



"Culture, Mental Health, and Traditional Healing in native American Communities."

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As a clinically-trained, community-engaged cultural psychologist, my research tackles the problem of cultural difference in providing appropriate and effective mental health treatments for Native American (NA) communities. Currently, my research program aims to achieve this through collaborative community-based partnerships designed to formulate practical models for integrating traditional healing practices and conventional behavioral health (BH) services (i.e., mental health and substance abuse treatments). Development of these integration models will begin to realize the longstanding interest in NA communities for institutional recognition of traditional healing practices, and to set the stage for future implementation, evaluation, and refinement of testable pilot integration efforts. The NCID fellowship will augment and support my efforts to simultaneously administer four related projects. First, I obtained funds from OVPR and Psychology to establish a Faculty-Graduate Student seminar during 2009-10 dedicated to exploring *Culture & Mental Health: Controversies in Theory, Research, & Practice*. Second, my proposal to the Institute for Research on Women & Gender (IRWG) was funded beginning in the Fall of 2009 for a *Program on Native American Culture, Gender, & Healing*. Third, I received research funds from OVPR, LS&A, and Psychology to commence community consultation for the development of a federal Community-Based Participatory Research grant proposal pertaining to *Culture & Counseling for Emotional Distress Among the Blackfeet Indians*. Finally, in partnership with a Native American community health center in Detroit, I received research funds from the Michigan Institute for Clinical and Health Research (MICHR) to undertake an exploration of *Integrating Traditional Healing & Behavioral Health Services for Urban American Indians*.

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