

# 2022 ABRC Workshops

Brought to you by the Arizona Biomedical Research Centre (ABRC), in collaboration with Northern Arizona University's (NAU) Center for Health Equity Research (CHER)

**April 21, 2022:** Incarceration and COVID-19

Recordings of workshops can be found online at [nau.edu/cher/past-events/](http://nau.edu/cher/past-events/)

**May 12, 2022:** Adolescent Health

Recordings of workshops can be found online at [nau.edu/cher/past-events/](http://nau.edu/cher/past-events/)

**May 16, 2022:** The Power and Promise of Community Health Worker Voluntary Certification

10:00am - 3:00pm @ High Country Conference Center | Hybrid via Zoom

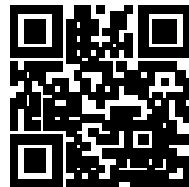
**May 19, 2022:** 4th Annual Yuma County Forum: Resilient Communities and Sustainable Health Equity

8:30am - 12:00pm @ Pivot Point Conference Center, Yuma, AZ

**June 3, 2022:** Lived Black Experience

9:00am - 3:00pm @ High Country Conference Center | Hybrid via Zoom

Registration Information:  
[nau.edu/cher/events/](http://nau.edu/cher/events/)



Co-sponsors include:



# Adolescent Health

Thursday, May 12, 2022

Topics include:



Supportive policies for the health of transgender youth. Moderated by **Dr. Amanda Pollitt** and panelist from University of Texas, Austin.



Impact of cultural engagement and identity on mental and behavioral health outcomes in Indigenous youth. Moderated by **Dr. Amanda Hunter** with panelists from Arizona State University and Coconino County.



Youth engagement in the COVID-19 response and the lingering effects of the pandemic on youth. Moderated by **Dr. Linnea Evans** with high school and college student panelists.



ARIZONA DEPARTMENT  
OF HEALTH SERVICES  
ARIZONA BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH CENTRE



Center for Health Equity Research

Funded by the Arizona Biomedical Research Centre (ABRC), in collaboration with NAU's Center for Health Equity Research

### Workshop Hosts:



Dr. Amanda Pollitt's research focuses on the health and well-being of sexual and gender minority youth. She is interested in how stigma influences health outcomes within social and developmental contexts such as family environments, intimate relationships, and the transition to adulthood. She will present data from her recent study on this topic.



Dr. Amanda Hunter's research focuses on the impact of cultural engagement and cultural identity on mental and behavioral health outcomes in Indigenous youth. She will present her pilot study that entails developing, implementing, and evaluating culturally-grounded after school programs with Indigenous communities and organizations.



Dr. Linnea Evans will present strategies to increase COVID-19 prevention and vaccination uptake among youth, including a crowdsourcing open contest to solicit COVID-19 prevention messages via a variety of multimedia modalities (e.g., poetry, illustrations, animations, Tik Tok videos). Dr. Linnea Evans will share data from contest submissions, as well as community voters, to assess 1) youth engagement in COVID-19 prevention and 2) the acceptability of crowdsourcing as a method for COVID-19 prevention messaging.

### Workshop Moderator:



Dr. Julie Baldwin is a Regent's Professor at Northern Arizona University's College of Health and Human Services and the Director of the Center for Health Equity Research.

**8:30-9:00am** - Registration

**9:00-9:10am** - Welcome and thank you to our sponsors

**9:10-9:15am** - Introduction to Adolescent Health workshop

**9:15-10:15am** - Keynote Speaker: Stephen Russell, PhD

**10:15-11:15am** - Panel Moderator: Amanda Pollitt, PhD

**11:15-12:30pm** - Lunch break and networking opportunity

**12:30-1:30pm** - Panel Moderator: Amanda Hunter, PhD; Panelist: Tamara Littlesalt-Butler, MPA; Panelist: Monica Tsethlikai, PhD; Panelist: Justice Castroverde-Moniz

**1:30-2:30pm** - Panel Moderator: Linnea Evans, PhD; Panelist: Amayo Pablo; Panelist: Ifeoma "Ify" Pamela Ezechukwu; Panelist: Venezia Figueroa

**2:30-3:00pm** - Workshop overview

### Research Topics:

Youth engagement in the AZ Community Engagement Alliance Against COVID-19.

The health and well-being of sexual and gender minority youth.

The impact of cultural engagement and cultural identity on mental and behavioral health outcomes in Indigenous youth.

## Guest Speakers and Panelists:



**9:15am - 10:15am**  
Stephen Russell, PhD

Stephen Russell (he/him) is Priscilla Pond Flawn Regents Professor in Child Development, chair of the Department of Human Development and Family Sciences, and Amy Johnson McLaughlin Director of the School of Human Ecology at the University of Texas at Austin. He is an expert in adolescent and young adult health, with a focus on sexual orientation and gender identity. His 2016 book, *Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Schooling: The Nexus of Research, Practice and Policy*, won awards from the American Psychological Association and the Society for Research on Adolescence. He has served on the governing boards of the Society for Research in Child Development, National Council on Family Relations (and is an elected fellow), SIECUS: Sex Ed for Social Change, and the Society for Research on Adolescence (he served as President 2012-2014).

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**12:30pm - 1:30pm**  
Monica Tsethlikai, PhD

Monica Tsethlikai is a former William T. Grant Scholar, a Native Children's Research Exchange Scholar and the recipient of two Ford Fellowships. She is an enrolled member of the Zuni tribe. Prior to obtaining her doctorate degree, her on-the-ground involvement in juvenile justice led to her interest in studying children's cognitive development as embedded within their social and cultural contexts and biosocial stresses. She uses a process model approach to examine how children's daily activities and stressful life experiences impact executive function development and both directly and indirectly influence well-being.

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**12:30pm - 1:30pm**  
Justice Castroverde-Moniz

Justice Castroverde-Moniz (Kānaka Maoli) is a Case Manager for the Reach Ur Life program at Native Americans for Community Action (NACA). The Reach Ur Life program seeks to promote protective factors, and reduce the risk of suicide. The primary intent of this project is to serve American Indian youth, ages 10-24 years old, primarily within Coconino County, which includes the Navajo Nation and the Hopi tribe.

# Guest Speakers and Panelists:



**12:30pm - 1:30pm**

**Tamara Littlesalt-Butler, MPA**

Tamara Littlesalt-Butler is the Program Manager for the Coconino County Healthy Families program, a family support program designed to cultivate and strengthen nurturing parent-child relationships through weekly in-home visiting services. Prior to Healthy Families, she worked in the field of youth development for close to 15 years as a Unit Director, Area Director and a Vice President of Native American Services for Boys & Girls Clubs located on and off native lands including the Navajo Nation, the Hualapai Indian Nation, and the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community. Additionally, Tamara co-directed the Stanford Medical Youth Science Program while attending Stanford University where she holds a Bachelor of Art in American Studies with a minor in History. She also has obtained a Master of Public Administration from the University of Phoenix.

Tamara originates from Kayenta, AZ which is located on the Navajo Nation. She is Bit'ahnii (Folded Arms people). She is born for the Tódich'ii'nii (Bitter Water people). Her maternal grandfather was of the Kin ł ichii'nii (Red House People) and her paternal grandfather was of the 'Áshijhi (Salt People). She currently resides in Flagstaff with her husband and children.

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**1:30pm - 2:30pm**

**Student Panelists**



Amaya Pablo is a senior at Flagstaff High School and a member of the Hopi tribe. Amaya participated as a youth advisor to the It's Our Turn crowdsourcing contest and also submitted a winning poem entitled, "Only in the Dark She Could See the Light."



Ifeoma "Ify" Pamela Ezechukwu is a pre-med ASU junior who loves helping people and promoting welfare. In addition to volunteering at a hospital, caregiving for developmentally disabled individuals, and providing health education as a Youth Advisor, her other passions include dance, photography/videography, and journalism. Ify participated as a youth advisor to the It's Our Turn crowdsourcing contest.



Venezia Figueroa is 17 years old and a student at Bioscience High School in Phoenix, Arizona. They plan to pursue an undergrad in Biomedical Sciences and apply to medical school. The topic of mental health is very important to them, and they cope through various means including therapy, art, music, and poetry. Venezia participated as a youth advisor to the It's Our Turn crowdsourcing contest and also submitted a winning poem entitled, "If Only You Knew."