

Micah Swimmer, Executive Board Member Blythe Winchester, Secretary, Executive Board Member

Staff Members:

Emily Herzog, Administrative Assistant Kilyne Oocumma, Digital Media Coordinator

Donate to the Center for Native Health

Upcoming Events

- June 7th 9th: Teach What You Know, Share What You Have language
- conference
- June 9th: SELU Mothering Project and Little Cherokee Seeds (OK) cosponsored Speakers Gathering at New Kituwah Academy 11:30-3:00. • June 10th: 2nd Quarter Board Meeting
- June 21st 23rd: The Center for Native Health and EBCI Department of Natural Resources will be hosting people from all over "Indian Country" for a three-day workshop on protecting culturally significant sites and sharing best
- culturally relevant land management practices.
- June 25th June 30th: MedCaT Summer Academy at WCU • July 23rd - 28th: MedCaT Summer Academy at Wake Forest
- August 7th -12th: Native Breastfeeding Week / Indigenous Milk Medicine
- Week (IMMW); Local Activities in Cherokee
- September 6th: Anne Bullock will be giving the Annual Public Lecture in Native Health at WCU
- September 14th 15th: CNH/EBCI DANR International Workshop in
- Cherokee, NC • Sept. 28th - 29th: Rooted in the Mountains Symposium at WCU
- October 3rd 7th: Cherokee Indian Fair
- Oct (TBD): MedCaT Fall Learning Lab
- December (TBD): 2nd Annual MedCaT Alumni Reunion

Announcement:

The Center for Native Health now has a local office

We are so excited to announce that we now have a physical space for our organization on the Qualla Boundary. Our office is located just above the BIA buildings right off Tsali Blvd. We'd like to say SGI!!/Thank you to the Cherokee Indian Hospital Authority and the entire staff who helped make this happen. If you are in Cherokee, stop by and say hello!



Update on SELU Mothering:

Announcement:

- Thus far in 2023, SELU has served 4 women with full-spectrum services (prenatal, birth and postpartum) and 2 families with postpartum-, breastfeeding-only services. SELU is slated to support a further 6 women due between June through November. Having received 6 referrals from Nurse Family Partnership and WIC, SELU hopes to be able to serve a further 3 pending referrals.
- UPCOMING in June, SELU Mothering Project and Little Cherokee Seeds (OK) are co-sponsoring a Speaker's Gathering: We are inviting our SELU mothers to attend a conversation between EBCI and Cherokee Nation speakers to discuss traditional birthing ways.
- UPCOMING in August, SELU will be participating in Native Breastfeeding Week. Planning for this annual celebration will begin soon.



Community Birth Keeper (Full-spectrum doula):

A trained individual who offers emotional, physical, informational guidance and support to the pregnant person and their families during prenatal, birth and postpartum; including miscarriage, infant loss and abortion.

Community-Based Partnerships:

Updates: Cherokee Potters Master Apprentice Program

The project team for DbOb Zo DVoIoDy "asinasi nole adolegwasgi" recently visited the "Mudhoney" kiln in Weaverville, NC. This was the last kiln visit before the team begins the design and construction phase of a kiln for the Qualla Boundary supported by the Cherokee Preservation Foundation. Tara McCoy and Levi West have been working to preserve and promote pottery for a whole new generation of Cherokee artists, and the Center for Native Health is excited to see what emerges from these relationships and collaborations. These efforts support individual and collective health amongst the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians.



(right) and Tara McCoy leading a pottery class at UNC Asheville.



Cultural Preservation and Application:

Updates: Rights & Resources Initiative

The Center for Native Health has been working very closely with **EBCI** Department of Natural Resources and the Rights & Resources Initiative to conduct a series of workshops with various **Tribal Nation** natural resources departments, regional land conservancies, and other partners to discuss and learn best practices around land stewardship and health. An important development has been the establishment of Elohi Dinigatiyi "Earth Keepers", a cultural advisory group consisting of fluent speakers, Elders and community members who are guiding this work at every level. The group has discussed protocols for place name changes, plant stewardship and culturally relevant protocols for land conservation. This winter the team traveled to Bears Ears National Monument to engage with leaders of the **Bears Ears** Government Cooperative Agreement and First Nations Development Institute.

UPCOMING June 21st - 23rd The project team will be hosting leaders from across Indian Country for a three day workshop in Cherokee, NC. The workshop is titled, "Cultural Foundations and Strategies for Securing Sacred Lands: Experiences and Opportunities" and will consist of traveling to culturally significant Cherokee sites, engaging in dialogue around strategies various tribal communities have used to secure access and management of culturally significant landscapes and hearing from National/Regional agencies on issues of Land Back.



Project team members (Katie Tiger, Tommy Cabe, Mike Lavoie and Joey Owle) in front of Bears Ears National Monument, with Jonah Yellowman (Diné).

Training and Mentorship:

Updates: MedCaT Summer Academies from Madison Leatherwood:

We are very excited as the dates for our MedCaT summer academies quickly approaches. This year we will have MedCaT at Western Carolina University from June 25th - 30th. We have fifteen participants lined up for this camp with seven identifying as Native American, translating to about 46.7%.

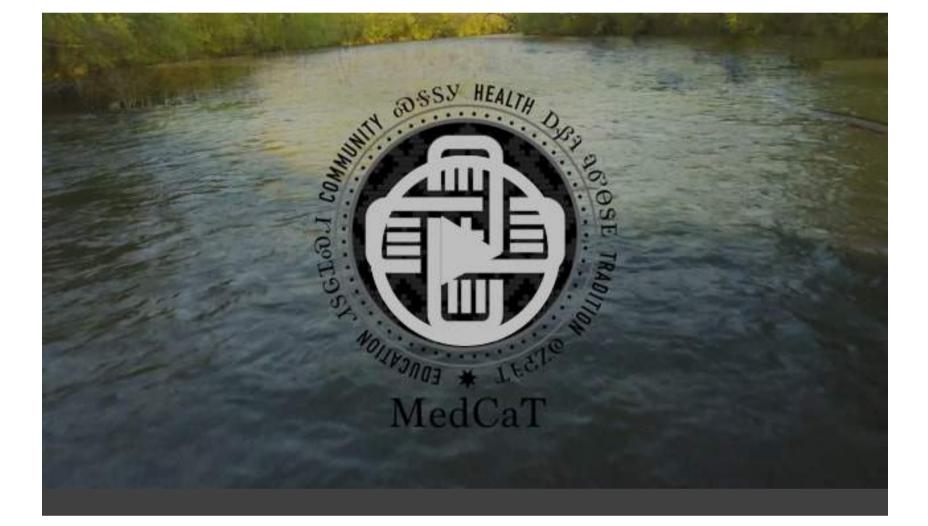
We will be having MedCaT at Wake Forest University during the week of July 23rd -28th. We have a full lineup of twenty participants for this week. Seven participants identified as having Native American, making representation among students about 35%. In total, representation for both summer academies is 35%.



It is also worth mentioning that this year we did require a wait-list of 10 people, if they chose to apply again next year will have precedence over other applicants. This is also the first year in which we had 8 student mentor applications, these are those students who have previously participated in a MedCaT summer academy and will be there to help guide and help their peers during the week. Out of these eight applications, we will have four coming back to join us during the 2023 MedCaT summer academies.

Updates: MedCaT Educational Incentives

This year we have been able to give away six \$2,000 scholarships to students from Cherokee Central, Smoky Mountain, Robbinsville, and Swain High Schools. We were also able to give out nine \$1,000 education incentives to students from Cherokee Central, Smoky Mountain, Robbinsville, and Murphy High schools. In total, during our 2023 MedCaT year, we have given out a total of \$21,000 to students across WNC.





Board Member Highlight Blythe Winchester, M.D.

In this edition of the Center for Native Health's biannual newsletter, we would like to recognize Executive Board Member Blythe Winchester.

Blythe attended Davidson College for her undergraduate degree, and then immediately enrolled at UNC-Chapel Hill School of Medicine and Public Health for medical school. After graduating in 2006, Blythe says that since she was a child, she thought she would go into the medical field, "I have wanted to be a doctor since I was a kid. I chose geriatrics and geriatrics chose me- I love the complexity of aging and I love being an advocate for people who may be overlooked by society but who should be the most valued and cared for." When asked what she hopes to accomplish in her career she answered "I want there to be more of an integration between cultural knowledge and modern medicine."

When asked what her favorite part of her job is, she responded with "the relationships I have with patients and the awesome people I have worked with." Her passions outside of her career are music and animals. She spoke briefly about an abroad trip to the Turks and Caicos Islands where she became "more of an advocate for the protection of oceans and marine habitats." Blythe currently serves as Chief Clinical Consultant in Geriatrics and Palliative Care for Indian Health Service and has since 2014.

Learn more about her work: https://www.davidson.edu/news/2021/06/21/respecting-herelders-blythe-winchester

Sgi Blythe!