

US Indigenous Health Systems: Promises and Pitfalls

Karen Diver

Inaugural Faculty Fellow

Inclusive Excellence for Native American Affairs

College of St Scholastica, Duluth, Minnesota, USA



2:30 to 3:30pm

(1 hour seminar followed by refreshments)



Tuesday, 20 November



B121 - Malaysian Theatre

Melbourne School of Design

University of Melbourne, Parkville



The US government has treaty obligations for Tribal health. In many ways, the system is failing its indigenous peoples. Tribally led solutions are overcoming some of those systemic barriers. Despite the US government having treaty obligations for Tribal health, in the 1950's, the average age of death for a US Native person was 56 years old. Dependent on the federal government, inadequate health systems combined with extraordinary poverty led to our communities losing our elders in middle age. In the last 50 years, an era of the growth of tribal sovereignty and self-determination, gave rise to many Tribes taking over their health care delivery systems. Today we see a dichotomy in the health outcomes affecting tribal peoples between the innovation of tribes versus the continued failed system of the federal Indian Health Service.

Karen Diver is currently serving as the inaugural Faculty Fellow for Inclusive Excellence for Native American Affairs at the College of St. Scholastica in Duluth, Minnesota. Karen was appointed by President Obama as the Special Assistant to the President for Native American Affairs. As part of the Domestic Policy Council, she assisted with inter-agency efforts, policy and regulatory changes to benefit 567 Native American Tribes. Karen served as Chairwoman of the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa from 2007 -2015. This elected position serves as chair of the tribal government and CEO of the reservation's corporate boards. The Fond du Lac Reservation is the 2nd largest employer in northern Minnesota with over 2,200 employees. She served as Vice-President of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe (MCT), comprised of six members Bands and chaired its Finance Corporation.



Fellowship for Indigenous Leadership



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