

CENTER OF AMERICAN INDIAN AND MINORITY HEALTH

As American Indian and Alaska Native (AIAN) people, we have always known how to care for our communities. Government policies, however, have decimated our health systems and resulted in our having the shortest lifespan of all major populations in the United States. Despite government actions, AIAN people have retained cultural traditions and research shows that cultural involvement improves health outcomes. **Improving our health outcomes is dependent on increased numbers of people who understand our cultural ways. We need more American Indian and Alaska Native healthcare providers including but not limited to, physicians, nurses, dentists, pharmacists, and public health experts.**

The Center of American Indian and Minority Health (CAIMH) has, for 50 years, recruited and supported AIAN students through their graduation as physicians and our record of graduating the second highest number of AIAN physicians in the United States speaks to our success. **Minnesota state funding will allow CAIMH to expand its programs to support AIAN students in all health professions and provide Minnesota Tribal Nation leaders what they've been asking for: increased numbers of AIAN health professionals across all disciplines.**



Workforce Development:

Indigenous Health Professions Alliance (IHPA)

The Center of American Indian and Minority Health coordinates an alliance of UM health professions schools to increase American Indian and Alaska Native graduates from all health disciplines.

- Shared space for study, cultural events, and community building.
- Advocacy for policies that improve AIAN recruitment and retention in all health professions schools.
- Interdisciplinary community projects that unite AIAN health professions students to serve AIAN rural and urban communities.

Indigenous Health Resources Taskforce (IHEART)

In 2021, CAIMH leadership founded IHEART, a national AIAN led multi-institution collaborative effort to establish regional networks of educational pathways for AIAN students throughout the United States. IHEART's ultimate goal is to increase the numbers of AIAN students interested in and capable of pursuing health careers.



#2

The University of Minnesota Medical School is the second in the nation for graduating the most American Indian/Alaska Native physicians.

CAIMH HIGHLIGHTS

Native Americans Into Medicine (NAM)

NAM is a summer research program for college sophomores, juniors, and seniors interested in pursuing health careers. Program instructors include a broad range of Native American faculty, health professionals, traditional elders, and medical students. Accepted NAM students earn a stipend for living expenses. Campus housing is also available for those traveling from outside the Duluth region.

White Earth Nation Clinical Partnership

As a first-of-its-kind health model involving a Native Nation in Minnesota, the IHS, and the University of Minnesota Medical School are partnering to 1. Fill long-existing physician vacancies and provide needed care for the White Earth Nation 2. Provide training for AIAN medical students and 3. Foster positive community youth (Kindergarten through 12th grade) interactions with the UMN CAIMH pathway programs to health professions.

Indigenous Health Curriculum

Medical Students at the University of Minnesota receive ten hours of training in Indigenous health and AIAN medical students receive training at Tribal Clinics in the Great Lakes and Northern Plains regions. AIAN medical students are also given opportunities to attend meetings of the Association of American Indian Physicians to build community and to gain mentorship from AIAN physicians.



**Mary Owen, M.D., Tlingit
Associate Dean of Native
American Health
UMN Medical School**

Dr. Mary Owen is a member of the Tlingit nation. She graduated from the University of Minnesota Medical School and North Memorial Family Practice Residency Program. After providing eleven years of full-scope family medicine for her Tribal community in Alaska, she returned to the University of Minnesota Medical School, Duluth in 2014, as the Director of the Center of American Indian and Minority Health (CAIMH). She continues to provide clinical care at the Center of American Indian Resources in Duluth and is a past president of the Association of American Indian Physicians.



**Amanda Dionne
Assistant Director,
Center of American Indian
and Minority Health**

Amanda Dionne is a member of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe and from the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians. She graduated from Augsburg University in 2011 with a degree in Business Management and Business Economics while completing two years of service as an Americorps member. Throughout her career, Amanda has served in various roles in community development, public health, tribal policy, community outreach and engagement, K-12 education, and student support.



Photos Courtesy of John Krumm



www.aimh.umn.edu



218-726-7235



aimh@d.umn.edu