



Photo: Kootenai welcomes First Face Trainings

CIRCLE-NARCH January 2024 Newsletter

Welcome to the *Center for Indigenous Research Collaboration Learning & Excellence (CIRCLE)* NARCH January 2024 newsletter! *xaʔtús* (pronounced hah-toos) training began taking place at the Colville Confederated Tribes, Spokane Tribe of Indians, Kalispel Tribe, Coeur d’Alene Tribe, Nez Perce Tribe, Kootenai Tribe, and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation since September, 2023 and will continue through the summer of 2024. *xaʔtús* (First Face) for Mental Health training prepares peers, teachers, coaches, and other community members to be the “First Face” supporting someone experiencing a mental health or substance use crisis or challenge.

Here’s what we’ve been up to lately:

- On December 18, Drs. Martina Whelshula and Sarah Nelson made a presentation to the Health and Human Services Committee of the Colville Tribal Council about the First Face trainings.

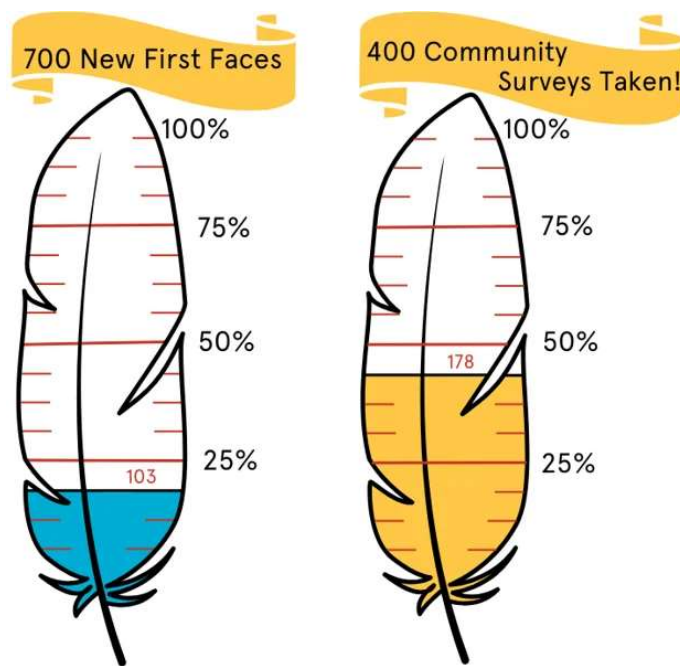
- Our team is preparing to provide the first round of First Face trainings with the Coeur d'Alene Tribe, the Colville Confederated Tribes and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation during the next few months.
- We are excited to share that we are working on becoming an approved Continuing Education (CE) provider. This will provide another benefit to First Face trainees who are professional counselors, peer support specialists, or educators.
- On January 12th, the members of the CIRCLE-NARCH Working Group met to discuss the progress we've made in all of our training and research activities. We also discussed future new ways to meet the community mental health needs of the Seven Nations.



Photo: The TRC team takes time off from recruitment and training to enjoy the Holiday festivities!



Photo: A basket woven by a participant in a First Face Training



Our Impact at a Glance

We proudly report that the Training and Research Coordinators (TRCs) have completed First Face trainings in the Spokane Tribe, Kalispel Tribe, Nez Perce Tribe, and Kootenai Tribe communities!

We aim to have 700 participants in total as part of our current [NARCH grant](#).

So far, we've trained 103 new First Faces, with the Coeur d'Alene Tribe, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, and Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation trainings set for January, February and March. This spring and summer, we will return to all 7 Tribal communities to conduct a second round of trainings.

Our NARCH grant is also funding a multi-wave survey to assess the community-wide impact of First Face training. We aim to collect 400 community impact surveys in the first wave of data collection, and so far, we've collected 178!

Upcoming Events

- First Face trainings in the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation community are scheduled for Tuesday, January 23rd and Wednesday, January 24th at the Wildhorse Casino in Pendleton Oregon! These trainings are officially full, but you can still sign up to be on the [waitlist](#). If you sign up for the waitlist, if a spot doesn't open up, you'll still be able to attend one of our next trainings in the summer, and you can begin participating immediately in our project.
- We are currently recruiting for Kalispel Tribe, Nez Perce Tribe, Spokane Tribe, Kootenai Tribe, and Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation,



Prevention Corner

January is Human Trafficking Awareness Month. Many groups use this time to educate the public on the prevalence of Human Trafficking across the United States.

One of the biggest reasons that this topic is not discussed more is a lack of understanding of the many forms that trafficking can take. The two main categories that human trafficking fall under are labor trafficking and sex trafficking.

Though sex trafficking usually receives more coverage, labor trafficking is actually more prevalent overall. In Indigenous communities, human trafficking often intersects with the crisis of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women/People.

Indigenous women are targeted for sex trafficking at the highest rate of any ethnicity in the United States. Indigenous people are also at high risk for labor trafficking exploitation due to the prevalence of poverty in many Indigenous communities.

To learn more about human trafficking and how you can help raise awareness, visit:

- The [Polaris Project](#) tracks human trafficking statistics nationwide and provides resources for awareness campaigns as well as victim advocacy.
- The [US Department of Justice's Office for Victims of Crime](#) created a series of videos titled "Faces of Human Trafficking" that help to show the many nuances of human trafficking that often go unrecognized.





Culture Connections

Combating the crises of human trafficking and Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women can be very difficult in Indigenous communities. Often, Tribal Police and community resources are stretched thin, and do not have access to reliable or current statistics because of a lack of reporting or errors in victim identification.

It is of the utmost importance to use culture to reinforce traditional respect for all people, and the values that tie us together. There are Native-led organizations across the United States that are working to put an end to these issues in Indigenous communities and beyond!

The [Tribal Resource Tool](#) provides information on resources that are specifically tailored for Native Communities.

The [National Indigenous Women's Resource Center](#) maintains a database of resources for communities to refer to in order to provide support for survivors of violence the families of victims of violence.

The [StrongHearts Native Helpline](#) is an important resource for crime victims who may not feel safe seeking services within their home communities where the abuse took place.

The US Department of Justice's [Office of Tribal Justice](#) has a list of resources to provide support for Indigenous communities working to provide access to services for victims of crime.



Follow us on our [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) pages for even more updates!