

## CONFERENCE AGENDA

### Tuesday – September 2, 2025

12:00 PM - 5:00 PM	SET UP	HALL A
1:00 PM - 5:00 PM	EARLY REGISTRATION	MAIN LOBBY
5:45 PM - 7:15 PM	LEWIS & CLARK RIVERBOAT CRUISE	1700 RIVER ROAD



Sponsored By: Ft. Abraham  
Lincoln Foundation

1700 River Road,  
Bismarck, ND

*Lewis & Clark  
Riverboat Cruise*

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2**

**1ST CHARTER:**

6:00 pm – 7:00 pm

\*Boarding begins at 5:45 pm

**2ND CHARTER:**

7:30 pm – 8:30 pm

\*Boarding begins at 7:15 pm

There is a limit of 105 people per charter.  
Yes, it is just for students and their guests.  
They will have to pick up their tickets at the  
Wellness Center. Ask for Alera Smith on 9/2  
between 8 am and 5 pm.

### Wednesday – September 3, 2025

7:30 AM - 8:30 AM	BREAKFAST	HALL D
8:30 AM - 9:50 AM	OPENING PLENARY SESSION	HALL A

Emcee: ..... Whitney Rencountre II, Crow Creek Hunkpati Dakota

Posting of the Colors: ..... United Tribes Technical College Color Guard  
Drum/Singing Group: Sloughfoot from Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians

Invocation: ..... Melvin Miner III, UTTC Campus Planner  
Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe

Welcome: ..... Dr. Leander R. McDonald, UTTC President, Spirit Lake Nation

Opening Remarks: ..... UTTC Board of Directors representing Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians,  
Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate, Spirit Lake Nation, MHA Nation, and Standing Rock Sioux Tribe;

Dignitaries Recognition/Remarks: ..... Mick Schmitz, Mayor of Bismarck, Brenda Nagel, President/CEO, Bismarck  
Mandan Chamber of EDC Cheryl Crazy Bull, President/CEO American Indian College Fund

10:00 AM - 10:50 AM	TRADESHOW OPENING	HALL B
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# 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Tribal Leaders Summit



## CONFERENCE AGENDA

11:00 AM – 11:50 AM

PRAIRIE ROSE ROOMS

**Cultivating Future Leaders in Indigenous Food Sovereignty and Health.....Prairie Rose 101**

**Presenter:** Ashley Littlewolf

*Description - American Indian Public Health Resource Center's strengthened mission and vision, of a future where tribal nations lead the way in shaping and delivering public health systems that reflect Indigenous knowledge, cultural strength, and community priorities. AIPHRC is built on a collaborative, interdisciplinary foundation that supports each tribe's unique path toward health equity and self-governance. At the core of our mission is an unwavering respect for tribal authority, cultural identity, and the inherent right of Indigenous peoples to determine their own health destinies.*

**Empowering Tribes To Manage Tribal Energy Resources Through Collective Action .....Prairie Rose 102**

**Presenter:** Erest Weston

*Description - To empower Tribes to manage Tribal energy resources through collective action.*

**Together Overcoming Diabetes: Culturally Informed, Intergenerational Approaches to Diabetes Prevention and Management ..... Prairie Rose 103**

**Presenter:** Courtney Claussen, Savannah Greseth

*Description - This presentation highlights the evaluation of Together Overcoming Diabetes (TOD)—a scientifically rigorous, culturally tailored intervention designed to address the unique risk and protective factors and social determinants of diabetes among American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) populations. The Great Plains TOD project pairs an adult with type 2 diabetes and a youth family member, leveraging an intergenerational model that has demonstrated success in other AI/AN communities.*

**Data and Tribal Economies: Securing Our Future Through Sovereignty.....Prairie Rose 104**

**Presenter:** Joseph Yracheta

*Description - Native Bio is a very successful 501C3 with an international reputation for working towards Indigenous Data Sovereignty #IDSov in all types of data. The presentation will focus on the history of Native Bio, its current work to broker a working relationship with the NIH, its international partners and its capacity building with students and community members*

**Missing and Murdered Unit Capabilities .....Prairie Rose 105**

**Presenter:** Robert Schoeberl, Rikki Himmel, Savannah Peterson, Bobbie Olauson

*Description - The presentation will outline the capabilities of the Missing and Murdered Unit (MMU) in assisting with cold cases, human trafficking, and Internet Crimes Against Children, as well as our Victim Services. Additionally, we will cover the three methods for reporting missing relatives, ensuring they are assigned a Special Agent and added to the MMU missing persons website.*

**Decolonizing Menus One Dish at a Time .....Hall A**

**Presenter:** Chef Anthony Bauer, Chef Andrea Condes

*Description - Join the two Indigenous chefs of the FARMS to Table event to learn about their culinary journeys and philosophies on reclaiming ancestral foodways. Each dish is more than a recipe—it's a narrative of identity and reconnection to the land. Learn how these chefs are decolonizing menus one dish at a time.*

12:00 PM - 1:00 PM LUNCH

HALL D

1:00 PM – 1:50 PM

PRAIRIE ROSE ROOMS

**Integrated Tribal Project Delivery: Building Sovereignty into the Process .....Prairie Rose 101**

**Presenter:** Frankee Hall

*Description - As Tribal Nations lead the way in infrastructure development, renewable energy, wellness centers, and cultural facilities, the delivery process itself often becomes a barrier — full of inefficiencies, cost overruns, and cultural disconnects. This session introduces a tribal-centered adaptation of Integrated Project Delivery (IPD), called Integrated Tribal Project Delivery (ITPD) — a framework designed to align project outcomes with tribal values, long-term vision, and sovereignty.*

**Cultural Programming for Urban Indians in North Dakota .....Prairie Rose 102**

**Presenter:** Lorraine Davis

*Description - "Cultural Programming for Urban Indians in North Dakota" explores the importance of culturally responsive initiatives for Native people living in urban centers. The presentation highlights how programs rooted in tradition foster belonging, identity, and well-being while bridging the realities of urban life. Participants will learn about community-based, educational, and intergenerational efforts that strengthen resilience and support Native voices in North Dakota's cities.*



# 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Tribal Leaders Summit



## CONFERENCE AGENDA

### Protecting Tribal Critical Infrastructure, Cultural and Natural Resources:

**Tribal Incident Management Teams..... Prairie Rose 103**

**Presenter:** Emily Sitting Bear

*Description - Lessons learned from MHA Nation; creating the MHA Emergency Operations Center from the Covid-19 Pandemic, building the Great Plains Regions first Tribal IMT, to Indian Country's first EOC facility. How IMTs can help protect a tribal nations greatest assets during and after natural and manmade disasters, such as cyberattacks, wildfires, severe storms, missing persons, active threats(shooter/bombthreats), HAZCHEM incidents, coordination for special events etc.*

**Advancing Tribal Health in the Great Plains: Implementing the READI Model for Improvement .....Prairie Rose 104**

**Presenter:** Allison Joachim

*Description - The Great Plains Tribal Leaders Health Board (GPTLHB) has adopted the SCF READI Model—Reach Understanding, Establish Relationships, Assess Gaps, Develop and Implement Action Plan, and Integrate Solutions and Evaluate Results—as a culturally responsive framework for driving innovation and quality improvement in tribal health systems. This presentation will highlight how the READI Model was used to guide the implementation of an IHI-aligned diabetes management project, resulting in measurable improvements in clinical outcomes across Great Plains tribal communities. Attendees will learn how the READI Model supports the progress of comprehensive care among American Indian and Alaska Natives. Participants will gain access to practical tools—including a project charter template, PDSA cycle guides, and evaluation strategies—designed to support replication of similar initiatives in other tribal communities. This session will empower tribal leaders and health professionals to adopt a relational, data-informed approach that honors tribal sovereignty while advancing health equity.*

**Data-Driven Sovereignty: Strengthening Tribal Governance Through Information, Innovation, and Impact .....Prairie Rose 105**

**Presenter:** Anita Frederick, Kylie Keplin

*Description - This session will present leading-edge strategies and case studies on how data can be embedded into all aspects of tribal governance. From constitutional reform to fiscal policy, from sovereignty protection to program accountability, attendees will explore non-traditional approaches utilizing modern data infrastructure. The session will provide “how-to” implementation tools, including a Tribal Governance Data Framework, intergovernmental data-sharing templates, and various methods of tracking program impact.*

**Building Food Sustainability in North Dakota's Tribal Colleges .....Hall A**

**Presenter:** Jeremy Lewis, Jordan Allard, Destiny Fox-Deane, Ayanna Maynard, Dr. Tracey Bauer

*Description - This session offers a forward-looking view of Years 3-5 of the NSF-funded North Dakota Advanced Agriculture Technology (AgTech) Engine and its integration across North Dakota's Tribal Colleges. From developing a new platform for ag-related programming to campus gardens and community-led programs, this presentation will highlight how food sovereignty is driving innovation and economic opportunity in Tribal communities across the state.*

**2:00 PM - 2:50 PM**

**PRAIRIE ROSE ROOMS**

**Rooted in Values, Ready to Lead: The Future of Nation Rebuilding .....Prairie Rose 101**

**Presenter:** Cree Rose Dueker, Sage Phillips, Jessica Glidden, Feather LaRoche

*Description - What does it mean to lead with values today? This interactive session invites Native leaders to understand how the five principles of Native Nation Rebuilding, combined with their personal, cultural, and community values-based leadership, can support transformative learning and sustainable change.*

**Advancing Cancer Equity in the Great Plains through**

**Culturally-Driven Screening and Control Programs.....Prairie Rose 102**

**Presenter:** Heather BringsPlenty

*Description - The Honor Every Woman (HEW) Great Plains Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program is dedicated to reducing breast and cervical cancer disparities among American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) women across North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, and Iowa. HEW collaborates with national, regional, and local partners to deliver evidence-based screening interventions, direct services, and culturally responsive outreach. The program aims to expand access to Pap tests, HPV tests, mammograms, diagnostics, and follow-up care, while working to eliminate screening disparities through partnerships community connections, and workplace-based strategies.*





# 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Tribal Leaders Summit



## CONFERENCE AGENDA

### **Soaring Forward: Students Shaping What's Next (Exclusively for UTTC Students).....Prairie Rose 103**

**Presenter:** Dr. Leah Woodke, Megan Wilhelms

*Description - UTTC is on the move — and we want you with us. UTTC is planning for the next five years, and this is your chance to help shape what comes next. Join us for a dynamic, student-focused session where we'll reflect on how far we've come in reaching our goals and invite your voice in shaping where we go next. Through interactive activities, conversation, and insight-sharing, this is your opportunity to help define priorities for the next five years at UTTC. What matters to you? What's working? What could be better? Your ideas will directly inform UTTC's future direction. Come share your thoughts, meet other students, and be part of building what's next — Thunderbird style!*

### **Revenue with Purpose: Strategies for Maximizing Third-Party Collections at OHC.....Prairie Rose 104**

**Presenter:** Lisa Schlosser

*Description - The Oyate Health Center (OHC) has implemented a comprehensive third-party revenue strategy that strengthens tribal health system sustainability while expanding access to care. With over \$21.2 million collected by March 2025 toward a \$37 million annual goal, OHC's approach demonstrates how tribal health systems can effectively manage billing operations to support sovereignty and service delivery.*

### **Ramona Remembers Miss Daggs: Media Production Considering Tribal Nations and Citizens .....Prairie Rose 105**

**Presenter:** Dr. Ramona Klein, Ruben Flores

*Description - In this presentation, audiences will watch the documentary, hear about Miss Daggs and her educational legacy through Ramona, learn about how media can be useful tool for Native nations and citizens in the realms of economic development, education, culture, and social justice. With the rise of mainstream Native American media like Reservation Dogs, Killers of the Flower Moon, Rez Ball, and others, there are significant considerations that tribal citizens and nations should be aware of when producing media. Whether in collaboration with others or alone media production can be an enriching project for tribal citizens and nations, but only with careful thought and consideration.*

### **Leveraging Advanced Materials Research and Manufacturing to**

#### **Accelerate Economic Development .....Hall A**

**Presenter:** Dr. Surojit Gupta

*Description - Recently, Materials and Manufacturing Research Center (MMRC) was designated as state approved research entity in University of North Dakota. In this presentation, we will present some of the research initiatives which we have started in the University to build materials research based ecosystem in ND. It also involves active collaboration with United Tribes Technical College (UTTC). Some of the example of success stories defense related research, wind energy based ecosystem, sustainable bioplastics and Ag-based materials.*

**3:00 PM - 3:50 PM**

**PRAIRIE ROSE ROOMS**

### **988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline / GP 988 Tribal Response .....Prairie Rose 101**

**Presenter:** Martina Martinez

*Description - Inform the Relative about the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline. Explain that it is not just for Suicide, it is for anyone in crisis. A crisis can be different for everyone. Family and friends can call to get resources if you have a loved one struggling. What happens when you call? Who can call? Available 24/7, call, text, or chat.*

### **Lighting the "Spark" of Civic Engagement .....Prairie Rose 102**

**Presenter:** Daniela Aki

*Description - This session highlights how Buffalo's Fire Bismarck Documenters — citizens trained and paid to attend and record public meetings — are building transparency and community voice in the Northern Plains. Attendees will leave with ideas for fostering civic engagement and encouraging community members to take part in the decision-making processes that shape their lives.*

### **Missing and Murdered Unit Capabilities .....Prairie Rose 103**

**Presenter:** Robert Schoeberl, Rikki Himmel, Savannah Peterson, Bobbie Olason

*Description - The presentation will outline the capabilities of the Missing and Murdered Unit (MMU) in assisting with cold cases, human trafficking, and Internet Crimes Against Children, as well as our Victim Services. Additionally, we will cover the three methods for reporting missing relatives, ensuring they are assigned a Special Agent and added to the MMU missing persons website.*



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### **Growing Our Own: Building a Culturally-Grown Tribal Public Health Workforce .....Prairie Rose 104**

**Presenter:** Feather LaRoche

*Description - This session will introduce three interactive public health education modules that were originally developed by Native American public health staff and consultants for Public Health AmeriCorps, then modified for Native American middle and high school students. Designed with Indigenous values and community strengths at the center, these modules aim to raise awareness of public health and inspire youth to see themselves as future public health leaders. Attendees will explore the modules, participate in a short interactive activity, and engage in discussion to help define future distribution and use of the modules and priorities for the next round of modules, including specific public health topics.*

### **ND Tribal College Presidents Panel—The State of TCUs .....Prairie Rose 105**

**Presenter:** Dr. Twyla Baker, Dr. Leander McDonald, Dr. Tomi Kay Philips, Dr. Steven Smith, Dr. Wanda

Parisien, Dr. Tracey Bauerr

*Description - North Dakota Tribal College Presidents will share updates related to their institutions, particularly recent changes at the federal level, and the impact of these changes. Join us and find out what's happening within the higher education landscape and what you can do to assist in our efforts to sustain tribal colleges and universities.*

### **Eating Like Our Ancestors .....Hall A**

**Presenter:** Jaylynn Farlee

*Description - The Keya Foundation, Inc. invites you to explore the rich flavors and stories of Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe elders with Unci Kitchen, a toolkit from the Eating Like Our Ancestors project. This resource celebrates traditional Lakota foods and welcomes all tišpaye (extended families) to reconnect with these teachings. Discover how this toolkit can bring the vibrant history of Lakota culture into your home or classroom.*

**4:00 PM - 4:50 PM**

**PRAIRIE ROSE ROOMS**

### **Federal Funding Fall-out: Build growth and maintain Economy with Tribal Tourism .....Prairie Rose 101**

**Presenter:** Fred Walke, Les Thomas, Collette Brown, Tamara St. John, Stacey LaCompte

*Description - NDNTA is pivoting with our Tribal Nations "Building Back Better and Stronger - The Vision of our future of strength with sustainable economy thru tourism – Telling our Stories with our own Voices" How can we help to be proactive in mitigating the impact of reductions? Building Partnerships and Collaboration with the whole state of North Dakota.*

### **Dakota Prairie Apprenticeship Readiness Program.....Prairie Rose 102**

**Presenter:** Jason Ehlert, Iman Moore

*Description - Working collaboratively, Nueta Hidatsa Sahnish College and the North Dakota's Building Trades Unions are offering the Dakota Prairie Apprenticeship Readiness Program. This Program seeks to connect Native Americans with careers in the Building Trades Unions through Registered Apprenticeships. The Dakota Prairie Apprenticeship Readiness Program is a twelve-week course that prepares candidates for an apprenticeship. Upon completion of the Program, candidates network with the trade(s) of their choice for further connectivity for placement into a Registered Apprenticeship Program. Within the Building Trades Unions, there are fifteen partner unions that have a unique career in construction from foundation to finish. Our website is [www.ndbtu.org](http://www.ndbtu.org) that highlights the varying careers available with our partnering unions.*

### **Carrying the Work Forward: A Path of Healing and Prevention of Sexual**

### **Violence in Indian Country.....Prairie Rose 103**

**Presenter:** Stacey Kartes, Mikalen Belgarde

*Description - Building on the foundation we laid last year, this session offers an update on the sexual violence prevention efforts happening across the tribal nations in North Dakota. We will reflect on the past year—sharing the lessons, challenges, and progress made—and speak to the spirit of continued resistance and restoration. This conversation will also look ahead to what's next: community-led strategies, intergenerational solutions, and culturally rooted practices that center safety, belonging, and wellness.*

### **A Cultural Approach to Good Health and Wellness in Indian Country.....Prairie Rose 104**

**Presenter:** Everett Baxter Jr.

*Description - implement a culture-first, community-driven approach to increase the tribes/villages/Urban Indian Organizations (UIOs)/tribal entities within the award area who are implementing community-driven traditional and cultural practices to reduce rates of death and disability from chronic diseases and reduce the prevalence of commercial tobacco use, prediabetes and type 2 diabetes, high blood pressure, obesity, oral disease, and other chronic disease risk factors and conditions. Join us to see how tribal partners are achieving those goals and the ways in which the Good Health and Wellness Program provide training, technical assistance, and support to all GPA entities to [www.eventleaf.com](http://www.eventleaf.com) establish policy, systems, and environmental (PSE) changes that promote health and prevent chronic diseases and their risk factors.*



# 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Tribal Leaders Summit



## CONFERENCE AGENDA

### Strategic Planning for Tribal Agencies: A Model for Participatory Planning .....Prairie Rose 105

**Presenters:** Doug CrowGhost, Jr., Ronnette Chase Alone, Peter Capossela, Emily Biggane, and Jeremy Guinn

*Description - A focused, actionable strategic plan allows a department to meet its goals and remain adaptable to changing conditions. Over the past two years, UTTC and Standing Rock Sioux Tribe Water Resources Department engaged in developing a strategic plan and built an exciting new partnership along the way. The model, tailored to fit SRST, can be applied by other tribes to develop strategic plans. Learn about the value of this strategic plan and ideas for developing a curriculum around the model for crafting tribal agency strategic plans that can be shared and used by others.*

### Re-Indigenizing MHA Tribal Food Systems Through Local Traditional Food Accessibility, Educational, Nutritional, and Historical Agricultural Initiatives .....Hall A

**Presenter:** Tiana Dubois

*Description - Addressing food insecurity and the return to traditional foods on the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation by expanding tribal food systems. Prioritizing traditional food accessibility, improving NHSC land and seed stewardship, with a focus on traditional methods of meat processing.*

**5:00 PM - 6:00 PM      SOCIAL HOUR/HORS D'OEUVRES/DOOR PRIZES**

**HALL B**

**5:45 PM - 8:00 PM      ENTERTAINMENT: NORTH DAKOTA NATIVE TOURISM ALLIANCE**

**HALL A**

*Description - Native American Powwow Dance & Drum Presentation – United Tribes Leaders Summit*

*Join us for an engaging and powerful cultural presentation featuring Native American powwow dancers and traditional drum groups. Accompanied by live drumming and singing, the performance offers a vibrant celebration of our Indigenous culture, resilience, and community.*

*The presentation also includes educational insights into powwow etiquette, helping attendees understand the cultural protocols, respect for the drum, regalia significance, and the sacred nature of the dances. This experience aims to foster greater appreciation, understanding, and respect for Native cultural heritage and traditions among summit participants and public attendees.*

THE NORTH DAKOTA NATIVE TOURISM ALLIANCE PRESENTS

## NATIVE AMERICAN CULTURAL DANCE & DRUM PRESENTATION

◆ SPECIAL PERFORMANCE ◆

Experience a powerful cultural presentation with Native American dancers and drum groups. Enjoy live drumming, singing, and educational insights on cultural powwow etiquette, regalia, and traditions—fostering appreciation and respect for our Indigenous culture

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3<sup>RD</sup>, 2025  
5:45PM-6:30PM**

BISMARCK CIVIC CENTER - BIG STAGE  
315 S 5TH ST, BISMARCK, ND 58504



FREE EVENT  
OPEN TO THE  
PUBLIC



For more info contact [info@ndnta.com](mailto:info@ndnta.com)



## CONFERENCE AGENDA

**Thursday, September 4, 2025**

7:30 AM – 8:30 AM	BREAKFAST	HALL D
8:00 AM – 5:00 PM	TRADESHOW	HALL B
8:30 AM – 9:50 AM	KEYNOTE ADDRESS	HALL A

Emcee: ..... Whitney Rencountre II, Crow Creek Hunkpati Dakota

Invocation: ..... Melvin Miner III, UTTC Campus Planner  
Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe

Keynote Speaker: ..... Cody Two Bears, Standing Rock Sioux Tribe  
Founder of Indigenized Energy

## KEYNOTE SPEAKER

### Cody Two Bears

#### *Founder of Indigenized Energy*

Cody Two Bears, a member of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, is the Founder and Executive Director of Indigenized Energy, an organization that blends Western science with Indigenous traditional knowledge to help tribes transition to renewable energy. Growing up in the impoverished CannonBall Community on the Standing Rock Reservation, where energy costs are among the highest in the nation, Cody was inspired by the #NoDAPL protests in 2016 to create North Dakota's largest solar farm on Standing Rock. At 26, he became the youngest elected tribal council member in Standing Rock history and helped bring President Obama to the reservation in 2013, where youth were empowered to share their stories.



**10:00 AM – 10:50 AM**

**PRAIRIE ROSE ROOMS**

**Indian Highway Safety Program\_ Traffic Safety Issues Engagement .....Prairie Rose 101**

**Presenter:** Justin Wendland, Kimberly Belone

*Description - The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), Office of Justice Services (OJS), Indian Highway Safety Program (IHSP) plays a pivotal role in providing grant opportunities to federally recognized tribes across the United States related to Traffic Safety. This panel discussion will feature the IHSP Program Staff, who will present on the Law Enforcement and Occupant Protection grant opportunities available to these tribes.*

**Great Plains Tribal Disease Intervention .....Prairie Rose 102**

**Presenter:** John Godoy III, Taylor Davison

*Description - Examines the history of syphilis to provide context for current gaps in care within the Great Plains Area and provides a crash course in disease investigation skills relating to treatment and prevention.*

**Comprehensive Financial Literacy .....Prairie Rose 103**

**Presenter:** Joey Hemsoth

*Description - Our presentation aims to provide attendees with valuable insights on effectively utilizing various financial tools to build financial security and wealth. Whether individuals are just embarking on their financial journey or seeking to deepen their understanding, our presentation educates on actionable strategies and knowledge that will empower attendees to enhance their financial well-being.*



# 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Tribal Leaders Summit



## CONFERENCE AGENDA

### North Dakota's Transition to CCBHCs – Building Partnerships for Behavioral Health.....Prairie Rose 104

**Presenter:** Paula Bighorn

*Description - This session from the North Dakota Behavioral Health Division (part of Health and Human Services) will explore North Dakota's shift to Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHCs) as a pivotal move to enhance behavioral health care for all North Dakotans, including tribal communities. The presentation will emphasize the state's commitment to building strong, respectful partnerships with tribal nations, rooted in shared values of accessible and culturally responsive care. It will briefly review the historical role of Human Service Centers (HSCs) in North Dakota and highlight how the CCBHC model will create new opportunities for collaboration, improve access to comprehensive mental health and substance use services, and address care barriers. Tailored for tribal leaders and students from tribal communities, this session aims to inspire dialogue and lay the foundation for innovative state-tribal partnerships to ensure every North Dakotan receives the behavioral health support they need.*

### Ramona Remembers Miss Daggs: Media Production Considering Tribal Nations and Citizens .....Prairie Rose 105

**Presenter:** Dr. Ramona Klein, Ruben Flores

*Description - In this presentation, audiences will watch the documentary, hear about Miss Daggs and her educational legacy through Ramona, learn about how media can be useful tool for Native nations and citizens in the realms of economic development, education, culture, and social justice. With the rise of mainstream Native American media like Reservation Dogs, Killers of the Flower Moon, Rez Ball, and others, there are significant considerations that tribal citizens and nations should be aware of when producing media. Whether in collaboration with others or alone media production can be an enriching project for tribal citizens and nations, but only with careful thought and consideration.*

### NSF Agriculture Technology Engine in North Dakota .....Hall A

**Presenter:** Dr. Holli Mackie

*Description - This session offers a forward-looking view of the NSF-funded North Dakota Advanced Agriculture Technology (AgTech) Engine across various states*

**11:00 AM – 11:50 AM**

**PRAIRIE ROSE ROOMS**

### Advancing the Tribal Data Infrastructure Story .....Prairie Rose 101

**Presenter:** Nick Hill and Stephan Pingel

*Description - This session is a 3rd-year presentation series on the evolving Great Plains Tribal data infrastructure story. Attendees will see the operation of a groundbreaking case management and contact tracing system built in consultation with, and owned by, the Great Plains Area tribes. The state-of-the-art system is nested in Microsoft Azure Fabric which is among the most advanced and secure data platforms available today.*

### Soaring Forward: Students Shaping What's Next (Exclusively for UTTC Students).....Prairie Rose 102

**Presenter:** Dr. Leah Woodke, Megan Wilhelms

*Description - UTTC is on the move — and we want you with us. UTTC is planning for the next five years, and this is your chance to help shape what comes next. Join us for a dynamic, student-focused session where we'll reflect on how far we've come in reaching our goals and invite your voice in shaping where we go next. Through interactive activities, conversation, and insight-sharing, this is your opportunity to help define priorities for the next five years at UTTC. What matters to you? What's working? What could be better? Your ideas will directly inform UTTC's future direction. Come share your thoughts, meet other students, and be part of building what's next — Thunderbird style!*

### Compliance Program Essentials .....Prairie Rose 103

**Presenter:** Clifford Rhodes

*Description - An overview of the need for a compliance program, laws and regulations upon which the program is based, and how to build compliance into daily operations.*

### Culture is Healing .....Prairie Rose 104

**Presenter:** Keaton Widow

*Description - Culture Is Healing introduces attendees to the values-driven, land-based healing model practiced by the Connecting With Our Youth (CWOY) program - an Indigenous suicide prevention and intervention initiative serving Native youth and families in the Black Hills (He Sapa) region of South Dakota.*

### Expanding PRC Access Across North Dakota: A Path Toward Broader Access to Care .....Prairie Rose 105

**Presenter:** Joseph Amiotte, Dr. Natalie Holt, Jamie Rhodes

*Description - This session will provide an overview of the federal Purchased/Referred Care Program and explore the current state of efforts toward establishing a statewide Purchased/Referred Care Delivery Area (PRCDA).*





# 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Tribal Leaders Summit



## CONFERENCE AGENDA

**Indigenous Net Zero - Building a Sustainable Future for Tribal Communities .....Hall A**

**Presenter:** Michael Laverdure

*Description - This presentation introduces the critical concept of Net Zero building and its profound implications for tribal communities. We will explore how Net Zero design balances energy consumption with renewable energy production and offers a path to self-sufficiency, economic empowerment, and environmental stewardship for Indigenous nations. We will share leading-edge information, practical strategies, and tangible examples of successful Net Zero implementation within tribal lands.*

**12:00 PM - 1:00 PM LUNCH**

**HALL D**

**1:00 PM – 1:50 PM**

**PRAIRIE ROSE ROOMS**

**Operationalizing Access: How OHC's PRC Department Delivers Timely, Equitable Care .....Prairie Rose 101**

**Presenter:** Nico Sheppard

*Description - The Purchased/Referred Care (PRC) program at the Oyate Health Center (OHC) is a cornerstone of tribal health access, ensuring that relatives receive medically necessary services not available within the facility. This session will provide a detailed look at how the PRC department is structured and operated to meet the complex needs of tribal communities while upholding principles of sovereignty, efficiency, and compassion.*

**Land as Medicine\_ Empowering the Next Generation Through Land and Culture .....Prairie Rose 102**

**Presenter:** Whirlwind Bull Yellow Bear

*Description - Sahnish Survival Camp is a decade-strong, land-based youth program rooted in Sahnish (Arikara) ways of knowing. This presentation will explore how the camp reconnects Indigenous youth to their identity, ancestral teachings, and natural environment as pathways for healing and empowerment.*

**Program Sustainability.....Prairie Rose 103**

**Presenter:** Sean Jackson

*Description - The Program Sustainability Assessment Tool (PSAT) examines eight organizational and contextual domains in which grant-funded programs operate and offers strategies and tools for maintaining benefits and services over time. In this workshop, participants will learn about the PSAT, how to implement it, and how to use the results to create a Sustainability Action Plan (SAP) for their programs.*

**Braiding Knowledge Systems\_ Centering Indigenous Values Through**

**Two-Eyed Seeing in Tribal Health and Research at UND .....Prairie Rose 104**

**Presenter:** Dr. Julie Ann Smith-Yliniemi

*Description - This session will explore how the University of North Dakota's Indigenous Health Department and the Indigenous Trauma and Resilience Research Center have actively centered Indigenous values within institutional systems of health research and education. Through the intentional application of Two-Eyed Seeing—a guiding principle introduced by Mi'kmaq Elder Albert Marshall that emphasizes the strength of viewing the world through both Indigenous and Western lenses—we have created space for cultural safety, relational accountability, and collective healing.*

**Tribal Leadership: What will be your Legacy?.....Prairie Rose 105**

**Presenter:** Joan Timeche, Kevin Fortuin

*Description - Recognizing that there's no formal training program for Indigenous leaders, the Native Nations Institute draws from decades of research and direct work with tribal leaders to provide practical advice/information to help prepare tribal leaders – and those who aspire to senior governmental positions – to assume the responsibilities of leadership to strengthen Indigenous governance.*

**Land Based Foodways Education .....Hall A**

**Presenter:** Sunshine Rose Claymore

*Description - This presentation will delve into the critical role of traditional ecological knowledge, land design and management, as well as community engagement in revitalizing Indigenous food systems. Sunshine and Della will highlight how hands-on, intergenerational learning experiences empower the next generation with ancestral wisdom and practical skills, paving the way for resilient and sustainable communities. Discover how these educational pathways contribute to a vibrant future rooted in land stewardship and cultural continuity.*



# 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Tribal Leaders Summit



## CONFERENCE AGENDA

2:00 PM – 2:50 PM

PRAIRIE ROSE ROOMS

**Indians into Medicine .....Prairie Rose 101**

**Presenter:** *Dr. Daniel Henry*

*Description - The Indians Into Medicine Program (INMED) is a comprehensive program designed to assist American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) students who aspire to be physicians and other allied health care professionals. INMED provides academic, personal, social, and cultural support for students in grade 7 through graduate studies. To date, INMED has serviced approximately 300 graduating MDs, making the University of North Dakota School of Medicine & Health Sciences (UND SMHS) the number one institution in the nation for graduating AI/AN physicians. INMED has also, in its long successful existence, graduated more than 350 AI/AN health care professionals like Nursing, Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Athletic Training, Social Work, Psychology, Radiology, and other health care degree programs.*

**Protecting First Nations Communities from Fentanyl & Drink Spiking ToxiShield™ —**

**The First All-in-One Rapid Test Kit for Prevention .....Prairie Rose 102**

**Presenter:** *Geoff Benic*

*Description - The presentation highlights the opioid and drink spiking crisis in First Nations communities, where overdose rates are 3–5x higher than average, largely due to fentanyl's extreme potency. It introduces ToxiShield™, the first all-in-one rapid test kit that detects fentanyl and major drink-spiking drugs in under 3 minutes. The focus is on prevention over response, offering a discreet, affordable, and culturally aligned solution. Tribal safety campaigns and branded community kits aim to empower self-reliance, protect cultural identity, and save lives at powwows, rodeos, and community events.*

**Mentorship Leadership: Building Capacity by Growing Your Own .....Prairie Rose 103**

**Presenter:** *Dr. Duane Bedell*

*Description - This presentation explores the role of mentorship leadership in building institutional capacity by investing in alumni, community members, and internal staff as future leaders. Drawing from the experience of Bay Mills Community College, a tribally controlled institution, the session highlights how tribal colleges serve as models for 'growing your own' leadership pipelines rooted in culture, trust, and service.*

**Dakota Teachings - Culture is Medicine, Isnati "Coming of Age" Ceremony .....Prairie Rose 104**

**Presenter:** *Jean Nahomni Mani*

*Description - To promote good mental and physical health, to improve personal relationships and family goals on reproductive health. The traditional Dakota teachings of the "Isnati Awica Dowanpi" or Coming of Age ceremony, empowers persons to make decisions on family planning, spacing their children's births for healthy babies, or how many children to bring into their family. Young women and men need instruction on why family planning is necessary to make informed choices about their reproductive health. Open discussions on intimate or sexual relationships, personal hygiene education about HIV, other STIs, taking personal care of their bodies to be healthy and safe by understanding their sexual and reproductive health and rights.*

**Sticks and Strength\_ Lacrosse as a Cultural Response to Youth Overdose and Suicide .....Prairie Rose 105**

**Presenter:** *Kevin DeCora*

*Description - The intersection of youth mental health, substance use, and suicide prevention requires innovative, culturally-informed approaches. This presentation explores how lacrosse—a sport rooted in Indigenous tradition—can serve as a powerful tool for prevention and healing among Native youth. Drawing from the Great Plains Tribal Leaders Health Board's Preventing Youth Overdose (PYO) and Connecting with our Youth (CWOY) suicide prevention initiatives, we examine how structured mentorship, cultural connection, and physical activity foster resilience and reduce risk factors.*

**"Small Space, Big Change" : Low-Tech Mushroom Cultivation for Food Sovereignty .....Hall A**

**Presenter:** *Amanda Padron*

*Description - A demonstration and overview of Low-tech Mushroom growing techniques indoor and outdoor and a discussion on the significance this can have in tribal communities and other food deserts.*

3:00 PM – 3:50 PM

PRAIRIE ROSE ROOMS

**Ronald McDonald House Care Mobile of North Dakota.....Prairie Rose 101**

**Presenter:** *Brent Kleinjan*

*Description - The Ronald McDonald Care Mobile, a mobile dental clinic on wheels, delivers urgently needed dental care to underserved children ages 0 through 21 in their neighborhoods in the western half of North Dakota. Ronald McDonald House Charities of Bismarck owns and operates the Ronald McDonald Care Mobile of North Dakota. We have partnered with Bridging the Dental Gap, Inc. of Bismarck, a non-profit dental clinic, to establish the Ronald McDonald Care Mobile Program. We strive to deliver our services in an atmosphere of kindness, compassion, caring and respect.*



# 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Tribal Leaders Summit



## CONFERENCE AGENDA

### **Building Prosperity through Transportation: Unlocking Opportunities with the DBE Program .....Prairie Rose 102**

**Presenter:** Kari Bullion

*Description - Are you considering starting a transportation-related construction business (construction contractors, material suppliers, trucking and transportation services, telecommunications, environmental services, and manufacturers with capabilities in the transportation industry)? Or are you currently a certified Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) with the North Dakota Department of Transportation? This session explores how businesses can leverage the U.S. Department of Transportation's DBE Program to create jobs, generate local wealth, and build business capacity in the transportation construction industry.*

### **From Healing to Harvest .....Prairie Rose 103**

**Presenter:** Emily RunningHawk

*Description - This presentation shares a personal and collective journey of healing, reclamation, and Indigenous leadership rooted in the land. In 2022, I began my healing journey through substance abuse treatment, which became the catalyst for reconnecting with my identity, culture, and purpose. That same year, I enrolled in a Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems program, where I began to understand that healing myself and healing the land are deeply interconnected.*

### **Protecting Our People\_ Measles, Immunity, and Indigenous Health .....Prairie Rose 104**

**Presenter:** Sarah Shewbrooks and Tinka Duran

*Description - Measles, a highly contagious viral disease, has historically been a major threat to Native American populations, worsened by long-standing healthcare limitations. Before widespread vaccination, outbreaks in these communities caused high rates of illness and death due to limited access to medical care and immunizations. This summary examines the epidemiology of measles among Native American groups, emphasizing public health infrastructure and intervention strategies. Examples show how historical events and a lack of federal support increased vulnerability. Recent efforts between tribal health services and public health agencies have successfully improved disease prevention. Understanding the historical and logistical factors behind measles transmission is key to developing effective health strategies and protecting our communities.*

### **Braiding Traditions & Futures: Pathways Through Tribal 638 .....Prairie Rose 105**

**Presenter:** Torie Whipple, Rikki Schad, William Colson

*Description - This presentation illuminates the transformative power and promise of Tribal 638 initiatives in cultivating vibrant career pathways, nurturing Native talent, and strengthening communities. By weaving together ancestral wisdom and innovative solutions, we aim to honor tradition while forging new futures—empowering the next generation of Native leaders and professionals through opportunity, sovereignty, and service. This gathering will explore the significance of 638 programs in expanding self-determination, building capacity, and ensuring that tribal nations continue to thrive for generations to come.*

### **Gitigaan Anishinaabekka - Many People's Garden .....Hall A**

**Presenter:** Andrew Blackbird

*Description - "Gitigaan Anishinaabekaa" or "Many People's Garden" project is a community collaborative effort among the Indigenous Association, Gladys Ray Homeless Shelter and the City of Fargo. This presentation highlights the importance of community partnerships as well as the challenges and impacts of urban land stewardship. It also encompasses the importance of using native pollinator gardens as a tool for ecological education, that not only provides soil restoration but also helps to restore the individual by reconnecting them to the land.*

### **4:00 PM – 4:50 PM CLOSING CEREMONY**

**HALL A**

**Emcee:** .....Whitney Rencountre II, Crow Creek Hunkpati Dakota

**Invocation:**.....Hoksila White Mountain, UTTC Cultural Wellness Coordinator, Standing Rock Sioux Tribe

**Closing Remarks:** .....Edwin Kitzes, UTTC Summit Committee Chair

**Retirement of Colors:** .....United Tribes Technical College Color Guard

Drum/Singing Group: Sloughfoot from Turtle Mountain Band of Chippew Indians

### **5:00 PM - 8:00 PM GP TRIBAL HEALTH DIRECTORS MEETING**

**PRAIRIE ROSE ROOM 105**

*Closed session, not for public*