



Spring 2012

Rain Rhythms: Spring 2012 - Fall 2012

College of Nursing & Professional Disciplines

[How does access to this work benefit you? Let us know!](#)

Follow this and additional works at: <https://commons.und.edu/rain-newsletter>



Part of the [Nursing Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

College of Nursing & Professional Disciplines. "Rain Rhythms: Spring 2012 - Fall 2012" (2012). *RAIN Rhythms*. 9.

<https://commons.und.edu/rain-newsletter/9>

This Newsletter is brought to you for free and open access by the College of Nursing & Professional Disciplines at UND Scholarly Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in RAIN Rhythms by an authorized administrator of UND Scholarly Commons. For more information, please contact und.common@library.und.edu.



RAIN Rhythms

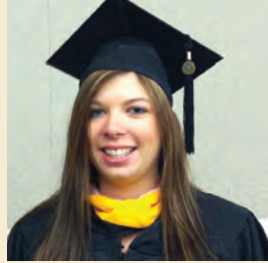
Recruitment & Retention of American Indians into Nursing | Spring 2012 - Fall 2012

Congratulations to our 2012 RAIN Graduates!

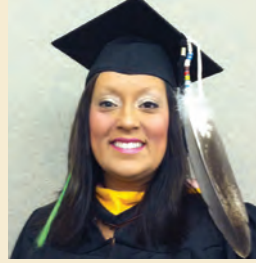
Spring 2012
MSN Program



Sarah Harkey



Justine McArthur



Shanon Marion

Spring 2012
BSN Program



Clarice Bauer



Elle Hoselton

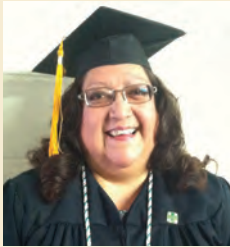


Krysten Azure

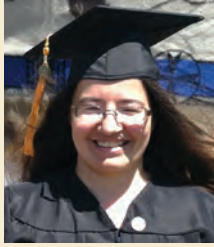


Alexis Jones

Fall 2012
RN-BSN



Karilee Lieberman



Jewel Schell



Maria Osborne



Shellee Bercier

Coordinator's Corner

2012 ... What a year! The RAIN Program achieved funding to expand support staff and we're so blessed to have these committed individuals for our students. Their support goes beyond 8-5. RAIN recruiting drives with our blue pony (Ford Escape) have brought a record number of participants.

In 2012, the Dean's office began a pilot program with RAIN to implement new communication technologies and promote our efforts across the nation. You can now visit with us on Live Chat. As you can see, RAIN students are completing BSN degrees and returning for graduate study. Ultimately, the RAIN program enables dedicated individuals to return to their home communities as highly-qualified & culturally responsive nurses. We'll see you on the recruitment trail!

Deb

COLLEGE PROFILE

Dr. Laurel Shepherd, PhD, PNP, is the new Vice Dean for the College of Nursing and Professional Disciplines. She joins UND from Old Dominion University in Virginia. In August 2012, she retired there after more than 22 years as a faculty member and administrator. She is from rural eastern North Carolina and grew up on a tobacco farm. Her agricultural heritage is similar to the farm families and values of North Dakota.

Her focus at UND is to build our academic programs, mentor faculty, and work to integrate the services of the college to meet the needs of all our students equally and effectively. The college will provide leadership to the state's nurses and work collaboratively with other health providers to meet the needs of the citizens of North Dakota.

Dr. Shepherd received her BS degree in Nursing from the University of North Carolina in 1971. After five years in Cardiothoracic ICU, she returned to the University of Virginia to get her MS as a Pediatric Nurse Practitioner. She practiced and worked as a faculty member at East Carolina University before obtaining her PhD in Nursing at The Catholic University of America in Washington, DC in 1990. Dr. Shepherd has two daughters and one grandson. She has been married to William Shepherd since 2010 and is happy to share that she is extremely blessed in her personal and family life.



Dr. Laurel Shepherd

CLOSING A CHAPTER: WE HONOR OUR GRADUATES

Spring 2012 Traditional Meal and Honoring Ceremony



Left to right: President Robert Kelley opened the Spring 2012 Traditional Meal at Wesley United Methodist Church in Grand Forks on May 10, 2012. RAIN staff prepared food. Dr. LaVonne Hootman, author of the original federal grant that first funded the RAIN program in 1990, was also recognized.

Graduates Honored by Dean Denise Korniewicz, College of Nursing and Professional Disciplines



Alexis Jones family



Krysten Azure family



Elle Hoselton family



Clarice Bauer family



Justine McArthur family



Shanon Marion family



Nursing faculty in attendance



Sarah Harkey family



Families join the round dance

The sights and the sounds of the honoring ceremony...



RAIN 2012 Graduates in Pendleton blankets



Drum group performs round dance song

PINNING AND GRADUATION CEREMONIES



Clarice Bauer
and family



Karilee Lieberman
and family



Krysten Azure and family



RAIN Nurse Mentor Melinda
Balderas with Shellee Bercier

Fall 2012 Honoring Ceremony



Maria Osborne, RN-BSN



Karilee Lieberman, RN-BSN



Jewel Schell, RN-BSN

FACULTY TRAVEL

- Summer of 2012 -

by Barbara Fedak Roll, Clinical Instructor

In June 2012, my husband and I took the opportunity of a lifetime and traveled to South Dakota and Nebraska with Deb Wilson, Barb Anderson, Melinda Balderas, and Kim Garnett of the RAIN Program. We traveled over 300 miles in five days to recruit students for the nursing program.

We were excited to go on this trip as we have had little opportunity to see what life is like in the Midwestern part of the United States. What we saw was both inspiring and sad. Many of our students come from very humble backgrounds. Poverty is abundant, and they lack resources that many of us take for granted such as cable television, cable modem, libraries, and access to resources that will assist them in becoming successful candidates in nursing. What we found inspiring was the ability of many students to overcome these challenges and attend UND, graduate, and give back to their communities. Some of the nurses we met had earned their BSN while others were in pursuit of their MSN. All RAIN graduates we met spoke fondly of the RAIN program and the help they received from their mentors. By traveling with the RAIN program, we gained a greater understanding of plains cultures and traditions.



UND Nursing faculty John and Barbara Roll with RAIN Nurse Mentors Kimberly Garnett and Melinda Balderas at the Eagle Butte IHS facility in South Dakota. They met with RAIN BSN alumni Challsey Lawrence (Spring 2011) and Chenoa Gipp (Spring 2010) who are staff members there.

The Recruitment and Retention of American Indians Into Nursing (RAIN) program invites CNPD faculty to join them on all-expense-paid three to six day excursions to tribal communities in Summer 2013 in North Dakota, South Dakota, and Minnesota. These are wonderful opportunities to learn about the home communities of our students and go behind-the-scenes at the IHS sites where graduates serve. The artwork shown behind this text is painted inside the Eagle Butte IHS facility in South Dakota.

Past, Present and Future of American Indian Nurses in North Dakota

As part of the HPOG Community University Partnership grant with NDSU - which is a collaborative effort of RAIN and several of our Next Steps grant partners - Deb and Barb were on the conference planning committee. The event was hosted by the Cankdeska Cikana Community College (CCCC) and held at the Spirit Lake Casino & Resort and CCCC in Fort Totten, North Dakota from June 11-12, 2013. The conference focused on strategies for the recruitment and retention of American Indian students into the nursing profession in North Dakota. The interaction of nursing professionals and educational partners at the conference allows healthcare providers in North Dakota to meet our highly-skilled Native workforce and gives students a venue for networking with prospective employers. For information, contact Dr. Loretta Heuer (Email: loretta.heuer@ndsu.edu) (701) 231-8205.



Moriah Thompson, 2012 Miss Spirit Lake Nation

National Opinion Research Center praises Next Steps Project

by Phillip Longie, Jr., Next Steps Mentor, Spirit Lake, ND

The Next Steps Project, an affiliate of the RAIN program, is a five-year Health Profession Opportunity Grant (HPOG) from the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) and the U. S. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS) that offers the opportunity for Native American citizens in North Dakota to access education in the health professions.

The goal of the Next Steps project is to create a career ladder allowing entry and promoting advancement within the healthcare workforce through a variety of educational options. Individuals who are interested in healthcare can receive a wide range of educational support services, including full tuition & fees, mentoring services, and childcare assistance, etc.

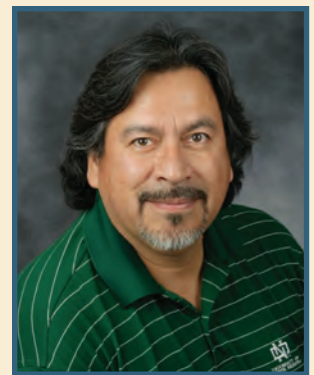
The University of North Dakota RAIN Program is a partner with the Next Steps Project to provide the mentoring services called for in the grant. Because of RAIN's long history of successfully mentoring Native American nursing students at UND, the Next Steps Project contracted with UND and RAIN. In this partnership, RAIN provides five regional mentors for students attending North Dakota colleges and universities for degrees in Nursing, Social Work, Nutrition & Dietetics, and Health Information Technology.

As a part of this HPOG grant, ACF requires that annual site visits be conducted for all the grantees. In November 2012, the Next Steps Project hosted Mr. Michael Meit, Ms. Sara Levintow, and Ms. Katherine Meyer, evaluators from the National Opinion Research Center (NORC) at the University of Chicago in Bethesda, MD. From November 5-9, the team visited the various RAIN/Next Steps mentors and the sites they oversee.

Site visits were conducted at United Tribes Technical College, Fort Berthold Community College, Sitting Bull

College, Cankdeska Cikana Community College, and the University of North Dakota. Visits consisted of interviews with students in the Next Steps program, administration and faculty of participating institutions, and the RAIN mentors associated with them. Interviews with students were conducted in a group setting while the interviews with administration and faculty were a combination of individual and group settings based on availability. The Next Steps mentors enjoyed their one-on-one interviews that centered on personal observations and opinions of the grant and its effectiveness.

As the Spirit Lake Mentor, I was involved in two of the site visits and spent a considerable amount of time with the evaluation team at Cankdeska Cikana Community College and the University of North Dakota. It was after their visit to the UND College of Nursing (now the College of Nursing and Professional Disciplines) and the RAIN Program on Thursday, November 8th that they asked me to relay their thanks to Dean Korniewicz, Dr. Shepherd, Deb Wilson, Barb Anderson, and the faculty and staff of the UND College of Nursing and the RAIN Program. Mr. Meit wanted everyone to know that they were thoroughly impressed with the University of North Dakota, and specifically, the RAIN Program. Being that their area of expertise is working with Tribal HPOG grantees, they felt that the association of RAIN with the Next Steps Project greatly enhanced the chances of the Next Steps students in successfully meeting their health career goals.



Phillip "Skip" Longie, Jr.

RAIN Students Inducted into National Academic Honor Societies

Sigma Theta Tau Honoree Alissa Hoban



Alissa Hoban

In a ceremony held at UND on October 26, 2012, Alissa Hoban, RAIN RN-MS student (Spring 2013), was inducted into the UND Eta Upsilon Chapter of the Sigma Theta Tau International (STTI) Honor Society of Nursing. Alissa lives on the White Earth reservation in Minnesota and hopes to work in the same community upon graduation.

Founded in 1922, today, STTI is the only nursing honor society. Membership is by invitation only, offered to baccalaureate and graduate students as well as nursing leaders who have demonstrated high performance and contributed to the field through their achievements. STTI chapters organize community service projects in their regions. Benefits of membership include career assistance, access to a network of fellow nursing professionals, continuing education, STTI publications

and discounts on products and services.

Reflecting on the honor, Alissa shared that “being inducted into Sigma Theta Tau signifies the hard work and dedication I have put into my education. I aspire to do big things in life. If you can dream it, you can do it. Don’t give up on your goals, they are in reach.”

Alissa tells us how pivotal the support of RAIN has been in her nursing career. “I can definitely say the RAIN program has helped me in my academic journey. The staff does anything and everything to help you, and they want you to succeed. There are no excuses when it comes to finding resources to help you out. I am looking forward to serving my community as a Nurse Practitioner and I am so thankful for the RAIN program.” For more information on STTI, visit www.nursingsociety.org



Tau Sigma Honoree Gina Benson

Gina Benson, a fourth semester student in the BSN program was invited to join the Tau Sigma National Honor Society. Tau Sigma is a national honor society that recognizes the academic achievements of transfer students. The minimum GPA for membership is 3.5 or an academic standing that places the candidate in the top 20% of all incoming transfer students in the term of induction.

Gina, who achieved a 3.88 GPA in her first year in the nursing program, reflected on her induction. She said, “it’s gratifying to be recognized for my efforts. As a non-traditional student, this reminds me that I’m capable of being a successful nursing student. It’s also a nice way to show my children that mom’s been working hard to improve the quality of their lives, too.”

There are over 105 chapters of Tau Sigma in the United States, each recognizing academic excellence and helping universities to assist incoming transfer students. For more information on the Tau Sigma National Honor Society, go to their website at www.tausigmahs.org



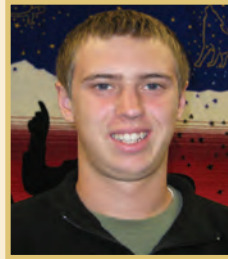
Welcome to our New 2012 Students!

SPRING 2012

Traditional BSN Program



Brandon Anderson
Bois Forte, MN



Ethan Thomas
Turtle Mountain, ND

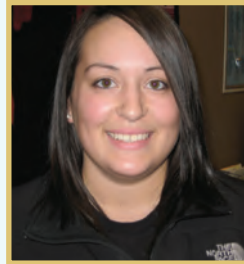
Not shown:
Gina Benson
Mille Lacs, MN

FALL 2012

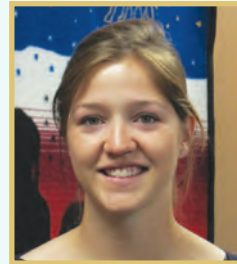
Traditional BSN Program



Andrea Langan
Turtle Mountain, ND



Jordan St. Germaine
Turtle Mountain, ND



Chelsea Warren
Red Lake, MN

RN-BSN Program



Parmalee Baker
Northern Cheyenne, MT



Robin Fox
Three Affiliated Tribes, ND

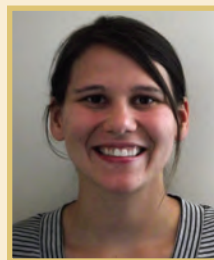
Masters in Nursing (MSN) Program



Kristina Davis-Smith
APHN
Turtle Mountain, ND



Bonnie Lafromboise
APHN
Turtle Mountain



Valerie McCarney
APHN
Fond du lac, MN



Brittany Tovar
FNP
White Earth, MN

Welcoming Our New RAIN Staff

Melinda Balderas, RAIN Nurse Mentor



Melinda joined RAIN in April 2012 and supports RN-BSN and graduate students, most of whom work in their home communities and attend UND as distance students.

Melinda always encourages students to use the most advanced

nursing practices. In 2011, she completed her Masters of Science in Nursing (MSN) degree at South University (Savannah, GA) with a focus on Nursing Education. Melinda is a 1994 graduate of UND's BSN program, RAIN recipient, and member of the STTI honor society.

Melinda's experience in higher education includes three years as a Clinical Nurse Instructor at Fort Berthold Community College. She has sixteen years experience as an RN working in both IHS facilities and the private sector. In addition to her work at RAIN, she is also on the staff of a local travel nursing agency.

In May 2012, Melinda joined a discussion panel at the North Dakota American Indian Nursing Conference entitled "Reflections of American Indian Nurses: Our Journey from Education to Employment." Melinda says the panel "provided an opportunity to discuss academic preparedness and our commitment to accessible healthcare for Native American communities."

Graduate students seeking academic, research, and administrative positions benefit from her perspective. Melinda is a member of the Sahnish Tribe in North Dakota. She is married for 21 years, with three children.

Bruce Farnsworth, RAIN Writing Mentor

Bruce joined RAIN in August 2012 to guide students toward proficiency in writing, research, and other academic literacies. He's also the editor and graphic designer of the RAIN Rhythms newsletter.

As a Ph.D. Candidate in Educational Foundations & Research at UND, Bruce is already published in international journals and books and presents his research widely. He is a reviewer for the British journal *Environmental Education Research*. Bruce's personal research focuses on arts-based and sustainability education in conservation areas. During the period 2009-2011, he taught four courses in UND's College of Education & Human Development.

A native Californian, Bruce earned a B.S. in zoology at Cal Poly (Pomona, California) and a M.A. in environmental education at Cal State, San Bernardino. His master's fieldwork was conducted in close

association with indigenous lowland Quichua (Napo Runa) communities in Ecuador. Bruce worked as a biologist and educator in the upper Amazon from 1996-2001. In 2004, he earned a teaching license in Art Education at Cal State, Fullerton and taught five years.

Bruce thrives on the one-to-one interaction of mentorship and watching students gain self-confidence: He adds, "RAIN students have life experiences and stories that make nursing so personally relevant. Writing offers them a bridge between their home communities and their nursing studies here at UND."



Kimberly Garnett, RAIN Nurse Mentor

Kim (RN, BSN) became a RAIN Nurse Mentor in March 2012. She provides clinical and academic mentoring to undergraduate nursing students. Kim has maintained a strong connection with the RAIN family since she earned her BSN as a RAIN student in 2011. After passing her NCLEX exam, she worked full-time in a Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU). In Fall 2011, she accepted a part-time position as Nursing Student Assistant at RAIN.

Kim enjoys the educational side of nursing. While she is now a full-time Nurse Mentor, she also works with newborns in the NICU to keep her clinical skills current. Kim brings a diverse background to mentoring. Her experience includes long term care and volunteer service in community health. In July 2012, she completed a two-week medical mission to Guyana, South America. Kim loves being both a nurse mentor and a working

nurse. Kim tells us that “one day I am helping a student to understand the concepts of a newborn assessment, and the next day I am living it. I am a mentor for my students and a caregiver to the most vulnerable patients in the career field.”



Kim continues in her professional development as the Leadership Succession Chair for the local chapter of STTI. Says Kim, “I am a nurse!”

Kim & Filipo Together in Marriage

On December 19, 2012, Kim’s long-time boyfriend Filipo Williams, then serving as a Senior Airman Air Traffic Control Specialist in the United States Air Force and stationed at the Grand Forks Air Force Base, let RAIN staff in on some good news. After proposing marriage to Kim in a cleverly orchestrated affair from the top deck of the control tower, he arranged a surprise dinner for Kim, both families, and her RAIN family at L’Bistro Restaurant in the CanadInn of Grand Forks. With a June 21st wedding, there’s more to share!



Kimberly and Filipo pose for an engagement portrait



RAIN staff gather for the impromptu engagement celebration. From left to right are Melinda Balderas, Barb Anderson, LoAnn Hirsch, Kimberly Garnett, Bruce Farnsworth, and Deb Wilson.

Our RAIN Family

The Nicolette Wolf Leader Memorial 5K Walk/Run

The UND College of Nursing and Professional Disciplines (CNPD) held the first annual Nicolette Wolf Leader Memorial 5K Walk/Run for Texting and Driving Awareness on Saturday, September 22, 2012 at University Park in Grand Forks. Over 100 family, friends, former classmates, and members of the public attended the event, including two of Nicolette's children, Josephine and Jamisen.

Nicolette Ann Wolf Leader was a RAIN student and junior in the BSN program at UND on Dec. 27, 2011 when she passed away in an automobile accident near Brookings, South Dakota.

Organizations from across the greater UND community participated in the event which included numerous fun and educational activities. The UND Wellness Center sponsored a distracted drivers booth with educational handouts. Children enjoyed face-painting, a jumpy gym, and impaired driving simulators sponsored by the Grand Forks Police Department. Safe Kids Grand Forks and Altru presented a booth on proper hydration and nutrition. Generators were donated by Acme Rents. UND's Wilkerson Hall dining services donated cookies for the runners. Many of the attendees added their names to a poster pledging to never text and drive. RAIN staff were involved throughout the planning and event day activities.

The College of Nursing and Professional Disciplines will sponsor the Nicolette Wolf Leader 5K Walk/Run for Texting and Driving Awareness next Fall. Proceeds from the event are dedicated to an educational fund for Nicolette's three children. If you'd like to donate, please contact your local branch of US Bank for more information about the *Nicolette Wolf Leader Memorial Fund*.



Above, we remember Nicolette's beautiful smile. At left, Nicolette's mother and two of her children joined by Dean Korniewicz.

At right, RAIN Nurse Mentor Kim Garnett connects with Ashley Everson, one of her former nursing classmates.



Future Healthcare Providers...we hope

More than one member of the RAIN family brought new children into the world in 2012. Here are two of them.



On October 29, 2012, RAIN staff and students held a baby shower for RAIN student Lisa LaFontaine and her son Zhawiinjige, shown in traditional cradleboard. His name means "kind and merciful" in the Ojibwe language. Zhawiinjige was born on October 5, 2012.



Nursing staff and faculty held a baby shower on June 1, 2012 for RAIN Prospective Student Academic Advisor Kara Anderson (far left). Her daughter Savannah was born on June 27th.



Visiting RAIN Alumni

During their summer 2012 recruitment travels, RAIN Program Coordinator Deb Wilson and Assistant Program Coordinator Barb Anderson visited these three RAIN alumni serving at the Turtle Mountain IHS facility in Belcourt, North Dakota.



David Azure
(BSN, 2009)



Rhea Allery
(BSN, 2009)



Michelle Longie
(BSN, 2005)

Holiday Open House 2012

Dean Korniewicz joined nursing faculty and staff in the RAIN Quiet Room.



On the Moccasin Trail: Along the Highways & Byways

- **REZCRUITMENT - The Art of Recruiting on Reservations**
- **Visiting RAIN Alumni Nursing in Their Home Communities**

Each year, RAIN Coordinator Deb Wilson and Assistant Coordinator Barb Anderson traverse as many as seven states, visiting with youth and families at reservations and nearby towns. During these annual recruiting drives, the team also visits RAIN alumni serving their home communities.



Tillie Colhoff, Retired RN
and RAIN Advisory Board Member
Red Lake, Minnesota
March 12, 2012



Red Lake
IHS Facility

The RAIN Program is funded by the Indian Health Service (IHS grant no. NU11IHS0001) and the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA grant no. D19HP22586).





Quentin N. Burdick
Memorial Health Care
Facility (IHS)
Belcourt, ND



Turtle Mountain
Community College
in Belcourt, ND



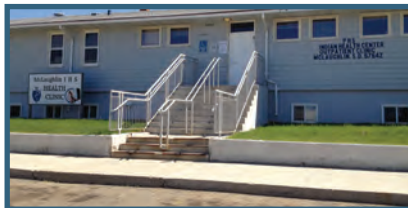
Flandreau Indian
School in the town of
Flandreau, SD

Rosebud IHS Facility
in Rosebud, SD



Stockbridge Munsee Health Center (IHS)
Bowler, WI

IHS Facility
McLaughlin, SD



This is the IHS Facility in Twin Butters, ND, the
home community of Deb Wilson, our RAIN
Program Coordinator.

... in Just One Month!

In June 2012, the dynamic duo of Deb and Barb
visited these RAIN graduates now working as
nurses in Nebraska and the Dakotas:

- Sophia Perttula (RN-BSN, 1993; MSN, 1995)
IHS Facility, Winnebago, NE
- Clarice LeBrun (BSN, 2012)
IHS Facility, Wanblee, SD
- Erica Gourneau (BSN, 2007)
Jackie Miller (BSN, 2006)
IHS Hospital, Pine Ridge, SD
- Evalina Murphy (RN-BSN, 1992)
Sioux San IHS Hospital, Rapid City, SD
- Maria "Mia" Osborne (RN-BSN, 2012)
Rapid City Regional Hospital, SD
- Chenoa Gipp, (BSN, 2010)
Challsey Lawrence (BSN, 2011)
IHS Hospital, Eagle Butte, SD
- Meeting with RAIN BSN grads Robbie Baker
(2007), Johnette Gillis (2008), Teresa Nelson (2006),
and Valerie EagleShield (1988) at the Ft. Yates, ND
IHS facility.

Continuing on the Moccasin Trail: Fall 2012 Travels Along the Highways & Byways



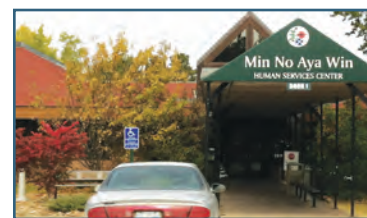
College of Menominee
Nation in Keshena, WI



Fond du Lac Tribal and
Community College in
Cloquet, MN



Peter Christensen
Health Center in
Lac du Flambeau, WI



The Min No Aya Win Human
Services Center in Cloquet,
MN



Grand Portage IHS Facility,
Grand Portage, MN



HoChunk Health Center, Black River Falls, WI



Bois Forte Wellness Center,
Boise Forte, MN

2012 National Conference Participation

American Indian Higher Education Consortium (AIHEC)
Rapid City, SD - March 23-28

Future of American Indian Nursing Conference,
Standing Rock Reservation, Ft. Yates, ND - May 21-23

43rd National Indian Education Association (NIEA)
Oklahoma City, OK - October 17-23

National Congress of American Indians
(NCAI) Sacramento, CA - Oct. 21-26

Photo at right: Sacramento Native
American Health Center



2012 Health & Career Fair Booths

Leech Lake Community College Career Fair
Walker, MN - February 10

Fond Du Lac Tribal College Career Fair
Cloquet, MN - March 14

United Tribes Career Fair
Location - March 21

Fort Berthold Community College Career Fair
New Town, ND - April 3

RAIN in the media

RAIN BSN students Chantel Decoteau (inset) and
Melissa Parisien (seated to right) were close friends of
Nicolette. They joined TV station WDAZ to produce
a commercial for the 1st Annual Nicolette Wolf Leader
Memorial 5K Walk/Run held on September 22. RAIN
staff also recorded recruitment spots for airing on radio
stations in the Grand Forks area.



Transitioning to UND: Reflections of RAIN Pre-Nursing Students

The RAIN Program is very attentive to student needs as they move from reservations and rural communities to the busy environment of a major university. Deb Wilson, RAIN Program Coordinator, recalls her move from the reservation near Williston to the University of North Dakota (UND) some 35 years ago. She described the “first-time jitters” when she was suddenly consumed by a lecture bowl with some 300 students. Says Deb, “there were more people in my classroom than I had in my entire community back home!” Today, the RAIN program is helping Native students to manage that transition.

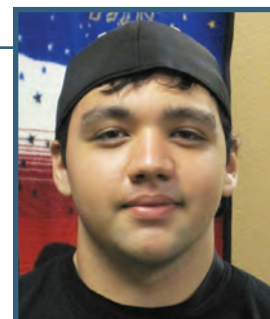
Morgan DeShequette comes to us from the Standing Rock reservation where she was high school valedictorian. Still, the transition to UND was a challenge. She tells us that “mine was tough being from a small town . . . where everyone knows each other. Coming to UND . . . was somewhat intimidating.” Morgan says “RAIN staff walked me through everything and have helped me from step one. Seeing the writing mentor has changed what would be a ‘B’ on a final draft to an ‘A’ and my advisor has helped me find classes that pertain to my educational goals.”



DeAnn Birdsbill is a young Mandan and Hidatsa woman from the Three Affiliated Tribes. She grew up on the reservation near New Town, North Dakota. DeAnn is eager to provide “culturally-responsive care and emotional support to American Indian patients and their families, and to alleviate the emotional stress often associated with healthcare settings.” DeAnn is grateful: “the RAIN Program has helped me adjust to the UND campus with mentors and tutors to help me with my class work and concerns involving my academic path.” Situated in the College of Nursing and Professional Disciplines at UND, RAIN provides a suitable learning environment for DeAnn. She adds that “RAIN staff have helped me

understand the areas I need to focus on to be a successful student. The RAIN office has computers and study areas where I can work and talk with other nursing students about pre-nursing classes and be a success.”

Robert Longie is a member of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa, says “the RAIN program has made the transition to UND easier than I had expected and the staff treats us very well.” A frequent user of the RAIN computer lab, Robert explains that “the RAIN Program also has all of the resources I need to be successful in my education. The staff has contributed to a huge proportion of success in all of my academic areas/studies.” Robert says the RAIN Program “feels like a second home away from home.”



Jezarae LaRocque is also a member of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa. Jezarae summarized it, “RAIN has been a great support system.” She felt that prior to joining RAIN, many of her concerns about academic life went unanswered. “Now,” she says, “being a part of RAIN, my questions have answers, and I always have a place to go for studying, computer use and group study sessions.” Jezarae summarizes her relationship with RAIN, “the employees of RAIN are excellent at keeping me on track and updated with the latest. It’s like a family.”



Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
Grand Forks, ND
PERMIT NO. 10

College of Nursing and Professional Disciplines

430 Oxford Street Stop 9025
Grand Forks, ND 58202-9025

The RAIN Rhythms Newsletter

Editor/Designer:

Bruce Farnsworth

Photos by UND & RAIN staff, friends, and families

Quentin N. Burdick American Indians Into Nursing Program

RAIN Program Office (UND)

430 Oxford Street Stop 9025
Grand Forks, ND 58202-9025
Phone (701) 777-3224 | Fax (701) 777-4558

www.nursing.und.edu/RAIN

Find us on Facebook
@ "UNDRAIN"

View from Grand Portage National Monument, Minnesota in September 2012. (Photograph by Deb Wilson)