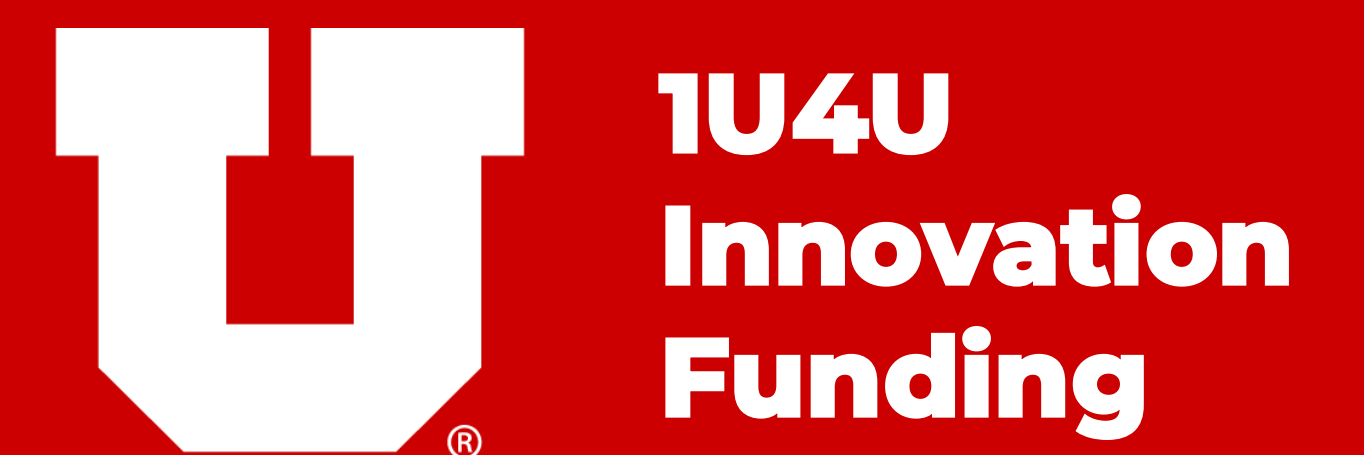


# Native Research Methods: Creating Cross-Campus Pathways for Ethical Research with Native Communities



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Funded Project Amount: \$30,000

## Abstract

Building from Native Research Methods, this project sought to catalyze and lay the groundwork for **ongoing structures of support for ethical and reciprocal research with Native peoples and communities** across campus. This projects aligns with the four strategic goals of the U.

The project had three objectives:

- Build a **network of researchers** at the University of Utah who are committed to using Native Research Methods to ethically engage with Native communities (goal 1: develop and transfer new knowledge)
- Catalyze connections between efforts on main campus and the health campus to create **training programs for the ethical conduct of partnerships with Native communities** (goal 2: promote student success to transform lives)
- Establish **research-informed best practices** for creating structural support for reciprocal collaborations between Native communities and University researchers across healthcare, educational, and environmental contexts (goal3 : engage communities to improve health and quality of life)

These objectives work to ensure the long-term viability of the university (goal 4) through engaging improvement practices across the university.

## Introduction

This project aimed accomplish the objectives by:

- Offering networking and learning opportunities through a speaker/workshop/training series
- Facilitating conversation between main campus and the health campus about formal training models and research opportunities
- Identifying tangible structures of support and a pathway for implementing research projects in support of Native communities
- Seeking opportunities for external funding to continue the objectives (e.g., NIH, NSF, Spencer Foundation)

## Results

### Objective 1: Build a Network of Researchers

- Native Research Methods Working Group (Crosses Health and Main Campuses)
- Native Research Methods Listserv (227 subscribers)
- Research and teaching collaborations built from networking

### Objective 2: Build and amplify current training programs

- Working with Native Communities Certificate
- Tribal, Rural, and Underserved Medical Education (TRUE)
- Native American Research Internship (NARI)
- Work in progress toward a VPR office training series

### Objective 3: Research-Informed Best Practices

- Webpage to be posted on the Center for Native Excellence
- Symposium and Events presented cutting edge research and collaborations
- Compilation of key articles and books on Indigenous Research Methods

### Additional Results:

- Submitted a Spencer Foundation Grant to sustain Working Group projects
- NSF, NEH, and Spencer grant submission in progress
- Funded and mentored two Native graduate students to work on this project



## Survey responses on needs

- "Get connected with other researchers working with Native communities."
- "Would like to become more familiar with the type of native research happening at the U."
- "I do research in geology, largely related to resource extraction and the energy transition, and I would be interested in learning about better methods to engage Native groups and change methodology to support native communities."

## Methodology

To meet our objectives, we prioritized building community, sharing knowledge, and outreach to Native communities through a series of events planned by our core working group that met once a month:

### 2024 Native Research Methods Symposium



Keynote Speakers:  
Indigenous Research Methodologists,  
Margaret Kovach and  
Shawn Wilson

Panels included:

- Amplifying Sovereignty
- Engagement, Collaboration, and Relationships in Projects
- Ethics & IRB



### Native Research Methods Graduate Workshop



40 graduate students from:

- College of Humanities
- College of Social and Behavioral Sciences
- School of Education

### Breakfast Mixers



Attendance from:

- VPR Office
- College of Humanities
- College of Social and Behavioral Sciences
- College of Education
- College of Mining and Engineering
- Geology and Geophysics
- College of Science
- Marriott Library
- City & Metropolitan Planning
- College of Nursing
- School for Cultural & Social Transformation
- College of Social Work

## Recommendations

The University of Utah must prioritize structures of support for ethical research with Native Communities. The U is located in a state with contemporary relationships with eight Native Nations as well as a vibrant community of urban Natives. As the premier research institution, there is a responsibility to involve Native communities through respectful and reciprocal research projects. With many funders (e.g., NSF) calling for more research in direct collaboration with Native nations and communities, now is an ideal time to ensure that all faculty, staff, and students have the capacity to engage in ethical research that upholds sovereignty and meets the needs articulated by Native nations and communities.

**In order to do this, campus leadership and the Native Research Methods Working Group should collaborate to:**

- Institutionalize an **annual Symposium on Native Research Methods**
  - Save the Date: May 7, 2025 – Indigenous Data Sovereignty
- Ensure the long-term sustainability of the Native Research Methods Working Group by **working toward a Center or Institute**
- Provide staff/administrative support to coordinate and support the Working Group
- Support efforts to build a **Tribal IRB process and compliance with NAGPRA**
- Support and grow existing certificates that teach ethical research practices
- Provide **stable hard funding** (to augment grant funding) of this work as one part of upholding the U's responsibilities to the Native Nations within whose homelands we are located



## UNIVERSITY OF UTAH 2024 INDIGENOUS RESEARCH METHODS SYMPOSIUM

175

People signed up for the Symposium

142

People attended the Symposium

ATTENDANCE RATE:

81%

Of people who signed up attended the Symposium

DIFFERENT COLLEGES:

8

DIFFERENT DEPARTMENTS:

42

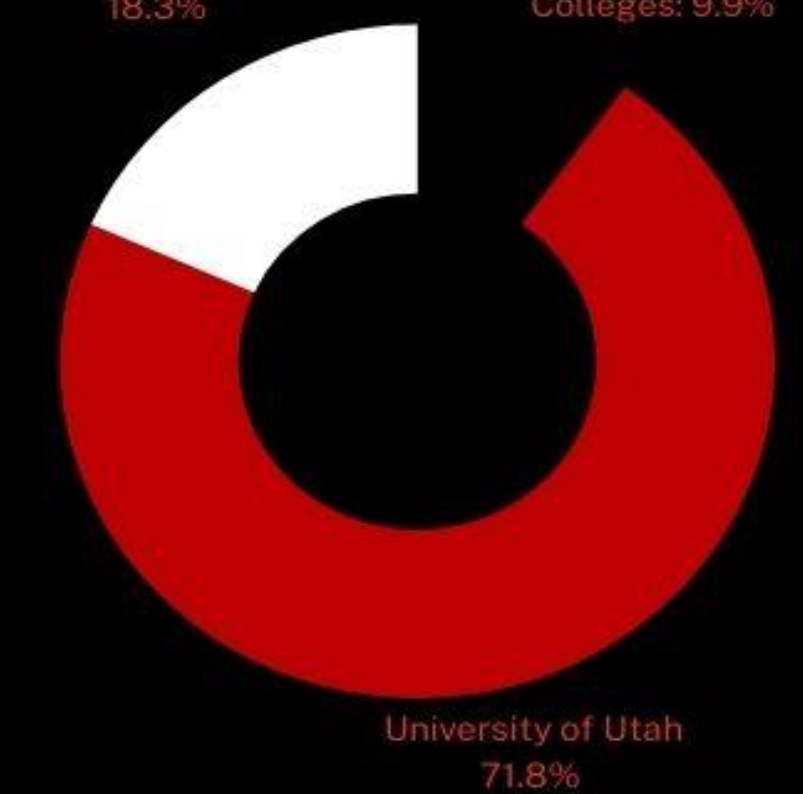
Attended the Symposium

TRIBES & TRIBAL ORGANIZATIONS THAT ATTENDED:

The Te-Moak Tribe of Western Shoshone, The Northwestern Band of Shoshone, Sacred Circle Healthcare, Diné, Ute Indian Tribe Education Department, Urban Indian Center, American Indian Program

Other Organizations 18.3%

Other Universities/Colleges: 9.9%



SYMPOSIUM TOPICS:

- AMPLIFYING SOVEREIGNTY
- RELATIONSHIPS & COLLABORATIONS IN PROJECTS
- ETHICS & IRB
- NATIVE RESEARCH METHODS HOW-TO
- NETWORKING
- Q&A PANEL SESSIONS

## Acknowledgements

Working Group Members:

**Academic Campus**  
Maile Arvin (Faculty, History, Women and Gender Studies & Center for Pasifika Indigenous Knowledge)  
Cynthia Benally (Faculty, ECS & Working with Native Communities Certificate)  
Danielle Endres (Faculty, Environmental Humanities)  
Dalaki Livingston (Postdoc, Communication)  
Jennifer Mitchell (Staff, Shoshone Language Project)  
Dena Ned (Faculty, Social Work)  
Paisley Rekdal (Faculty, English & America West Center)  
Fiona Summers (Staff, Environmental Humanities)

**Medical Campus**  
Donna Eldridge (Staff, School of Medicine Office of Academic Culture and Community)  
Samantha Eldridge (Staff, Center for Native Excellence and Tribal Engagement)  
Maija Holsti (Faculty, Pediatrics & NARI)  
Wallita Ranger (Staff and Student, NARI & Public Health)  
David Sandweiss (Pediatrics & TRUE Certificate)  
Gloria Slatum (Staff, Pediatrics Health Equity Respect and Opportunity Officer)

**Students**  
Marley Bindrup (Education, Culture & Society)  
Jessica Holiday (Writing and Rhetoric Studies)  
Joaquin Lopezhuertas (Urban Planning)  
Mary Smith (Education, Culture & Society)

Event Sponsors:

