what you presented your poster on? What was your most valuable experience from the internship?

Tasha: Last summer (2017), I completed my internship with the Diversity Summer Research Training Program in Phoenix at the NIH/NIDDK Diabetes Molecular Genetics Section. The most valuable experience of all was learning to understand and utilize my background and classroom experiences with scientific research in Native American populations. It was so exciting to put all that I learned to use and learning new skills in the lab setting. Many of these skills
involve hands on research with technology, it was so much fun learning how to use these instruments. I know I’ll be using these skills in future studies and my career.

**Kaitlyn:** What did you think of the Graduate Programs Primer?

**Tasha:** The Graduate Primer was very valuable to me. Learning about the many graduate programs and research opportunities at UA opened many doors for me. After the event, I’m interested in pursuing graduate level research opportunities that help disadvantaged communities. NACP creates so many opportunities for students and I think these primers have a high impact on students who are exploring all their options and who are interested in graduate programs.

**Kaitlyn:** Have you presented poster presentations before? What were you feeling?

**Tasha:** I presented at a presentation before and it’s so much fun! It’s a great feeling knowing that you’re sharing knowledge with people from various backgrounds. I believe it can create positive changes in many ways, beginning with the individual level and so forth. The best part of presenting is knowing how much knowledge you share; it is reassuring to know that whoever is exposed to this knowledge can take it and use it to create positive changes for a healthy balanced life. Helping Native communities has always been part of my life goals; this is a great start and NACP is great way to begin.

Tasha Nez is a wonderful student who became familiar with NACP in Fall 2016 after attending one of the monthly meetings. In spring 2017 she joined NACP, working in Dr. Jani Ingram’s lab on the project she presented at the UBRP conference.

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**Native American Role Model - Dr. Kenneth Bernard**

February 14, 2018

If you look up the word failure on the internet, the definition appears as, “lack of success.” The word itself, failure, can be intimidating to many of us. Fortunately, for the NAU NACP meeting, the Native American Role Model Speaker Series, our guest speaker was Dr. Kenneth Bernard. He is Ojibwe (Anishinabe) from the Turtle Mountain reservation in Belcourt, North Dakota. Dr. Bernard completed his undergrad from Yale University in molecular, cellular, and development biology. He completed his residency in
Boston at the Harvard Affiliated Emergency Medicine Residency after attending Harvard Medical School. He currently is an emergency medicine physician and director of emergency department at Tuba City Health Care Corporation. The title of his speech was “Failing Up: Success in FAILURE.”

He introduced the word as an acronym, F-A-I-L-U-R-E. The first letter F, stands for Face yourself. Dr. Bernard’s advice for this is, you will always be your biggest critic, stare yourself down, and get out of your own way. The next letter is A, which stands for adversity and attitude. Adversity is difficulties that one faces, but with the right attitude one can overcome those difficulties. By appreciating the hardships you can learn from mistakes. The following letter, I, stands for Improve on impossible. By doing something you thought you would never do can change your perspective on possibility. The fourth letter, L, Love, longing, learning. By loving what you do becomes a desire which also can mean motivation. Next is the letter U, meaning urgency. Having a sense of urgency stimulates change, action, and pushes performance. The following letter is R, for risk and recharge. By taking risks it puts you outside of your comfort zone. Recharging is an important aspect to your body, mind, emotional energy, and spiritual energy. There are many enjoyable way to recharge each aspect, such as going for a nature walk, watching a funny movie, or eating a delicious yet healthy meal. Lastly, E, which stands for engage. With your purpose, motivation, values, talents, and capabilities, these can all be used towards “a life that is deliberate and meaningful.” Dr. Bernard definitely changed perspectives of the word, FAILURE:

Facing yourself
Adversity and Attitude
Improve on Impossible
Love, Longing, Learning
Urgency
Risk & Recharge
Engage

-Dr. Kenneth Bernard
NIH Post-Baccalaureate Research Education Program (PREP) Panel

January 24, 2018

Graduating with a bachelor’s degree is a huge accomplishment, yet some students struggle with their decision thereafter. This year Northern Arizona University (NAU) NACP hosted a NIH PREP panel for students who were unsure of their decision to attend graduate school and who were not confident in their applications to attend. The four representatives that attended this event were the University of Kansas, University of Arizona, University of New Mexico, and Baylor College of Medicine. Although, the applications for their PREP program varied from rolling applications to the salary they offered, what was universal was their desire to elevate graduate school applicants who were motivated to obtain their PhD. Throughout this event, the panel of representatives were informative about their applicant process, how to write a competitive personal statement, who to request a recommendation letter from, and so on and so forth. Their visit was so encouraging that they packed the scheduled room with several attendees standing.

Later in the day, NAU NACP and NAU’s Office of Undergraduate Research & Scholarship co-hosted a graduate school workshop, which included thorough information about the graduate school admission process, GRE test and preparation, how to fund graduate school, and a one-on-one discussion with each representative about their personal statements, resume, and whatever the student needed improvement on. The PREP representatives were a valuable asset to both NACP and the students and, they impacted the students and motivated them to further their education in graduate school.
Announcements and Upcoming Events

STUDENTS
• UA first day of school- January 10, 2018
• NAU first day of school- January 16, 2018
• Graduate Program Primer & UBRP conference- January 18-21, 2018
• NAU Native American Role Model Speaker Dr. Katrina Claw - April 3, 2018
• NAU 10th Annual Undergraduate Symposium - April 27, 2018
• UA Commencement - May 11, 2018
• NAU Commencement - May 11-12, 2018

FACULTY AND STAFF
• IAC Meeting, Phoenix, AZ - April 9-10, 2018
• PSC Meeting, Flagstaff, AZ - May 21-22, 2018

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