



# IHEART AI/AN Healthcare Workforce Development Summit, Aug. 21 2026

## Agenda

Unless otherwise indicated, all sessions will be taking place in **Kave 1-2**.

|                                 |                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                        |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 7:30 am - Breakfast in Akimel 1 |                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                        |
| 8:30 am                         | Elmer Guy (NTU)                                                                                                                                                         | Traditional Opening                                                                                                    |
|                                 | Mary Owen (AAIP)                                                                                                                                                        | Opening Remarks                                                                                                        |
| 8:50 am                         | Lacey Wind and Jessica Dean (NIHB)                                                                                                                                      | Building the Tribal Health Workforce of Tomorrow: Policy, Practice, and Opportunity                                    |
| 9:25 am                         | Keynote Speaker<br>Duane Bedell (BMCC)                                                                                                                                  | The Original Workforce Development Model: What Tribal Colleges Teach Us About Building the Future of Indigenous Health |
| 10:30 am                        | Michael Munson (SKC)<br>Elmer Guy (NTU)<br>Roseanne Rosenthal (CINC)<br>Linda Cotton (CINC)<br>Facilitator: Dawn Frank (OLC)                                            | Tribal Colleges & Universities Panel: Putting Theory into Practice                                                     |
| 11:30 am                        | Various presenters                                                                                                                                                      | 10 minute research presentations                                                                                       |
| 12:30 pm - Lunch in Akimel 1    |                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                        |
| 1:30 pm                         | Regional breakout discussions<br>Alaska + Northwest and California + Hawai'i, Kave 3<br>East + Southern Plains, Scorpion<br>Northern Plains, Deer ; Southwest, Kave 1-2 |                                                                                                                        |
| 2:30 pm                         | Mary Owen (AAIP)                                                                                                                                                        | IHEART Policy Paper Update<br>+ Closing Remarks                                                                        |



# Session Information

**Building the Tribal Health Workforce of Tomorrow: Policy, Practice, and Opportunity,** Lacey Wind and Jessica Dean (NIHB)

Exploring emerging workforce strategies, Tribal public health infrastructure, accreditation, policy shifts, and opportunities to strengthen the future of health and public health in Tribal communities.

**The Original Workforce Development Model: What Tribal Colleges Teach Us About Building the Future of Indigenous Health,** Duane Bedell (BMCC)

Across the country, health systems, educators, policymakers, and community leaders are searching for solutions to workforce shortages, health disparities, and the growing need for culturally responsive care. This keynote explores what those systems can learn from Tribal communities about developing people, sustaining partnerships, and creating pathways that improve health outcomes for future generations.

**Tribal Colleges & Universities Panel: Putting Theory into Practice,** Michael Munson (SKC), Elmer Guy (NTU), Roseanne Rosenthal and Linda Cotton (CINC)

Facilitator: Dawn Frank (OLC)

TCU leaders discuss Indigenization and healthcare workforce development innovations at their institutions.

## Research Presentations

Dani Kouyoumdijian and Ben Richmond, *A Student's Journey: From Tribal College to University*

Sonya Abe, *Traditional Healing and Health*

Chermiqua Tsosie, *Developing a Community-Informed Indigenous Health Unit at a Pediatric Academic Medical Center*

Chloe Eskey, *Bridging Indigenous and Global Health: A Comparative Framework for Strengthening Healthcare in the Navajo Nation*

Laura Sawney, *Healing Before Harm with Data as Medicine: A Community-Governed Study of Indigenous Stress, Cultural Protection, and Well-Being*

Chris Derby, *Advancing Health Careers Pathway Report: Nokomis Strategies*

**IHEART Policy Paper Update,** Mary Owen (IHEART/AAIP)

To close our 2026 IHEART Summit, Dr. Mary Owen will provide an update on federal policy impacting AI/AN education pathways, including funding, accreditation, enrollment, and more. This discussion is part of a larger effort to develop policy papers by IHEART members, which aim to outline these issues and potential solutions.