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American Indian Cancer Foundation Mission:
To eliminate the cancer burdens on American Indian and Alaska Native people through education, prevention, early detection, treatment and survivor support.

American Indian Cancer
Foundation NEWS

Vol (3)-3, Fall 2017



Fall 2017 Newsletter

Greetings,

First, thank you for your continued support in advancing our mission to eliminate cancer burdens on American Indian and Alaska Native communities. Your partnership helps us bring forward innovative strategies that engage communities and provide the support needed to build a healthier Indian Country.

Change is something we here at AICAF are experiencing every day as our work evolves, our team grows, and our network expands. Over the past few months, we've garnered new partnerships and welcomed six new staff members. I am very grateful for these new connections and look forward to the difference we can make together.

Looking ahead, I invite you to take part in our Indigenous Pink campaign. Our collective awareness efforts will pave the path for



CEO Kris Rhodes with Victoria Augare (Blackfoot Nation), member of the Montana American Indian Women's Health Coalition. Both are wearing the BRAVE scarf by artist John Pepion (Blackfoot Nation).

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Indigenous Pink



[AMERICANINDIANCANCER.ORG/PINK](#) [/AMERICANINDIANCANCER](#) [@AICAF_ORG](#)

Mark your calendars! October 19, 2017 is AICAF's third annual [Indigenous Pink Day](#). This is a nation-

future generations to not just dream about a world without cancer, but to live in one.

I hope you enjoy reflecting on the past few months with us, and I wish health and happiness to you and your family!

With gratitude,

Kris Rhodes, MPH (Bad River and Fond du Lac Bands of Lake Superior Chippewa)

Chief Executive Officer

New AICAF funding

CDC grant to address urban AI/AN cancer burdens



Program Manager, Amber Cardinal and Policy Program Manager, Melanie Plucinski present cancer burdens in Indian Country at the CDC National Cancer Conference.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recently funded AICAF's proposed plans to address the unique cancer needs of the 3.7 million urban American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) people across the U.S. The two funded programs will engage the 35+ urban American Indian health organizations along with national partners (Urban Indian Health Institute and National Council of Urban Indian Health). The Comprehensive Cancer Control Program will develop the first ever National Urban AI/AN Cancer Control Plan to identify cancer data, needs and solutions. This plan will guide the work to improve cancer prevention, early detection, treatment and survivor support for this population. For more information, contact [Amber Cardinal](#). The Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program will focus on the unique opportunities to improve cancer outcomes with innovative clinic and community health strategies to increase screening rates

wide breast cancer awareness campaign for American Indians and Alaska Natives (AI/AN). Wear your pink apparel and share photos on social media using the hashtag #IndigenousPink to spread breast cancer awareness. Breast cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death and the most common cancer found in AI/AN women. The goal of Indigenous Pink is to educate all Indigenous people, of all genders, on the importance of early detection and screenings.

This is a national awareness campaign, so you can participate from wherever you are! We look forward to coming together with you on October 19 to spread awareness and help reduce the number of AI/AN affected by this disease. Like and follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#) for more details.

Shop AICAF



New Indigenous Pink t-shirt! Order yours today to wear on October 19!

Shop AICAF

NPR story feature

Tradition against unhealthy tobacco addiction



Quit Connections is a Facebook cessation support network.

On August 3, National Public Radio aired a story on the complex issues behind the high rates of commercial tobacco addiction in tribal communities. The article discussed the need to change tribal policies so our people reject commercial tobacco and embrace traditional tobacco use. [Read the full story.](#)

To learn more about tribal traditions to lower commercial tobacco use, watch [Reclaiming Sacred Tobacco](#). This documentary is focused on Minnesota American Indian communities and their efforts to connect with tradition to promote a healthier

among AI/AN women. For more information, contact [Shawna Cooper](#). We are deeply grateful for the opportunity to work alongside the CDC, many state and tribal cancer programs and our urban partners to successfully address the unique cancer needs of urban AI/AN people.

National gathering of AI/AN veterans

AICAF hosts 1st annual Veterans Health Walk



George Bennett (Tlingit Tribe of Alaska) Vietnam veteran, is passionate about cancer screening in his community.

AICAF hosted its 1st Annual Veterans Health Walk at the National Gathering of American Indian Veterans this past July. American Indians/Alaska Natives (AI/AN) serve in the U.S. armed forces in larger numbers per capita than any other ethnic group. While AI/AN veterans have dedicated their lives to serving the country and protecting our freedoms, they also face tremendous disparities in healthcare. To show our support, AICAF hosted the Veterans Health Walk to provide resources, a space for survivorship dialogue, and conversation around cancer screenings. The AI/AN veterans community's warm welcome and participation in the walk left us filled with gratitude for the opportunity to work with such a strong group of advocates who share our mission.

Webinar on healthy Native foods

Join us on October 17 for the "Food as Healing & Prevention: Sharing Indigenous Success Stories" webinar from 10:00 to 11:30 AM CST. AICAF will be showcasing two impressive Native food programs: *Dream of Wild Health* and *4 Directions Development Inc.* *Dream of Wild Health*, an intertribal nonprofit organization serving the Minneapolis-Saint Paul Native American community, will be represented by Diane Wilson and *4 Directions Development Inc.*, an entrepreneur and development program serving Red Lake Nation, will be represented by David Manuel. Both programs will discuss the successes and challenges of their work towards reconnecting their communities to Indigenous foods. Please [join the webinar](#).

New resources

Indigenous milk is medicine

lifestyle.

For personal resources towards quitting commercial tobacco please visit: [Quit Connections on Facebook](#) or [AICAF.org/tobacco-cessation](#)

For tribal policy assistance please visit: [AICAF.org/resources-2/policy-work](#)

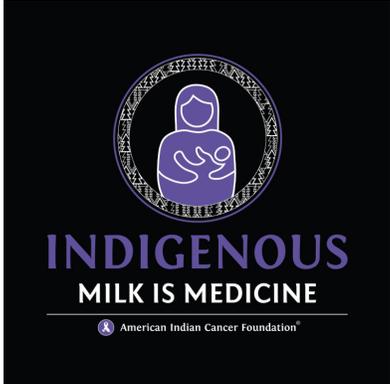
Staff updates

AICAF welcomes 6 new staff members

Meet the new staff members: from left to right, Kim Galvan (White Earth Nation), Michelle Adelman, Takayla Lightfield (Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe), Sean Dorr (Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe), Zach Dietz, and pictured at bottom, Shawna Cooper (Northern Cheyenne). We are very excited to welcome these members to our team! Learn more about our staff at [AICAF.org/staff](#)



AICAF developed a new resource that highlights the many benefits of breastfeeding. Breastfeeding can reduce the risk of breast cancer in mothers and leukemia in babies. Indigenous milk is medicine demonstrates how connecting to our traditions can lead to healthier lives. In August, AICAF ran our "Indigenous Milk is Medicine" campaign, and it was a huge success on Facebook and Twitter. Your participation helped new mothers everywhere connect with this message. Please help us continue spreading awareness by accessing our [new resource here](#) and sharing with your networks.



New traditional tobacco infographics developed for Southwest tribal communities

AICAF is proud to introduce several new versions of the "Sacred Traditional Tobacco for Healthy Native Communities" infographic to represent a number of Southwest tribal communities. Graphics representing Apache, Navajo, Pueblo and Ute tribes were created in partnership with the Southwest Tribal Tobacco Coalition and the Albuquerque Area Southwest Tribal Epidemiology Center. These graphics depict how to address community tobacco issues with the engagement of multiple partners within any tribal community.

To learn how your community can develop and implement a traditional tobacco policy, contact [Melanie Plucinski](#).

Apache Community



Navajo Community



We would like to hear from you!

If you would like additional information about the content of this newsletter or if there are news topics that you would like to see included in our upcoming issues, please email communications@aicaf.org.

 Forward to a Friend

STAY CONNECTED

