WSU Native American Health Curriculum Project

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<td>Health sciences curriculum development informed by insight from providers about working with Native American patient populations.</td>
<td>Improve Native American health outcomes &amp; support WSU memorandum of understanding with 12 American Indian Tribes.</td>
<td>Improve health outcomes with health care system for Native American patients and prepare WSU Health Sciences students to work with Native American patients.</td>
<td>Semi-structured interviews with members of the health care team from 8 local tribes, with 50% identifying as Native American and over 100 years of combined experience.</td>
<td>Finish coding &amp; analyzing data with tribal communities’ participation. Develop learning objectives informed by data. Work with tribal communities to prioritize learning objective.</td>
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Methodologies

Decolonizing – a culturally empathetic approach that addresses issues that will make a difference for the community
Participatory Research – doing research with, not on communities to improve relevance and acceptability for community
Phenomenology – revealing meaning in occurrences to understand how meaning is created and the structure of learning
Qualitative Interviews – understand the lives experiences of others and learning the meaning of those experiences

Preliminary Findings

Value of experiences – experiences with Native American communities and patients was valuable preparation
Understanding Indian Health Systems – how IHS and Tribal Health Clinics operate and how to influence change
Treaties and Rights to Health – the history and treaty rights related to health for Native American persons
History, Trauma and Earning Trust – history of the community and associated trauma & the need to earn trust
Unteachable Qualities – some attributes are part of a person’s character and are difficult to teach

Implications: Add insight from those working with Native American patients to literature surrounding health sciences education, provide benchmark for health sciences programs understanding and addressing Native American health needs, increase cultural humility in health care teams and improve health care experiences for Native American patients.