Tribal Nations Research Group’s Mission

“To improve the quality of life for all tribal members through culturally-competent, custom-fit research”

**FAST FACTS:**
It has been 396 days since the TMBCI adopted the Research Protection Act and to date 21 research projects have been received and 18 (includes dissertations) have been approved by the TMBCI RRB.

Five other tribes or tribal organizations have contacted TNRG to inquire about TMBCI Research Protection Act and TNRG.

TNRG was created March 27, 2014 by tribal resolution and it has been 522 days since creation.

TNRG first newsletter was disseminated on February 10, 2015.

TNRG began within monthly newsletters but now have switched to quarterly newsletters.

Number of associate members TNRG currently has: 13.

TNRG has 501c3 status and is a non-profit organization.

**WHAT’S INSIDE:**
*Meet the Associate Members of TNRG
*Highlighted Associate Members
*Dr. Tami Jollie-Trottier
*Dr. Duane Champagne
*Current TMBCI Research Projects
*Updates From TNRG
*Grant Updates
*Looking Forward Calendar
*Save the Date-United Tribes Tribal Leaders Summit Event
*Partnerships

Tribally Charted 501c3
Non-Profit Organization
P.O. Box 1906
Belcourt, ND 58316

Phone: 701-477-5526
Website: www.tnrg.org
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Dr. Tami Jollie-Trottier

Dr. Tami Jollie-Trottier is an enrolled Citizen of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa, Belcourt, North Dakota. She is a clinical psychologist currently working on her hometown reservation located in Belcourt, ND. She received her BA in Psychology from Minot State University in 1999 and received her PhD in 2005 from the University of North Dakota. Dr. Jollie-Trottier then completed a 2-year fellowship in Health Psychology at UND School of Medicine and one-year of specialty training at the Eating Disorder and Neuropsychiatric Research Institutes in Fargo, ND. She currently works in the Behavioral Health Clinic and is honored to be providing health psychology services to her community members. As a psychologist, Dr. Jollie-Trottier has the opportunity to blend her passion for living a healthy lifestyle in her approach to therapy and wellness with her educational, cultural, and spiritual knowledge. She serves as a Community Advisor and IRB member for the Tribal Nations Research Group. Dr. Jollie-Trottier is an IHS Community Wellness Champion and is Alumni of the American Psychological Association Minority Fellowship Program. She is one of the founders of Belcourt's Medicine Moon Run, a 1/2 Marathon, which on its 7th year. The Medicine Moon Run focuses on challenging Indian Country to aspire to achieve wellness and balance through daily exercise.

Melissa McGee

Melissa is an enrolled Citizen of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa, Belcourt, North Dakota. Her goal is to make an impact on the overwhelming health disparities affecting the population today by preventing the disease. She hopes to accomplish this by identifying who is at risk, education, and empowering the patient to make the right choose by incorporating diet medication, and regular exercise. Her areas of expertise are in health education and chronic health management. She is a member of American Academy Nurse Practitioners, Advance Health Care Network, Milwaukee Advance Practice Nurse Association, Illinois Nursing Association, and was involved with Concordia University of WI Volunteer American Indian Center of Chicago. She has given professional presentations at American Indian Health Services of Chicago, Minority Health Care conference, American Cancer of Mount Prospect, and she has presented at many community seminars.

Dr. Jeri Ann Azure

Jeri Ann Azure, PhD, is an enrolled member of Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa. She began her education at the Turtle Mountain Community College and went on to attend Minot State University and the University of North Dakota where she earned her Doctorate in Clinical Psychology in 2011. Dr. Azure completed internship at the Indian Health Care Resource Center in Tulsa, OK. Since graduating, Dr. Azure worked with the Turtle Mountain Vocational Rehabilitation Project, Personal Responsibility Education Program (PREP), The Village Family Service Center, The Turtle Mountain Community High School, and most recently began employment with Indian Health Service as a Mental Health Specialist in April 2014. Dr. Jeri Ann Azure provides therapy to all age groups through individual, family, and group therapy at the Quentin N. Burdick Memorial Health Care Facility. Her area of specialty includes depression, defiant behavior, anxiety, anger, learning disabilities, suicidal ideation, self-injurious behaviors, and psychological assessment. Dr. Azure is privileged to be able to provide psychological services (individual therapy, group therapy, assessment, consultation, etc.) to Natives across the lifespan.
Barbara is an enrolled member of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa, Belcourt, North Dakota. She currently owns and operates Schmitt Strategies, a Native-owned consulting firm that specializes in Community and Economic Development. With almost 30 years of experience in Community and Economic Development, Dr. Schmitt is committed to assisting tribal communities in planning and implementing economic endeavors on the reservations in the upper Midwest. Both as a team player and as an independent worker, she has been successful in contributing to projects throughout Indian Country in areas such as education, community and economic development, and research and development. Dr. Schmitt has a PhD in Education from North Dakota State University, Fargo, N.D., a MBA and a Master’s Degree in Management from the University of Mary, Bismarck, ND.

Jacob Davis
Jacob is an enrolled Citizen of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa, Belcourt, North Dakota. He has nine years of American Indian health research experience on a local, regional, and national level. This experience includes: Native American health disparity research, compilation/analysis of data sets, grant writing/management, and program evaluation. He has served on many professional memberships like American Indigenous Research Association, North Dakota Diabetes Cancer Coalition, U.S. DHHS Office of Minority Health Resource Center, UND Native Research Team, Dakota Diabetes Coalition, Native Research Network, North Dakota Academy of Science, and many others. He has given many professional presentations over the years at Pathways into Health Conference, National Indian Council on Aging conference, Native Health Research Conference for Native American Elder Abuse, and the Native Women’s and Men’s Wellness Conference.

Kade Ferris
Kade is an enrolled Citizen of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa, Belcourt, North Dakota. He is an anthropologist/archaeologist with over 20 years of experience working with tribal communities to develop cultural resource self-determination plans and innovative methods of cultural resource management. Over the past years he has worked with over a dozen tribes to develop their Tribal Historic Preservation Offices (THPO) and provided training for those working in these offices. Over his career he has served as THPO and Director of Natural Resources for the Turtle Mountain Tribe, Tribal Archaeologist for the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, and am presently THPO and Tribal Archaeologist for the Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians. Much of his recent work has been in creating innovative approaches to cultural resource management in Indian Country, using GIS and spatial technology to identify and maintain cultural inventories and sites. Some of the Tribes he has worked with include the Lower Sioux Indian Community, Three Affiliated Tribes, Sisseton-Wahpeton Sioux Tribe, Crow Creek Sioux Tribe, Yankton Sioux Tribe, Plandreau Santee Sioux Tribe, Santee Sioux Tribe of Nebraska, Omaha Tribe, Winnebago Tribe, Ponca Tribe of Nebraska, Northern Arapaho Tribe, and Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe.

Dr. Barbara Schmitt
Barbara is an enrolled member of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa, Belcourt North Dakota. She currently owns and operates Schmitt Strategies, a Native-owned consulting firm that specializes in Community and Economic Development. With almost 30 years of experience in Community and Economic Development, Dr. Schmitt is committed to assisting tribal communities in planning and implementing economic endeavors on the reservations in the upper Midwest. Both as a team player and as an independent worker, she has been successful in contributing to projects throughout Indian Country in areas such as education, community and economic development, and research and development. Dr. Schmitt has a PhD in Education from North Dakota State University, Fargo, N.D., a MBA and a Master’s Degree in Management from the University of Mary, Bismarck, ND.

Dr. Joan Lafrance
Dr. Joan LaFrance is an enrolled Citizen of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa, Belcourt, North Dakota. She is the owner of Mekinak Consulting, a management and evaluation service specializing in educational program evaluation, research, and management studies. Mekinak Consulting has a long history of evaluation of programs in Tribal Colleges and Universities, tribal and indigenous communities, and for non-profit organizations. With support from the National Science Foundation (NSF) through a grant to the American Indian Higher Education Consortium (AIHEC), she conducted the research and co-authored the book Indigenous Evaluation Framework: Telling Our Story in Our Place and Time. Currently, she is conducting research on the application of the Indigenous Evaluation Framework in three tribal college communities. In addition to her ongoing work in American Indian tribal communities, she is working projects in the United States Affiliated Pacific Islands to assess culturally relevant mathematics curriculum and climate change education projects. She has taught research and evaluation methods in graduate programs at a number of universities. She has done municipal budgeting, program development and management, and curriculum development. Joan received her doctorate from Harvard University, and a Master’s of Public Administration from the University of Washington.

If you are interested in becoming a TNRG Associate Member please visit our website at www.tnrg.org. We welcome all tribal members interested in serving as a resource in their areas of expertise to other TMBCI members throughout the nation.
MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

TNRG is honoring two Associate Members by including their work in this month’s newsletter. The two Associate Members honored this month are Dr. Tami Jollie-Trottier and Dr. Duane Champagne.

Dr. Tami Jollie-Trottier

Dr. Tami Jollie-Trottier is a clinical psychologist currently doing clinical work in her hometown reservation of Belcourt ND. Dr. Jollie-Trottier is an enrolled member of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians. In 2005, Dr. Jollie-Trottier received her PhD in psychology from the University of North Dakota. She then completed a 2-year fellowship in Health Psychology Research at the Center for Health Promotion & Prevention Research, UND Medical School. Following her postdoctoral work she completed one year of specialty training at the Eating Disorder and Neuropsychiatric Research Institutes in Fargo, ND. Dr. Jollie-Trottier serves as the Weight Loss Coordinator for the Behavioral Health Department and is one of the founders of the Annual Medicine Moon Run, a 1/2 Marathon, in Belcourt, ND. Dr. Jollie-Trottier is an Associate of the Tribal Nations Research group and serves as a community research advisor. Dr. Jollie-Trottier's research interests include identifying and increasing balanced living in native communities. Future areas of interest include obesogenic environments, diabesity, and trauma in native populations; and examining how emotional, spiritual, physical, and behavioral wellness can be achieved through traditional healing methods. Dr. Jollie-Trottier has been invited to review for Obesity Research Online Journal; and has been a presenter at national conferences. Most recently, Dr. Jollie-Trottier was invited by the American Psychological Association (APA) Office of Minority Affairs to present on obesity in Indian country in Washington, DC (Nov. 2015). Dr. Jollie-Trottier was named IHS Aberdeen Area's 2010 Community Wellness Champion; and will be honored this year with the Minot State University Young Alumni Achievement Award for her contributions to research, wellness, and health promotion and disease prevention throughout Indian Country.

In terms of research activities, most recently, Dr. Jollie-Trottier and a local team collaborated with the National Initiative for Children's Healthcare Quality (NICHQ) to combat obesity on the Turtle Mountain Reservation. Dr. Jollie-Trottier served as project lead for Indian Health Service (IHS) Healthy Weight Collaborative Team. The intervention focused on utilizing Messaging in Public, Private, and Community Sectors to gain momentum in the community; promoting obesity intervention and prevention strategies. The local IHS Healthy Weight collaborative team included key community members from specialized health areas, organizations, medical facilities, school, and tribal organizations.

THE MODERNIST VIEW: LIBERATING INDIGENOUS PEOPLES FROM TRADITION AND CULTURE

Dr. Duane Champagne

The rejection of termination policy during the 1950s is a benchmark event. Many Indians were willing to accept U.S. citizenship, but were not willing to give up Indian identity, self-government, treaties, land, and culture. The world has changed dramatically over the past centuries, and many Indian communities have learned to adapt. Left to their own ways, Indians would prefer their own cultures and nations. However, the world has become globalized politically and economically, if not socially and culturally. Most Indian nations cannot live as they did two or three hundred years ago. The Indians that met the Puritans in the early 1630s are not culturally the same today, just as the Puritans not the same. Indigenous Peoples have learned to adapt, but they want to change in ways that make sense for themselves and their futures.

The diversity of indigenous cultures, institutions and histories makes it difficult to say there is a common pattern. There are diverse ways in which indigenous communities make accommodation to present-day nation state policies. Some examples are worth noting. Many U.S. tribes have taken up gaming as a way to enter the market. Gaming for most Indian nations, however, is a collective economic, if not political and cultural, enterprise where all members of the nation are equal shareholders. A tribal collective enterprise needs to make money, but the money is about upholding tribal government, community, and about sharing and maintaining collective ownership of assets. Each tribal member gets an equal share, if there are any monetary distributions. Indian nations want to go into the marketplace as collective entities, and for the purpose of serving their tribal communities, and maintaining their tribal governments, land, and cultures. Some nations, like the various Pueblos, do not want to separate government, community, and culture. In Acoma Pueblo, the governors are selected by a religious leader and the community is organized into ceremonially significant clans. Other Indian nations, especially those organized through the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934 (IRA), separate government and religion, but still maintain collective identity, and ceremonies are organized through community. Many Indian nations have always operated by community consensus, and often community remains more powerful than tribal government. For example, the IRA constitution of the Oneida of Wisconsin, has a general council composed of all adult members as the primary and most powerful governmental body. Similarly, in California, many of the tribal governments, despite bureaucratic and business corporate additions, have general community councils as their primary and most powerful political body. Many California general councils hold ultimate authority over management of collective social, political, and land interests as well as overseeing economic business and gaming enterprises. Indigenous nations are willing to address modernity, but in ways that preserve and maintain their collective political and cultural processes.

Reprinted from Indian Country Today, June 7, 2015
http://indiancountrytodaymedianetwork.com/2015/07/05/modernist-view-liberating-indigenous-peoples-tradition-and-culture-160590
“ND Tribal Smoke free Casino Project-Air Quality Monitoring Process”  
Project PI: Stephanie Jay and Jackie Giron, TMBCI Tobacco Prevention Programs  
ND Tribal Smoke free Casino Project-Air Quality Monitoring Process. The research project is working with the Roswell Park Cancer Institute to perform air quality monitoring study at the Turtle Mountain Sky Dancer Casino.

“In Our Own Words: Native Impressions”  
Project PI/Co PI: Lucy Ganje, MFA, Kim Fink, and Sebastian Braun, University of North Dakota  
In our own words: Native Impressions. This purpose of this study highlight the lives of contemporary Native Americans and the issues surrounding them. Tribal members will have portraits painted while the subjects talk about their lives and life experiences while living in North Dakota.

“Instructor Perceptions on the Values of College Readiness”  
Project PI: Erica Gunville, PhD Candidate University of North Dakota  
The proposed research project conducts research on values of college ready programming, with the purpose of the study to focus on instructor perceptions and what makes a student become college ready.

“Great Plains Partnership to Improve Community Health”  
Project PI: Nichole Cottier, Great Plains Tribal Chairmen’s Health Board  
The proposed study is a community assessment designed to assist the Tribal Advisory Committee to measure community health, create knowledge, and implement effective strategies that reflect cultural values and beliefs to reduce the rates death and disability due to diabetes and stroke.

“Community based diabetes education train the trainer event”  
Project PI: Alona Jarmin, Quality Health Associates of North Dakota/Great Plains Quality Innovation Network QIO  
The proposed study is to train able and willing participants to hold community based diabetes education using a CMS approved curriculum that requires training on prior to holding community classes on diabetes (type 2). The purpose of this training is to improve the clinical outcomes of diabetes in communities in ND by identifying and training people who will hold community based diabetes education classes using the CMS approved curriculum, Diabetes Empowerment Education Program (D.E.E.P). The focused population is American Indian and those who have Medicare.

“Oral Narrative Education Practiced on the Turtle Mountain Chippewa Indian Reservation”  
Project PI: Caitlin Johnson, NDSU Human Development & Education  
The proposed research is to study the types of oral stories are shared on the reservation, what types of education is shared through the passing of these stories, the techniques used to tell these stories, and whether practitioners still believe they can be used for education, for the sole purpose of entertainment, or both.

The TMBCI Research Protection Act was signed into law by TMBCI resolution on July 31, 2014. All research conducted on the TMBCI Reservation and TMBCI Tribal Lands are required to adhere to the Act. All comments and/or need for additional information should be directed to Anita Frederick-Research Liaison at 701-477-5526 or anitabfrederick@gmail.com, mailing address PO BOX 1906 Belcourt, ND 58316.

You can find an application for initial review for research on the TNRG website, www.tnrg.com  

No research may proceed on the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indian Reservation unless approved by the TMBCI RRB.
The Bush Foundation will award nearly $5 million to 30 organizations through its Community Innovation Grant program. Funds will support problem-solving efforts across a range of issue areas including domestic violence prevention, food sovereignty and watershed preservation.

“This year’s Community Innovation Grant recipients represent a growing network of organizations that are truly advocating for social change. It’s impressive to see the depth and breadth of thoughtful and responsive processes these organizations have proposed, and I know the Foundation is pleased to support such collaborative work,” said Molly Matheson Gruen, Bush Foundation Community Innovation Director.

The Community Innovation Grant program was established in 2013 for community stakeholders to find breakthrough solutions to complex challenges. Projects receiving Community Innovation Grant support will inspire collaborative problem-solving processes that lead to more effective, equitable and sustainable solutions.

The Bush Foundation and TNRG’s purpose is to promote high quality research relevant to the TMB-CI that will advance the tribe’s economic development and uphold its positive images. TNRG plans to collect baseline data and design and implement a community wide survey focusing on key data needed to develop the base-line data. The survey will make it’s way throughout the community after the 1st of October.

To learn more about the Community Innovation Grant program, as well as the 30 recipient organizations, please visit http://www.bushfoundation.org/grants/community-innovation-grants.
Dakota Conference on Rural and Public Health
2015

Harvey LaRocque attended the Dakota Conference in Minot to represent Tribal Nations Research Group, build bridges, and acquire new ideas. One of the keynote speakers at the conference was Don Warne. Dr. Warne gave an excellent presentation over American Indian Health Equity. Some of the key points of his presentation was studying the past, understanding the present, developing best practices that work in Indian country, and spending more money on intervention and getting better results for every dollar spent.

Newest Member to TNRG

Tribal Nations Research Group welcomes Kylie Keplin as the Director of Community. Kylie began her duties as the Director of Community Innovation on July 20, 2015. She brings +10 years of research experience, a Bachelor of Science in Secondary Education with a major in Science, and is currently pursuing a Master’s Degree in Education Leadership. Kylie will be responsible for the operational success of the Bush Foundation Community Innovation Project. This entails planning, organizing, and hosting a gathering with tribal representatives from other tribes who are interested in pursuing the same research and data storage processes in their communities. Welcome Kylie!

Oglala Sioux Tribe Research Conference

Oglala Sioux Tribe hosted their research conference in Pine Ridge at the Suanne Big Crow Boys and Girls Club on May 7. Harvey LaRocque, attended the conference to support our local CRCAIH partner, build bridges, and acquire new ideas pertaining to research and IRB/RRB governance. Wayne Weston, a member of their research review board gave an excellent presentation on the importance of having a tribal RRB to protect his people, Oglala Sioux ceremonies and their way of life. Other ideas was envisioning and creating a research center where they could train local tribal members as researchers and build their own research capacity rather than having outside researchers come in to conduct research. The advantages of training their own people in the research processes is controlling the research agenda as opposed to guiding it.

New Office Space!

Tribal Nations Research Group will be moving into their new office space August 28! The building has two offices, a conference room, reception space, and a coffee station. We plan to hold RRB meetings and video conference meetings in the new conference area. In the future, we hope to rent out the conference area to serve the needs of our tribal community. Please stop by if you are interested in the Group or the new space!

Grand Opening!

Grand opening of TNRG’s new office space coming soon! Watch our FB page or website for dates!
Research Review Board

The TMBCI RRB had three meetings to train in the research review board members. The first training occurred on May 7 and was an orientation session. The orientation session gave an overview over the Research Protection Act, TMBCI Research Review Board duties and expectations, TNRG role in governing research and administering the RRB, the history of how TNRG was created, and having the members sign a letter of commitment.

The second meeting occurred on May 26. The second session reviewed CRCAIH’s website that offered training and resource materials on research processes and what constitutes research data. As part of the training session, they were given some homework that requires them to do additional training on their own time. The training consists of an online tutorial by the National Institutes of Health Office of Extramural Research over Protecting Human Research Participants.

The latest meeting was on August 3 which was another training with leaders from CRCAIH. Two ladies came to Belcourt and did a short training on how to identify research and if the protocols reviewed were research or not. The tribe’s RRB held their first official meeting which was very successful. It is safe to say that the RRB has great members with great minds to protect our tribe from potentially dangerous research.

Higher Education Technical Assistance Program

The Higher Education Technical Assistance Program invited our very own Anita Frederick to be a part of a panel discussing research at their Regional Training on August 27. Anita, President of TNRG, provided a brief presentation of who TNRG is and what they represent as a group. Later in the afternoon she presented on the role of Tribal Review Boards with their communities. She also engaged in a question and answer session with the audience along side of some other great professionals; Debora Ortega, PhD, Professor, Graduate School of Social Work and Director, Latino Center for Community Engagement and Scholarship, University of Denver and Ramona Beltran, PhD, Assistant Professor, Graduate School of Social Work, University of Denver, to answer and bounce ideas off of each other and the audience members.

CRCAIH Summit

The Collaborative Research Center for American Indian Health (CRCAIH) hosted the 3rd Annual Health Research Summit in Rapid City, SD June 10 & 11, 2015. Anita Frederick, President of TNRG, attended and participated in a panel that discussed Tribal Research Infrastructure. Anita gave an presentation on who TNRG is and how CRCAIH is helping get us to where we want to be. You can find the presentation and a video of the panel at http://www.crcaih.org/summit/2-page-content/239-summit_2015_archive.html

New Address!

TNRG has updated its domain name to an easier and more compact address http://www.tnrg.org! Please visit us today to check out our most current updates!
“Building Research Capacity & The Regulatory Process for Tribal Nations”

Round Table Discussions

Wednesday,
September 9, 2015

Two Sessions
Bismarck, ND
9:30 a.m. - 11:30 p.m. Bismarck Civic Center
1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. Hall B Room 3

Hosted by:
Dr. Carol Davis  Anita Frederick  Kylie Keplin

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Our Partners

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