

Native Journey to Academic Success (NJAcS) program: *Promoting Resilience among Native American Students*

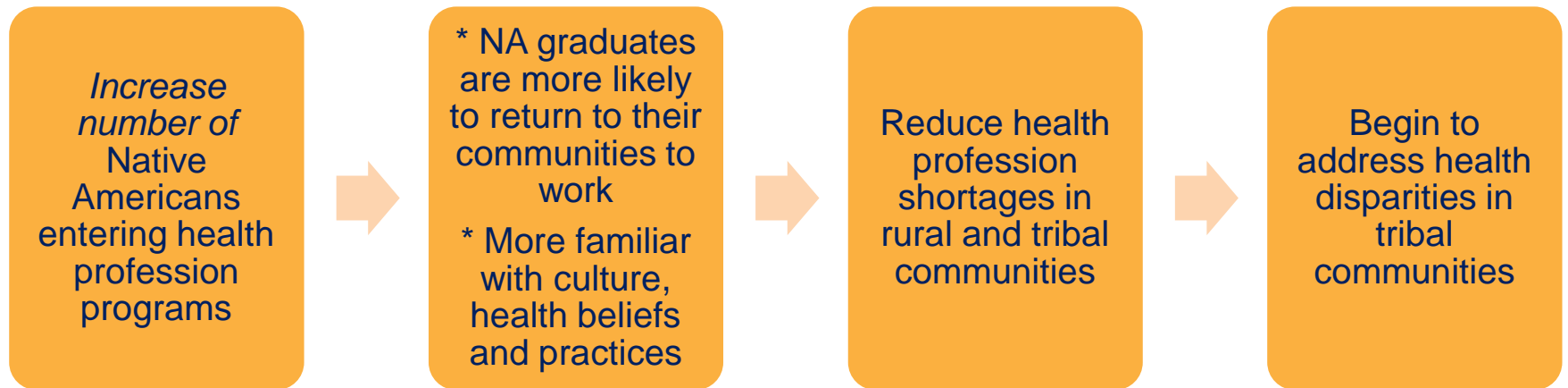
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NATIVE AMERICAN HEALTH & WORKFORCE

- Health disparities: lower life expectancy, lower quality of life, greater incidence of chronic diseases¹
- Shortage of health care providers is a major challenge in tribal communities²
- 2018 IHS (Indian Health Service) estimates 25% vacancy rate across health professions; some locations (rural and remote areas) as high as 50%²
- American Indian/Alaska Natives Health Care Workforce³⁻⁶
 - **0.5% Dental Hygienist**
 - **0.5% Nurses**
 - **0.4% Physicians & Physician Assistants**
 - **0.2% Physical Therapist**

IMPROVE HEALTH EQUITY



NAU College of Health & Human Services

Mission Statement:

The College of Health and Human Services prepares students to become competent health professionals while inspiring leaders in practice, scholarship, and service. We strive to improve the health and well-being of the diverse communities we serve.

- Athletic Training
- Communication Sciences & Disorders
- Dental Hygiene
- Health Sciences
- Nursing
- Occupational Therapy
- Physical Therapy
- Physician Assistant Studies

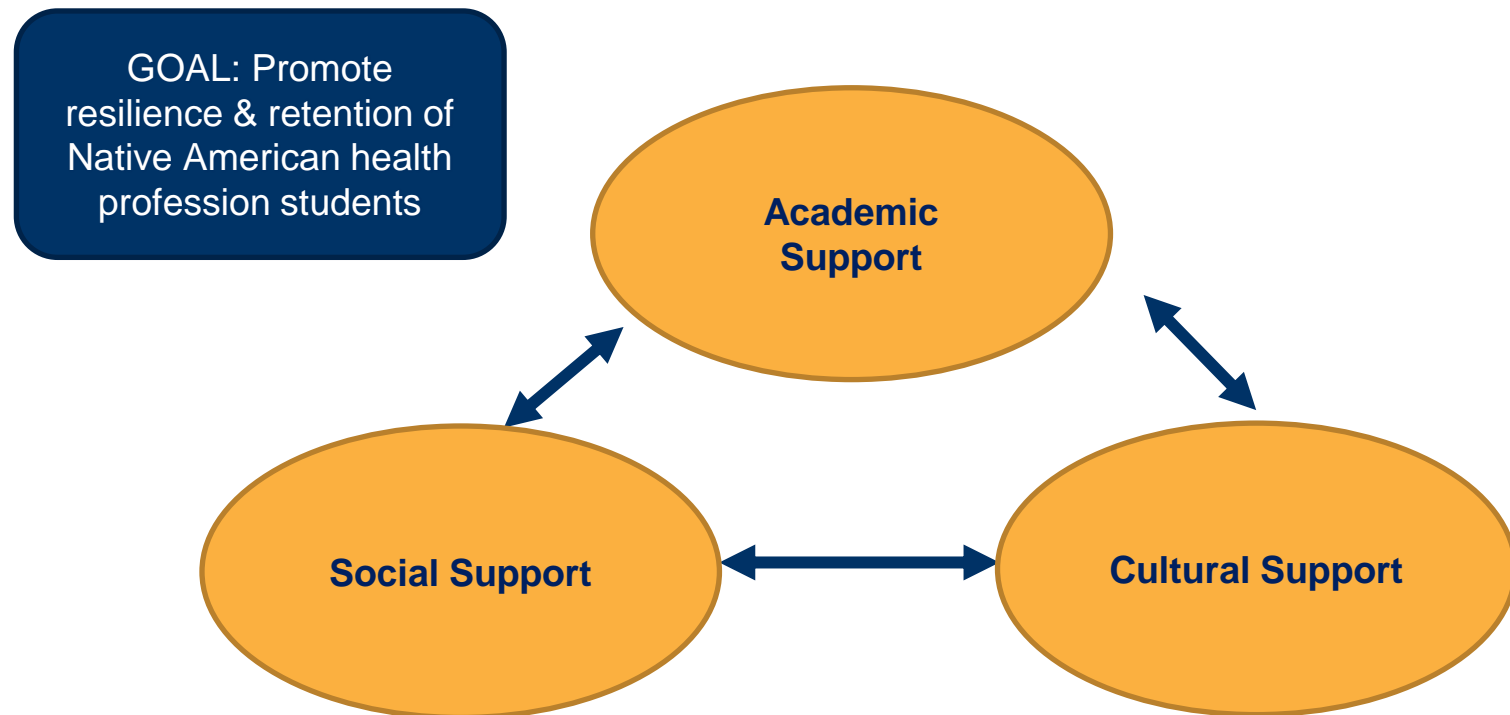
NATIVE AMERICAN STUDENTS

Education journey comes with many challenges⁷:

- **Limited academic preparation and support**
- **Less likely to have a family member that has attended college**
- **Financial barriers**
- **Food insecurity**
- **Feeling of isolation being far from home, family and cultural support**

NATIVE JOURNEY TO ACADEMIC SUCCESS (NJAcS)

- Established 2008-09 in CHHS
- NJAcS Faculty Academy appointed to serve as faculty mentors



NATIVE JOURNEY TO ACADEMIC SUCCESS (NJAcS)

Academic support:

- **Faculty mentoring check-in email**
- **Peer tutoring – funds support peer tutor**
- **Student travel support- attend professional conference**

NATIVE JOURNEY TO ACADEMIC SUCCESS (NJAcS)

Cultural support:

- Annual gatherings – Welcome Back Event
- Traditional blessing/prayer
- Cultural presentations/Storytelling
- Traditional/ceremonial support – referrals

Social support:

- Gas and food vouchers – limit (2) per semester
- Childcare
- Referrals to campus/off-campus resources

NATIVE JOURNEY TO ACADEMIC SUCCESS (NJAcS)

Middle and High School Pipeline Initiatives:

- **Targets Native American youth**
- **Partnerships with Navajo Nations schools, FUSD and continues to grow**
- ***Dream Catchers* Event**
- **Mentoring/Tutoring Program @ local Residential Dormitory for High School Students**

DREAM CATCHERS EVENT



DREAM CATCHERS EVENT



Questions

NATIVE JOURNEY TO ACADEMIC SUCCESS

SERVICES TO SUPPORT YOU



NAU NORTHERN ARIZONA
UNIVERSITY

College of Health and Human Services

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