

**Wy'east:**  
An Innovative  
Pathway to  
Increase American  
Indian and Alaska  
Native Healers

**Laurel Murphy Hoffmann, MD MPH**  
Assistant Professor of Pediatrics  
Wy'east Post-Baccalaureate Pathway

Original slides prepared by:

Allison Empey, MD (Confederated Tribes of  
Grand Ronde) and Sarah Rasmussen-  
Rehkopf (Quileute/Makah)



# Disclosure

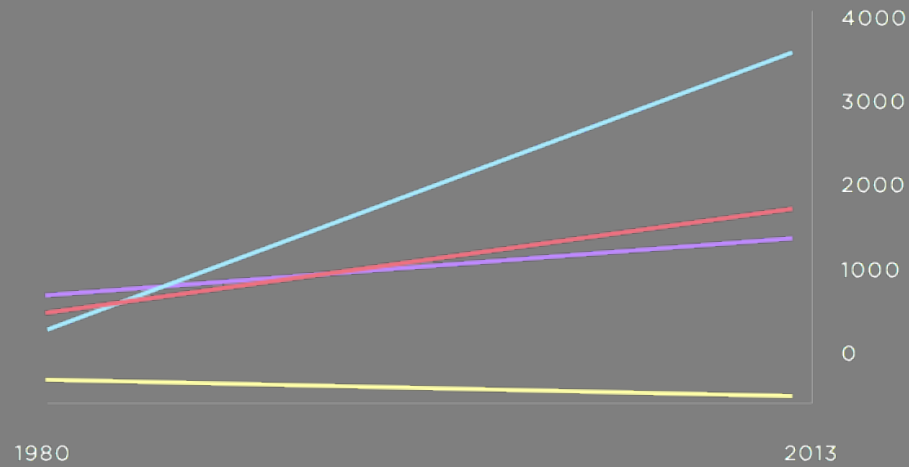
I have no financial conflicts of interest to disclose



# Objectives

- **Why?** Context of AI/AN healers
- **What?** Wy'east and the Northwest Native American Center of Excellence
- **How?** Steps on Pathway

# U.S. MEDICAL SCHOOL MATRICULANTS 1980-2013



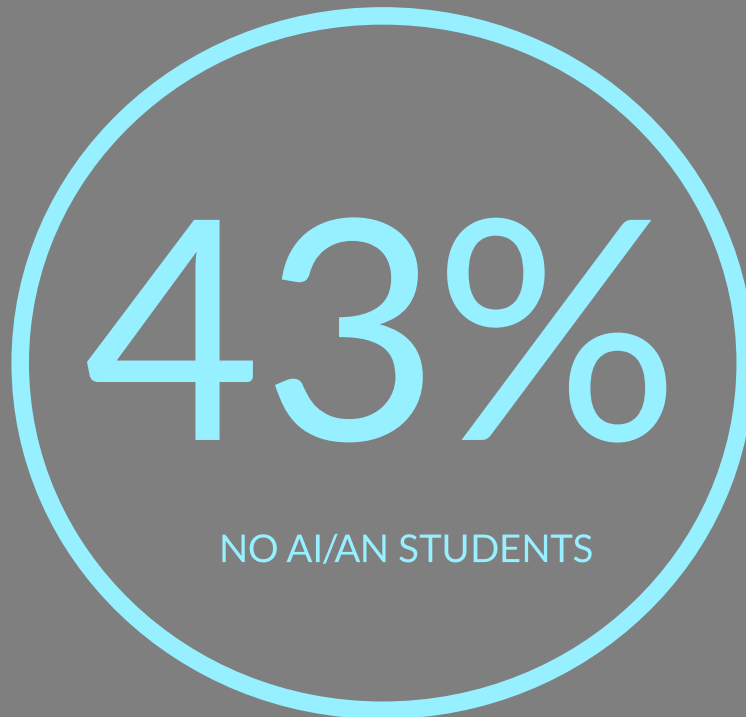
**AFRICAN  
AMERICAN**  
**+125%**

**ASIAN**  
**+550%**

**HISPANIC  
LATINO**  
**+225%**

**NATIVE  
AMERICAN**  
**-32%**

## U.S. MEDICAL SCHOOLS WITHOUT AI/AN STUDENTS



AAMC Data Warehouse, October 2018 – Acosta, D. Et Al. Reshaping the Journey: American Indians & Alaska Natives in Medicine

# Health Disparities and Invisibility



 NORTHWEST NATIVE AMERICAN  
CENTER OF EXCELLENCE

**Native Americans have high rates of health disparities and the lowest number of applicants to medical school.**  
**Connection? We think so.**

 American Indians/Alaska Natives (AIANs) face some of the most striking health inequities in the United States, living with the highest rates of heart, lung, and blood disease, AND dying younger than any other racial or ethnic group.

**The Northwest Native American  
Center of Excellence (NNACoE)**  
works to sustainably address the  
health care needs of all people by  
increasing the number of AI/ANs in  
the U.S. health professions workforce.



# NATIVE HEALTH PROFESSIONAL STUDENT

NATIVE AMERICAN MEDICAL COURSEWORK  
FACULTY MENTORSHIP

## APPLICATION

WY'EAST POST BACCALAUREATE PATHWAY  
APPLICANT WORKSHOP

## NNACoE COMMUNITY

## PRE-COLLEGE

TRIBAL HEALTH SCHOLARS PROGRAM  
HEALTH PATHWAY COACHING

## COLLEGE

LATE ← EARLY

MENTORSHIP AND ACADEMIC ENRICHMENT



# NATIVE HEALTH PROFESSIONAL STUDENT

NATIVE AMERICAN MEDICAL COURSEWORK  
FACULTY MENTORSHIP

## APPLICATION

WY'EAST POST BACCALAUREATE PATHWAY  
APPLICANT WORKSHOP

## NNACoE COMMUNITY

## PRE-COLLEGE

TRIBAL HEALTH SCHOLARS PROGRAM  
HEALTH PATHWAY COACHING

## COLLEGE

LATE ← EARLY

MENTORSHIP AND ACADEMIC ENRICHMENT

# Wy'east Post-Baccalaureate Pathway



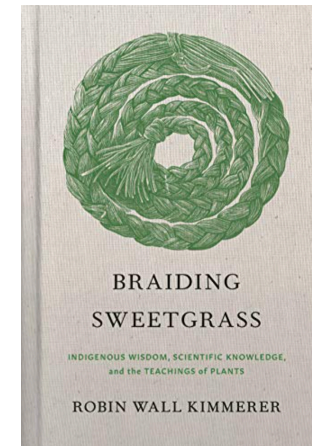
- Increase number of AI/AN medical students
- Create community
- Foster academic success

# Pathway Overview

September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June		
Orientation	Foundational Science of Medicine					MCAT prep + Spring Break	Spring Lectures		Graduation Ceremony		
	Academic Skills & Wellness						Academic Skills & Wellness				
	Indigenous Health & Wellness						Indigenous Health & Wellness				
	Population Health & Epidemiology						Research Project				
	Research Project						Research Project				
			MCAT Prep				Clinical Shadowing			Clinical Shadowing	
				Clinical Shadowing			Clinical Shadowing			Clinical Shadowing	

# Indigenous Health & Wellness

- Strength ceremony
- Faculty-led book club
- Regional AI/AN community events
- Campus garden
- Completion Blanket Ceremony



# Wy'east Faculty



**Allison Empey, MD**  
*Confederated Tribes of  
Grand Ronde*  
Director, Wy'east Post-  
Baccalaureate Pathway



**Peter Mayinger, Ph.D.**  
Wy'east Faculty,  
Foundational Science



**Amanda Bruegl, MD, MS**  
*Oneida/Stockbridge-  
Munsee Nations*  
Assistant Director of  
Education Initiatives  
Wy'east Faculty, Research



**Cristi Pinela, MS, Ph.D**  
**Candidate**  
*Rarámuri/Tarahumara*  
Program Coordinator,  
Wy'east Pathway & RISE



**Laurel Hoffman, MD, MPH**  
Wy'east Faculty,  
Population Health

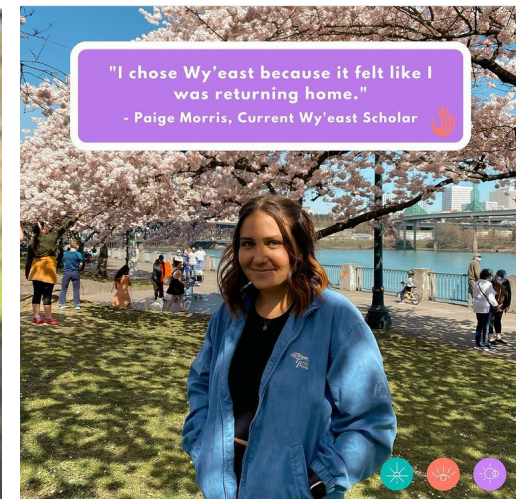
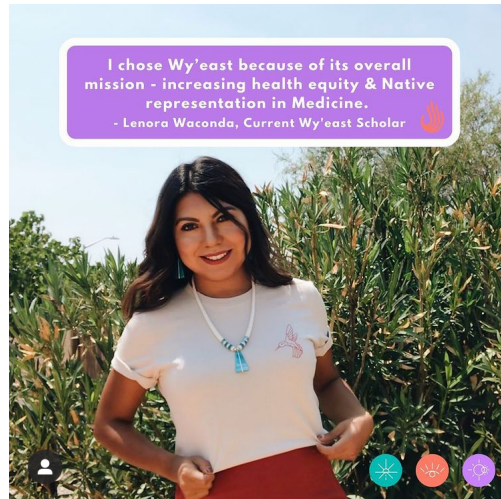


**NORTHWEST  
NATIVE AMERICAN  
CENTER OF EXCELLENCE**

# Wy'east Cohort 3 : 2020 - 2021

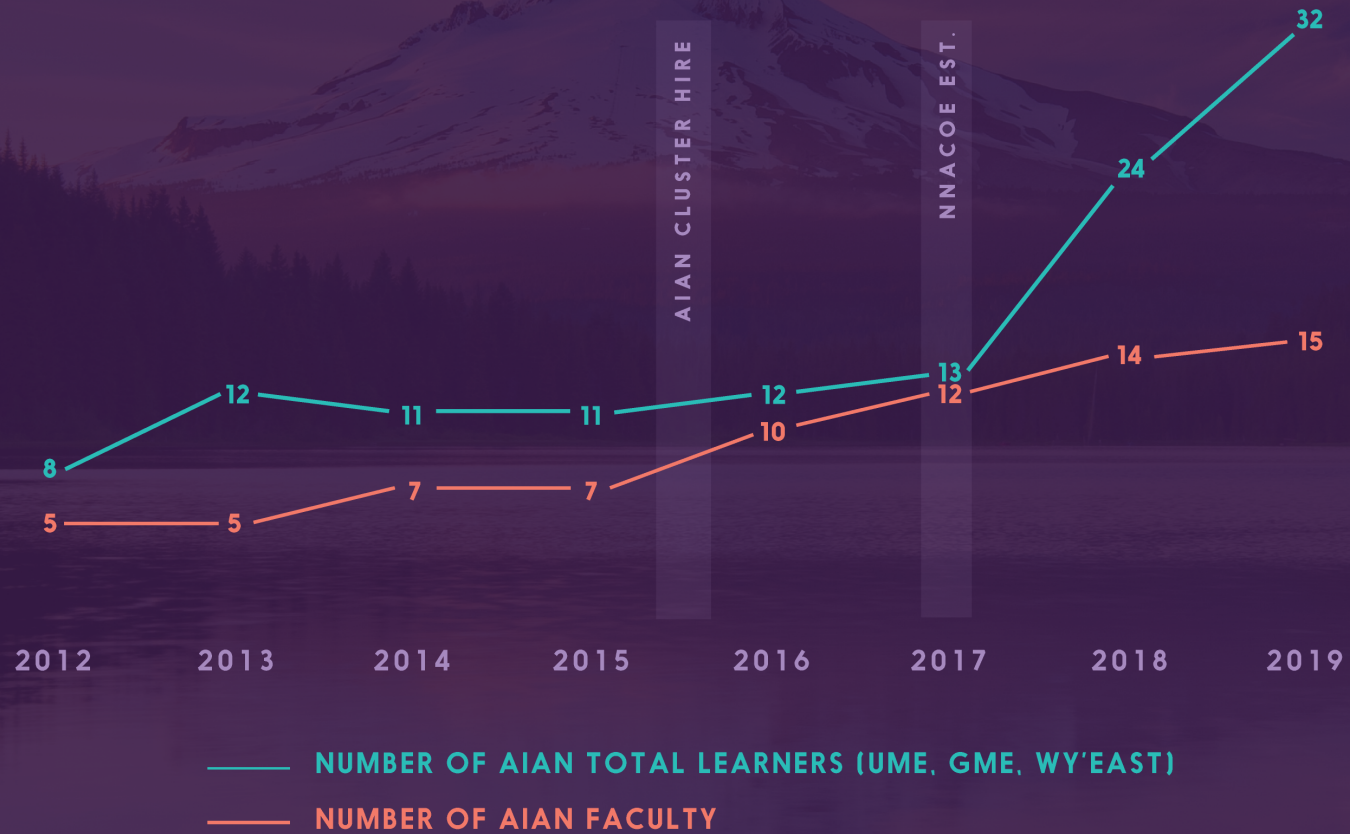


# Wy'east Cohort 3 : 2020 - 2021





## AIAN LEARNERS AND FACULTY AT OHSU







NORTHWEST  
NATIVE AMERICAN  
CENTER OF EXCELLENCE



School of  
MEDICINE



[nnacoe.org](http://nnacoe.org)