

Native American Primary Care Center of Excellence



The NAPC COE is a HRSA COE funded program that aims to improve the quality and delivery of health care to tribal communities in Oklahoma through collaborations and strategic partnerships that recruit and train the next generation of American Indians in primary care careers.

Native American Educational Pathway into Medicine

NEED: Oklahoma currently ranks 46th in the nation for the number of primary care physicians practicing per 100,000 people. Tribal communities are especially struggling with the lack of physicians. Nationally, about 0.2% of practicing physicians identify as American Indian. In contrast, 4% of Oklahoma's physicians identify as American Indian and 8% of those practice within the COE area (54 of 77 Oklahoma counties). While Oklahoma has more American Indian physicians per 100,000 people than that of the nation, the number of American Indian physicians remains at less than half that of the overall American Indian population in the state.

PURPOSE: Address the primary care workforce shortage in tribal and rural communities.

GOAL: Increase the number American Indian primary care providers practicing in Tribal and rural communities.

1. Recruit American Indian medical students interested in becoming primary career physicians;
2. Prepare American Indian medical students to practice in tribal and rural communities; and
3. Improve clinical education and cultural competence for American Indian health issues and social determinants of health.

The Native American Students of Osteopathic Medicine (NASOM) represents medical students interested in pursuing primary care careers (e.g., family medicine, OBGYN, pediatrics, surgery, and emergency medicine) at Tribal hospitals and clinics in Oklahoma and beyond. The OSU College of Osteopathic Medicine chapter provides informational speakers on current health issues and health topics that affect tribal communities.

OFFICE OF AMERICAN INDIANS IN MEDICINE AND SCIENCE

MISSION

The Office of American Indians in Medicine and Science is Oklahoma State University's designated office for developing physicians, researchers, and educators who will improve the health and wellness for American Indians.

VISION

The Office of American Indians in Medicine and Science strives to be Oklahoma's best institute for creating American Indian physicians, researchers, and educators to serve rural and urban communities while promoting health equity, healthful lifestyles, and wellness.

GOALS

- Recruit and retain American Indians into medicine and science careers
- Consult with Oklahoma colleges, tribal colleges, universities, and museums to recruit high-achieving American Indian youth with an interest in pursuing careers in medicine and science
- Foster scientific research and healthcare opportunities for high-achieving American Indians
- Create a network of experts to address the issues of substance abuse and prevention among American Indian and rural populations

CONTACT US // Kent Smith, Ph.D.
Associate Dean and Professor of Anatomy
kent.smith@okstate.edu

OSU College of Osteopathic Medicine Optional Admissions Programs Funded by NAPC COE

Guaranteed Admissions Program (GAP) is a post-baccalaureate conditional acceptance program that guarantees admission to OSU-COM after a one-year Graduate Certificate in Medical Sciences program, which also includes OSU-COM's Bridge Program. Eligible students exhibit strong personal characteristics and a commitment to fulfill the OSU-COM mission but need additional support to improve their academic skills prior to beginning medical coursework. The program includes an initial diagnostic summer session, postbaccalaureate-level academic year, pre-matriculation summer session, academic counseling, tutoring, and psychosocial support. The NAPC COE will provide up to \$25K stipend support to select GAP and/or Bridge students through a competitive application process.

Medical Student Education and Training Programs Funded by NAPC COE

Tribal Medical Track (TMT) and Rural Medical Track (RMT): Focuses on tribal-based clinical education and cultural competencies. To the extent possible, students are matched with their affiliated tribe. American Indian students also participate in the RMT, a track focused on primary care in rural areas. Second year medical students who matriculate into the TMT or RMT will receive a stipend. The American Indian students will be selected through a competitive application process established by the TMT or RMT selections committees. These stipends will ease the financial burden of the TMT/RMT participants.

Summer Tribal Externship (STE): Is designed to reinforce a student's interest in a tribal practice and to prepare the student for tribal and/or rural clerkships. This two-hour course is comprised of a clinical office experience in a tribal hospital or clinic and includes community service, interdisciplinary shadowing, and cultural competencies. The STE occurs in the summer between years one and two of medical school. The American Indian students will be selected through a competitive application process established by the STE selections committee. Eligible students will receive a stipend to offset wages lost and travel to tribal hospitals and clinics during the two-week STE.

Rural Medical Track: Prepares medical students for a rural primary care residency and a successful practice in rural or underserved Oklahoma. The rural medical track offers unique learning opportunities for motivated students to fully develop their skills, knowledge and abilities to succeed in a challenging practice environment.

CONTACT US //

Kent Smith, Ph.D.
Associate Dean and Professor of Anatomy
kent.smith@okstate.edu

Tonya Wapskineh, MPH
Director, Native American Primary Care Center of Excellence
tonya.wapskineh@okstate.edu