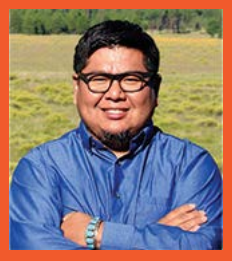




FFY2022 AZ Health Zone Annual Conference Speaker Biographies

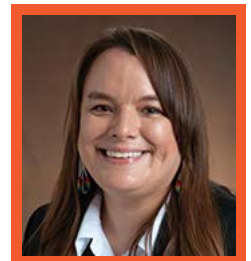


Dr. Loren Hudson, Ed.D

Dr. Loren Hudson, Ed.D, (Diné (Navajo)) is of the Todich'iinii (Bitterwater) clan and born for the Kinyaa'aanii (Towering House). His maternal grandfathers are of the Nooda'I Tl'izi lani (Ute Many Goats) clan and his paternal grandfathers are of the Biihbitoo'nii (Deer Spring) clan. Dr. Hudson was born and raised on the Navajo Nation and is the owner of Naabaahii Education Solutions LLC. Dr. Hudson has 18+ years of experience working within Coconino and Navajo county school districts (K-12). He served in various capacities that support student and organizational success and uplift leadership, which include serving as a Navajo Language Teacher, Superintendent, CEO/Principal, Assistant Principal, Lead Instructor, and Director. As a graduate of Northern Arizona University, his educational background focuses on education and leadership. He is a published author of "Honoring Our Children: "Your Stories will Feed You: An Oral History Unit within a High School-University Partnership (2013)" and "Assessing Navajo student achievement through Navajo language programs at the secondary school level (2014)."

Vanessa Tibbitts, MA

Vanessa Tibbitts is a member of the Oglala Lakota Nation and serves as the program leader for the American Indian Public Health Resource Center at North Dakota State University. Vanessa received her Bachelor of Science in Human Services and Master of Arts in Lakota Leadership and Management from Oglala Lakota College and has worked in public health for the last 16 years with tribal nations. Vanessa has experience with commercial tobacco prevention, maternal and child health, utilizing culture as and Indigenous research methodologies. Vanessa works to serve Indigenous people using the skills she has acquired professionally, through academia, and through Elders for the future of her people.

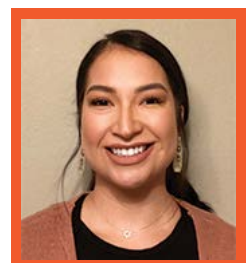


Gretchen Dobervich, BSW

Gretchen Dobervich serves as the Public Health Policy Manager for the American Indian Public Health Resource Center at the North Dakota State University Department of Health. She is a Master of Public Health Candidate. She has served in the North Dakota House of Representatives since 2016 and as House Minority Caucus Chair since 2019.

Diana Hawkins, BA

Diana (Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate) grew up on the Lake Traverse Reservation in South Dakota and is the Public Health Education Project Manager. She has a bachelor's degree from the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities and is currently pursuing a Master of Public Health from the University of North Dakota. Diana has experience working with the Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate through their Community Health Education program serving as their Tribal COVID-19 Coordinator, as well as a Wellness Coordinator. Through her experience she has insight into intertribal relations and collaborations, as well as providing education on a variety of health topics directly to community members.





Jennifer Nowicki Clark

Jen Nowicki Clark brings over 20 years of expertise in participatory education, civic engagement, and technology training to community-based initiatives. She has facilitated digital storytelling and participatory media workshops with a variety of groups. Jen has served as the Executive Producer and Board member for Odyssey Storytelling. She is an educator, organizer, and story coach who loves language and seeing how sharing stories in new ways can transform individuals and communities.

Josh Schachter

Josh is an educator, visual storyteller, and social ecologist. Over the past 20 years, he has facilitated community-based media projects with youth, teachers, schools, and nonprofit organizations. His work as an educator and photographer has been recognized internationally and his photographs have been published globally in venues including the New York Times and the Navajo Times.



Taylor Aasand, MPH, RDN

Taylor Aasand, MPH, RDN is a registered dietitian with a public health background and a passion for policy. She began her career working with clients seeking treatment for substance use, addiction, and eating disorders. She has training in intuitive eating, eating disorders, disease management, and general nutrition. Most recently, Taylor is pursuing policy change in Arizona by advocating for weight-neutral messaging and programming.

Charanya Sundar, MS, RDN/LD

Charanya is a Program Manager at the CDC Foundation, Doctor of Public Health Student, and Adjunct Professor at the George Washington University Milken Institute of Public Health. She also has professional experience providing Medical Nutrition Therapy and nutrition counseling for obesity-related chronic diseases and as an educator, is passionate about teaching and empowering others.



Delmi Ortega

Delmi has worked for the University of Arizona Cooperative Extension in Maricopa County for over 17 years as an Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program educator, and currently as a program lead for AZ Health Zone and the EFNEP program. Motivated by the challenge of understanding and meeting community needs, she appreciates meaningful conversations that offer diverse perceptions and ideas.

Bere Quiroga

Bere joined the AZHZ UA-Maricopa team in August of 2019. She started as a Nutrition Educator and has transitioned to the Childhood Coordinator position for the Maryvale Community. Her passion for helping others motivates her and getting the opportunity to engage with community members is her favorite part of her job.



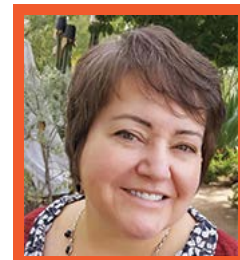


Kaley Necessary

Kaley serves as a community lead and garden coordinator in the Wilson and Central Phoenix communities. Previously farming vegetable crops in multiple states, she is passionate about local agriculture and supporting those who serve an integral role in our local food system. She is eager to continue building relationships with school and community gardeners, hoping to increase access to fresh produce in our community.

Evelyn Whitmer, M.Ed, CCHC

For the past 21 years, Evelyn created and delivered research-based, objective, informal education programs to Arizona families. She develops and conducts programs to address priority needs. Her work continues with community leadership, partners, and citizens to develop sustainable changes in the community with policy, systems, and environmental changes.



Andrea Bernal

Bernal works with SNAP-Ed eligible schools/communities. She provides education and resources on nutrition, physical activity, and gardening in eligible sites.

Natoyah Swift

Natoyah has been with the Cooperative Extension since 2014. She started as a Direct ED Nutrition Educator for the SNAP-Ed program and then took the position of the Program Coordinator for the extension's dental program, Cavity Free AZ. She is now the Marketing Assistant for the SNAP-Ed program and for the Cochise County Extension office.

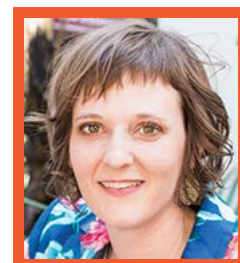


Elisabeth Tyndall

Tyndall has worked for Cooperative Extension in several positions but loves the community work of SNAP-Ed. She works in Early Childhood Education and Food Systems.

Lauren McCullough, MPH

Lauren is a Program Coordinator, Sr. with the University of Arizona's SNAP-Ed program in the School of Nutritional Sciences & Wellness. She joined the program in 2014 after completing her Master's in Public Health, with a focus on Health Behavior and Health Promotion. Her local and statewide program roles include active living, PSEs, and internal evaluation support.



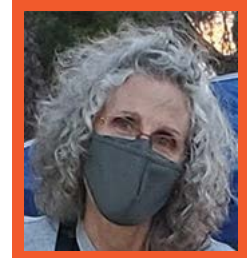


Dr. Madeleine deBlois, ScD

Dr. Madeleine deBlois is a Research Scientist with the Community Research, Evaluation, and Development (CRED) group in the Norton School of Family and Consumer Sciences at the University of Arizona. CRED provides evaluation support for Cooperative Extension in addition to working with local and state organizations on a diverse array of research and evaluation projects. Dr. deBlois's areas of focus include schools, early childhood, socioeconomic wellbeing, health, and developmental evaluation.

Gail LaGrander

Over the course of her career, Gail has worked as a community mediator, neighborhood specialist, director of a neighborhood resource and learning center, and school district family engagement coordinator. Her work supports and nurtures resident self-efficacy to collectively channel their wisdom, lived experience, and leadership into transformational change efforts that produce safer, healthier, and united communities.



Teresa Sosa, CHW

In 2019 Teresa was selected by the Arizona Community Health Workers Association for "Community Health Worker of the Year." Her willingness to learn has reinforced her ability to share, teach, collaborate, communicate, unite, include, and provide guidance as a true leader. Special achievements in her professional life include the establishment of the Salud en Balance Health Team, Salud en Balance Community Center, and the relationships that she has built with the community and with representatives from the public sector.

Rick Griffin, M.Ed

Rick is the Director of Training for Community Resilience Initiative (CRI), the nation's first community resilience network. Rick uses his education to develop innovative content and to deliver engaging presentations. He speaks to thousands of groups from all over the country and is widely recognized for his work with trauma-informed practices. He has developed several trauma and resilience-based programs and practices, and is currently working on a Trauma-Informed Leadership project, to highlight Neuroscience principles in professional development.



Dr. Laurel Jacobs, DrPH, MPH

Laurel's work focuses on the role of social capital in a community health worker (CHW) model for grassroots community advocacy. She developed a model to describe the relationships between social capital and her qualitative findings: CHWs play a role in community advocacy efforts by using their social capital to develop leaders, unite people, build new partnerships, and take issues up the ladder of command. Laurel is the lead evaluator for Arizona's SNAP-Ed program and the Principal Investigator on the project.

Theresa LeGros, MA

Theresa has a long career as a professional evaluator. Her approach to SNAP-Ed evaluation is rooted in real-world experience and a systems science lens. When you want to know if, how, or why people, organizations, and communities change, you need to explore how they interact.





Dr. Kay Orzech, PhD

Kay specializes in biocultural and medical anthropology. She worked on research projects about adolescent sleep and technology use across the lifespan before returning to Arizona as a program evaluator for SNAP-Ed. Since 2015, she has been the evaluator for Active Living and Adult Direct Education and regularly works with staff in just about every county in the state.

Jason Gillette

Jason is a United States Marine and owner of Guild Health Group, a Public Health firm focused on operations, data analysis, leadership development, and philanthropy. He also serves in the community as Chair of Real Engagement through Active Philanthropy, Racial Equity Community of Practice, Community Investment Network, Chair of Gilbert Belongs, and Playworks Board of Directors.



Christy Moore, MSW

Christy is the founder and owner of Social Spin, Inc., a company that creates healthy, employed communities through purpose-driven laundromats. Her focuses empower victims of violence, protect women's reproductive rights, and increase civic engagement. She also serves as a board director for Achieving My Purpose, a nonprofit organization that empowers young women of color to embrace and achieve their purpose.

Dr. Kevin Lorson, PhD

Kevin is a Professor and Director of the Health & Physical Education Program at Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio. He has over 20 years of experience as a teacher, researcher, and advocate. He led the efforts to create the Ohio Physical Education Standards and Evaluation; Health and Opioid Prevention Education (HOPE) Curriculum; and the Health, Opioid Prevention, Education and Support (HOPES) in Schools project to help schools create a whole child approach to substance use prevention. He has been recognized for this work with multiple state awards including the Chancellor's Award from the Ohio Department of Higher Education.

