



Tarajeau Yazzie-Mintz (Diné)

Nominated by Susan C. Faircloth

Yazzie-Mintz Supporting Materials

The following documents are included in support of Dr. Yazzie-Mintz's nomination for the 2020 Brock International Prize in Education:

- 1) Letter of Nomination by Dr. Susan Faircloth, Professor and Director, School of Education, Colorado State University
- 2) Short Bio for Dr. Yazzie-Mintz
- 3) Dr. Yazzie-Mintz's CV
- 4) Listing of selected published works in the field of Early Childhood Education by Dr. Yazzie-Mintz and collaborators – links provided for works available for public access on the Internet
- 5) Listing of press releases and news articles – links provided as available
- 6) Links to websites and other forms of social media regarding relevant early childhood-focused projects
- 7) Examples of featured presentations
- 8) Additional Evidence of Impact on the Field of Early Childhood Education
- 9) Four (4) letters of support from colleagues and collaborators:
 - a) Randall Akee, Ed.D., University of California Los Angeles
 - b) Nahrin Aziz-Parson, M.Ed., Northwest Indian College
 - c) Dr. Cheryl Crazy Bull, Ph.D., American Indian College Fund
 - d) Joelfré Grant, M.A.T., Brazelton Touchpoints Center, Boston Children's Hospital
 - e) Keiki Kawai'ae'a, Ph.D., University of Hawai'i Hilo

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

209 Education Building
1588 Campus Delivery
Fort Collins, Colorado 80523-1588

To My Fellow Brock Prize Jurors,

It is with great humility and honor that I nominate Dr. Tarajeau Yazzie-Mintz, former Vice President for Program Initiatives at the American Indian College Fund, for the 2020 Brock International Prize in Education. At the College Fund, Dr. Yazzie-Mintz oversaw both the Wakanyeja (“Sacred Little Ones”) and K’e’ Early Childhood Education Initiatives. As I recently wrote, these initiatives demonstrate “the power of an ‘ethic of possibility’ rooted and grounded in Indigenous Knowledges and Ways of Knowing. Although funded by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, th[ese] initiative[s] w[ere] envisioned by members of the tribal college community who recognized the sacredness of our little ones and worked to ensure that those who educate and care for them are trained and supported in ways that honor and respect the cultural, social, and emotional strengths of these children, their families, and communities. This is a monumental undertaking that serves to strengthen the preparation of early childhood educators and caregivers, using a culturally relevant, responsive, and asset-based approach.” Under Dr. Yazzie-Mintz’s leadership and vision, this initiative has positively impacted the lives of nearly 4,000 Indigenous children; 2,400 families; and 1,200 teachers across the nation.

A member of the Navajo (Diné) Nation, Dr. Yazzie-Mintz has committed her life to developing and implementing culturally-grounded educational programs and services for American Indian and Alaska Native children, their families, communities, and tribes. Approximately 10 years ago, Dr. Yazzie-Mintz left a tenure track faculty position at Indiana University to lead the College Fund’s early childhood initiative. This initiative set the stage for tribal colleges to engage in culturally and linguistically relevant, and much needed, professional development and support of early childhood education programs serving diverse tribal communities from New Mexico to Alaska. I had the honor of reviewing the applicants seeking funding for this initiative. It was evident then that Dr. Yazzie-Mintz was the perfect person to lead this work. Her brilliant mind and deep understanding of and commitment to Indigenous education, coupled with focus, determination, passion, humor, and the ability to move dreams into action, ignited and propelled the hearts and minds of all those who came in contact with her.

Dr; Yazzie-Mintz recently embarked on a new phase of life, as the co-founder and principal consultant for the First Light Education Project, LLC. In this role, she will continue to work in and with Indigenous communities across the country. Although this is a great loss to the tribal college community, Dr. Yazzie-Mintz leaves knowing that she has helped to build the infrastructure and capacity necessary for the College Fund and its constituents to engage in this work long after she has gone. What better way to honor Dr. Yazzie-Mintz’s legacy than to award her the Brock Prize, an award that will not only provide her with monetary support needed to continue her life’s work but will also serve as an important marker of the impact she has had and continues to have on the nation’s Indigenous peoples and our children. As an Indigenous person, and the mother of a young child, I know firsthand the importance of this work in ensuring the safety, security, and success of Indigenous peoples and communities. I hope that my fellow jurors will also see and honor this work.

Sincerely,

Susan Faircloth

Susan C. Faircloth, Ph.D.
Professor & Director, School of Education



Tarajean Yazzie-Mintz, Ed.D.
Bio



Tarajean Yazzie-Mintz, Ed.D., is co-founder and principal consultant for the First Light Education Project, LLC (www.firstlighteducationproject.org). Yazzie-Mintz, joins First Light Education Project full-time after serving 8 years at the American Indian College Fund. Since 2011, Yazzie-Mintz designed and directed the College Fund's Tribal College and University (TCU) Early Childhood Education Initiatives – growing the programming to nearly \$9 million investment in Native early learning systems of care and learning, an investment directly impacting Tribal Colleges and Universities located in the states of Alaska, New Mexico, North

Dakota, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, Washington, and Wisconsin. As Vice President of Program Initiatives, Yazzie-Mintz led a team in program innovation and effectiveness, by strengthening program systems guided by strategic cycles of educational transformation and collective inquiry.

Over the course of her career, Yazzie-Mintz's community-based scholarship has been presented at more than 100 national and international scholarly meetings and symposia; additionally, her research has been published in journals focusing on community-based research impacting Native and non-Native early childhood, K-12, and higher education.

Yazzie-Mintz's recognition as a national scholar of education earns her the honor to serve on national technical advisory and review committees informing ECE research, such as the National Association for the Education of Young Children's Early Learning Systems Committee, Advisory Committee for the National Center for Families Learning and the National Indian Education Association's subcommittee, Native Educators Education and Development.

Yazzie-Mintz, an enrolled member of the Navajo Nation, earned a Doctor of Education from the Harvard University Graduate School of Education.

Curriculum Vita
Tarajeen Yazzie-Mintz, Ed.D.

First Light Education Project, LLC.

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Websites:

www.firstlighteducationproject.org
www.collegefund.org/research-and-programs/early-childhood-education/wisdom-of-the-children/
www.collegefund.org/content/restorativeteachings
www.collegefund.org/content/ke-early-childhood-initiative
www.collegefund.org/content/cultivatinglakota
www.collegefund.org/wakanyeja

ACADEMIC BACKGROUND

- 2002 Harvard University Graduate School of Education, Cambridge, MA
Ed.D. Learning and Teaching
Dissertation Title: *“Culture deep within us: Culturally appropriate curriculum and pedagogy in three Navajo teachers’ work”*
Committee: Eileen de los Reyes (Chair), Sara Lawrence-Lightfoot, & Karen Gayton Swisher
- 1996 Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ
M.Ed. Educational Psychology
- 1992 Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ
B.S. Psychology

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

First Light Education Project, Founder & Principal Consultant

Present

Denver, CO

American Indian College Fund, Vice President
Program Initiatives, April 2017-**August 31, 2019**
Denver, CO
President: Cheryl Crazy Bull

American Indian College Fund, Co-Director
Office of Research and Sponsored Programs, March 2016-April 2017
Denver, CO
President: Cheryl Crazy Bull

American Indian College Fund, Senior Program Officer/Principal Investigator
Tribal College and University Early Childhood Education Initiatives, May 2015-April 2017
Denver, CO

President: Cheryl Crazy Bull; Chief Operations Officer: Tamela Miller Carlson

American Indian College Fund, Program Officer/Principal Investigator
Wakanyeja "Sacred Little Ones" Early Childhood Education Initiative, July 2011-May 2015
Ké' ECE Initiative, April 2014-May 2015
Denver, CO

VP Office of Sponsored Research and Programs: Dr. Dorothy Aguilera-Black Bear

Indiana University-Bloomington, Assistant Professor
Curriculum and Instruction, School of Education, August 2005-July 2011
Bloomington, IN

Department Chairs: Dr. Cary Buzzelli (2005-2010), Dr. Jesse Goodman (2010-2011)

Indiana University-Bloomington, Affiliated Faculty
American Studies Program, College of Arts and Sciences, September 2007-July 2011
Ph.D. Minor in Native American & Indigenous Studies
Bloomington, IN

Director, Dr. Matthew Guterl

Office of Language Learning & Support Services, Data/Research Analyst
Research and Professional Development, Boston Public Schools, June 2003-May 2005
Boston, MA

Executive Director, Ms. Nydia Mendez

Tufts University, Part-time Faculty
Department of Education, January 2002-May 2005
Medford, MA

Department Chair, Dr. Kathleen Weiler

COMPASS, Inc., Educational Consultant
Jamaica Plain, MA, April 1999-July 2003
Director, Dr. John Verre

Harvard Graduate School of Education, Teaching Fellow
Learning and Teaching Department
Harvard University, July 1997-June 2002
Faculty: Dr. de los Reyes, Dr. Boles

Harvard Educational Review, Co-Chair (1998-1999) & Editorial Board Member (1997-1999)
Harvard Education Publishing Group
Harvard University, May 1997-May 1999
General Manager, Dr. Karen Maloney

Journal of American Indian Education, Editorial Assistant
Center for Indian Education
Arizona State University, June 1994-May 1996
Editors, Dr. Karen Gayton Swisher (1994-1995); Dr. Grayson Noley (1995-1996)

Center for Indian Education, Graduate Assistant
Arizona State University, August 1993-May 1994
Directors, Dr. Karen Gayton Swisher (1994-1995); Dr. Grayson Noley (1995-1996)

Other Education Professional Experience

Kindercare, Toddler Two Teacher, Lynnwood, WA, 1992-1993

Child Study Lab, Research Intern. Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ, 1989-1992

Elementary Substitute Teacher, Ganado Unified Public Schools, Ganado, AZ, 1988-1991

HONORS & ACHIEVEMENTS

2017, January 6 Presidential Appointee (President Barack Obama), Board of Directors,
National Board for Education Sciences.

2016, May 24 Award Recipient, Harvard University Graduate School of Education Alumni Council
Award for Outstanding Contribution to Education

2010 Nominee for the AERA Indigenous Peoples of the Americas Special Interest Group Bobby Wright
Award for Early Career Contributions to Research in Indigenous Education.

2009 Nominee for Indiana University School of Education Office of Graduate Studies Award for
Excellence in Mentoring.

2008, April Award Recipient, Indiana University Trustees Teaching Award 2007-2008, Indiana
University.

2006, March 4 Alumni of Color Achievement Award Recipient, Alumni of Color Conference
(AOCC), Harvard University Graduate School of Education

2004, Spring Tufts University Dean Letter of Recognition – Excellence in Teaching.

1997 DeCuevas Experienced Teacher Award, Harvard University Graduate School of Education.

1996-1998 Greenberg and Greenberg Class of '61 Award, Harvard University.

1997-2000 Massachusetts Indian Association Scholarship Award, Massachusetts Indian Association.

1996 Entering Doctoral Award, Harvard University Graduate School of Education.

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Dollar General, 2019-2020 Amount: \$250,000 (1 year Grant)
 (VP Program Initiatives: GED and Adult Literacy Initiative)
 American Indian College Fund

AT&T, 2018-2020 Amount: \$350,000 (2 year Grant)
 (VP Program Initiatives: Braiding Success Comprehensive Programming)

W.K. Kellogg Foundation, 2018-2020 Amount: \$1,500,000 (2 year Grant)
 (VP Program Initiatives/Principal Investigator: For the Wisdom of the Children: Strengthening
 the Teacher of Color Pipeline)
 American Indian College Fund

Dollar General, 2018-2019 Amount: \$250,000 (1 year Grant)
 (VP Program Initiatives: GED and Adult Literacy Initiative)
 American Indian College Fund

Toyota Motor Company Amount: \$150,000 (1 time award)
 (VP Program Initiatives: ECE STEM Initiative- Community-based programming)

Margaret A. Cargill Philanthropies, 2017-2020 Amount: \$1,350,000 (3 year Grant)
 (VP Program Initiatives: Environmental Sustainability)
 American Indian College Fund

Dollar General, 2017-2018 Amount: \$250,000 (1 year Grant)
 (VP Program Initiatives: GED and Adult Literacy Initiative)
 American Indian College Fund

Ford Motor Company, 2017-2018 Amount: \$16,000 (1 year Grant)
 (VP Program Initiatives: Community College Challenge)
 American Indian College Fund

AT&T, 2016-2018 Amount: \$500,000 (2 year Grant)
 (VP Program Initiatives: Tribal College and High School Partnerships)
 American Indian College Fund

W.K. Kellogg Foundation, 2016-2018 Amount: \$1,500,000 (2 year Grant)
 (Senior Program Officer/Principal Investigator: Restorative Teachings ECE Initiative)
 American Indian College Fund

Grotto Foundation, 2015-2016 Amount: \$25,000 (1 year Grant)
 (Senior Program Officer/Principal Investigator: Cultivating Lakota Early Learning Opportunities)
 American Indian College Fund

W.K. Kellogg Foundation, 2014-2015 Amount: \$500,000 (+\$100,000 match)
 (Senior Program Officer/Principal Investigator: K'é ECE Family Engagement Initiative)
 American Indian College Fund

- W.K. Kellogg Foundation, 2011-2016 Amount: \$5,000,000 (5 year Grant)
 (Senior Program Officer/Principal Investigator: Wakanyeja “Sacred Little Ones” ECE Initiative)
 American Indian College Fund
- School of Education Diversity Innovation Grant, 2008-2009 Amount: \$25,000
 (T. Yazzie-Mintz & J. S. Damico, Co-Principal Investigators)
 Indiana University, School of Education
- Faculty Research Support Programs Grant, 2006-2007 Amount: \$32,573
 (J. S. Damico, T. Yazzie-Mintz, V. Herrera, S. Carter, & G. Campano)
 Indiana University Office of the Vice Provost for Research
- Maris M. and Mary Proffitt Endowment Grant, 2006-2008 Amount: \$40,000 (2 year Grant)
 (T. Yazzie-Mintz, Principal Investigator)
 Indiana University School of Education
- Maris M. and Mary Proffitt Summer Faculty Fellowship, 2006 Amount: \$12,000
 (T. Yazzie-Mintz, Principal Investigator)
 Indiana University School of Education

PUBLICATIONS (*Peer-Reviewed)

- *Yazzie-Mintz, T. with Aziz-Parsons, N., Lansing, D., Manyakina, Y., & Pyatskowitz, R. (2018). Collective work and inquiry: Transforming early childhood education from within Native communities. *Research in the Teaching of English*, 53(2), 179-183.
- *American Indian College Fund. (2018). *Tribal College and University Early Childhood Education Initiatives: Strengthening systems of care and learning with Native communities from birth to career*. Denver, CO: American Indian College Fund. (Authored by Tarajeen Yazzie-Mintz)
 Available online: https://collegefund.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/Early-Childhood-Education-Initiatives_B.pdf
- *de los Reyes, E., Smith, H., Yazzie-Mintz, T., Hussein, Y., & Tuitt, F. (2016). A democratic pedagogy for a democratic society: Education for social and political change (T-128). In F. Tuitt, C. Haynes, S. Stewart, & L. Patton (Eds.), *Race, equity, and the learning environment: The global relevance of critical and inclusive pedagogies in higher education*. Sterling, VA: Stylus.
- *Yazzie-Mintz, T. (2013). American Indian educational leadership: Context, conceptions of leadership, and practice. In L.C. Tillman & J.J. Scheurich (Eds.), *Handbook of research on educational leadership for diversity and equity*. New York: Routledge.
- *Beeman-Cadwallader, N., Quigley, C., & Yazzie-Mintz, T. (2012). Enacting decolonized methodologies: The *doing* of research in educational communities. *Qualitative Inquiry*, 18(1), 3-15.
- *Yazzie-Mintz, T. (2011). Native teachers’ beliefs and practices: Choosing language and cultural revitalization over uniformity and standardization. *Contemporary Issues in Early Childhood*, 12(4), 315-326.

- *Akee, R., & Yazzie-Mintz, T. (2011). Counting experience among the least counted: The role of cultural and community engagement on educational outcomes for American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian students. *American Indian Culture and Research Journal*, 35(3), 119-150.
- Yazzie-Mintz, T. (2011). Sustaining Indigenous traditions. In P. B. Joseph, (Ed.), *Cultures of curriculum* (2nd ed.). New York, NY: Routledge.
- Yazzie-Mintz, T. (2010). Transracialization (902-903). In C. Kridel (Ed.), *Encyclopedia of curriculum studies*. Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE.
- *Yazzie-Mintz, T. (2009). Intimately biased: Creating purposeful research in American Indian education with appropriate and authentic methodology. In r. Winkle-Wagner, C. A. Hunter & D. H. Ortloff (Eds.), *Bridging the gap between theory and practice in educational research: Methods at the margins*. New York: Palgrave MacMillan.
- *Damico, J. S., Carter, S., Yazzie-Mintz, T., & Campano, G. (2008). Cultivating academic literacy in culturally responsive ways. *Language Arts*, 85(6), 464-468.
- *Yazzie-Mintz, T. (2008). Creating culture in the here and now: Regenerating rituals in purposeful epistemologies. In M. Benham (Ed.), *Indigenous educational models for contemporary practice: In our mother's voice, Volume II* (pp. 13-19). Mahwah, NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates.
- *Yazzie-Mintz, T. (2007). From a place deep inside: Culturally appropriate curriculum as the embodiment of Navajo-ness in classroom pedagogy. *Journal of American Indian Education* 46(3), 72-93.
- *Yazzie-Mintz, T. (2006). Early Childhood Educational Opportunities for American Indian and Alaska Native Children and Families (pp. 16-37). *Proceedings of the Rural Early Childhood Forum on American Indian and Alaska Native Early Learning*. Mississippi State, MS: Mississippi State University Early Childhood Institute.
- *Swisher, K., & Yazzie, T. (2001). Primary and secondary US Native education. In D. Champagne (Ed.), *The Native North American almanac* (2nd ed.) (pp. 991-1004). Detroit, MI: Gale Research.
- *Yazzie, T. (Winter 2001). Review of *Listening to our grandmothers' stories: The Bloomfield Academy for Chickasaw females, 1852-1949*, by Amanda J. Cobb. *History of Education Quarterly*, 41(4), 565-567.
- Yazzie, T. (2000). Review of *Natives and academics researching and writing about American Indians*. In D. A. Mihesuah. (Ed.), *Harvard Educational Review*, 70(1), 122-123.
- *Yazzie, T. (1999). Culturally appropriate curriculum: A research-based rationale. In K. Swisher & J. Tippeconnic, III (Eds.), *Next steps: Research and practice to advance Indian education*. Charleston, WV: ERIC Clearinghouse on Rural Education & Small Schools.
- Moreno J. F., with Berumen, F., Carrillo, R., Mintz, E., Stewart, J., & Yazzie, T. (1999). Elusive quest for equality: 150 Years of Chicano/Chicana Education. Cambridge, MA: *Harvard Educational Review*.

- Yazzie, T. (1999). Review of *Boarding school Seasons: American Indian families, 1900-1940*, by Brenda J. Child. In *Harvard Educational Review*, 69(4), 482-483.
- Yazzie, T. (1999). Review of *Making sense of developmentally and culturally appropriate practice (DCAP) in Early Childhood Education*, by Eunsook Hyun. In *Harvard Educational Review*, 69(2), 214.
- Yazzie, T. (1998). Review of *First person, first peoples: Native American college graduates tell their life stories*. In Edited by Andrew Garrod and Colleen Larimore. In A. G. & C. Larimore (Eds.), *Harvard Educational Review*, 68(3), 446.
- Swisher, K., & Yazzie, T. (1996). Co-Editor, Special Issue: Native American Voices for *SCOPE*, 95(2).
- *Yazzie, T. (1996). Transforming, creating and shaping the minds of our Indian children: Indian stories in the classroom. *SCOPE*, 95(2).

Other Scholarly Publications, Monographs, and Reports (*Peer Reviewed)

- Yazzie-Mintz, T. (2019). *For the wisdom of the children: Strengthening the teacher of color pipeline – Year one, Annual Report*. (April 2019) Denver, CO: American Indian College Fund.
- Yazzie-Mintz, T., & Wakanyeja “Sacred Little Ones” Early Childhood Education Initiative. (2018, August). *Leveraging family and community expertise to strengthen Native early childhood education*. Seattle, WA: Family Leadership Design Collaborative. Available online: <http://familydesigncollab.org> or http://familydesigncollab.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/FLDC_Brief_FamilyCommunityExpertiseforNativeECE_18.08.08.pdf
- Yazzie-Mintz, T. (2018). *American Indian College Fund restorative teachings: A Tribal college and university collaborative to strengthen systems of care and learning with Native families and children. – Final Report, 2018*. Denver, CO: American Indian College Fund
- Yazzie-Mintz, T. (2017). *American Indian College Fund Restorative Teachings: A Tribal college and university collaborative to strengthen systems of care and learning with Native families and children. – Year One, Annual Report, 2017*. Denver, CO: American Indian College Fund
- *Yazzie-Mintz, T. (2016). The power of place-based, small scale inquiry (Section 3) in NCAI Policy Research Center. *Tips for researchers: Native youth research*. Washington, DC: Author. Available online: <http://www.ncai.org/policy-research-center/research-data/prc-publications/TipsforResearchers-NativeYouth.pdf>
- Yazzie-Mintz, T. (2016). *American Indian College Fund cultivating Lakota early learning Opportunities, Final Report*. Denver, CO: American Indian College Fund
- Yazzie-Mintz, T. (2016). *American Indian College Fund Wakanyeja Sacred Little Ones Initiative: Tribal College readiness and Success by Third Grade, Annual Report Year Five, 2015*. Denver, CO: American Indian College Fund.

- Yazzie-Mintz, T. (2015). *American Indian College Fund K'é ECE Initiative: Strengthening systems of Shared Responsibility among Native Families, Schools and Communities: Final Narrative Report, 2015*. Denver, CO: American Indian College Fund.
- Yazzie-Mintz, T. (2015). *American Indian College Fund Wakanyeja "Sacred Little Ones" Initiative: Tribal College readiness and success by third grade, Annual Report Year Four, 2014*. Denver, CO: American Indian College Fund.
- Yazzie-Mintz, T. (2014). *American Indian College Fund Wakanyeja "Sacred Little Ones" Initiative: Tribal College Readiness and Success by Third Grade, Annual Report Year Three, 2013*. Denver, CO: American Indian College Fund.
- Yazzie-Mintz, T. (2013). *American Indian College Fund Wakanyeja "Sacred Little Ones" Initiative: Tribal College Readiness and Success by Third Grade, Annual Report Year Two, 2012*. Denver, CO: American Indian College Fund.
- Yazzie-Mintz, T. (2012). *American Indian College Fund Wakanyeja "Sacred Little Ones" Initiative: Tribal College Readiness and Success by Third Grade, Annual Report, Year One, 2011*. Denver, CO: American Indian College Fund.
- Yazzie, T. (2004). Promising SEI Practices: Organizing Principles on Language Learning for Principals. *Circles of Inquiry: Learning Site Research Brief #1* (February 2004). Boston Public Schools, Boston, MA.
- Yazzie, T. (2002). *Summary Report of the American Indian and Alaska Native Education Forum*, Washington, D.C.: National Education Association.
- *Yazzie, T. (2001). "Holding a mirror to 'Eyes Wide Shut': The role of Native cultures and languages in the education of American Indian students." Paper commissioned by the Office of Educational Research and Improvement, U.S. Department of Education, May 25, 2000.
<http://www.indianeduresearch.net/reports.htm>

INVITED KEYNOTES and RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS

- Yazzie-Mintz, T. (2019, February 23). "On the Other Side of Invisibility: Community-based inquiry from within Indigenous educational contexts." Invited Plenary Speaker, The Ethnography in Education Research Forum at the University of Pennsylvania Graduate School of Education, Philadelphia, PA.
- Yazzie-Mintz, T. (2019, March 21). "Grounded in place and purpose: Tribal colleges and universities as places of Indigenous learning and restorative practices." Loren and Opal Raines Colloquium Speaker, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI.
- Yazzie-Mintz, T. (2018, November 16). "From Words to Action: Establishing the Professional Obligations of the ECE Profession to Advance Diversity and Equity." Invited Panelist, National Association for the Education of Young Children, Washington, D.C.

- Yazzie-Mintz, T. (2018, November 10-13). "Moving towards Native community vibrancy through teacher education and development." Invited session, National Indian Education Association, Hartford, CT.
Session included the following Tribal College and University faculty:
Amy Burland, Salish Kootenai College
Danielle Lansing, Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute
Cheryl LaRose, Keweenaw Bay Ojibwa Community College
Sara Montgomery, Fond du lac Tribal and Community College
- Yazzie-Mintz, T. (2018, August 23). "Bright spots and barriers to the road to racial equity." Invited panelist, Grantmakers for Education Summit on Racial Equity, Dallas, TX.
- Yazzie-Mintz, T. (2018, June 27-29). "From Tribal College and Universities to Communities, helping early learning centers blossom" Invited Address, Montana Early Childhood Tribal Language and Indigenous Games Summit. Salish Kootenai College, Pablo, MT.
- Yazzie-Mintz, T. (2018, April 23). "No turning back: 100 years continuing the quest for equity in Indigenous early childhood opportunities." Invited Keynote Address, Brazelton Touchpoints 100 years Celebration, Boston, MA
- Yazzie-Mintz, T. (2017, June 8). "Engaging tribal communities and families: The acts of revitalizing language and culture while improving early childhood development and educational opportunities." Invited Closing Keynote Address, National Indian Head Start Directors Association, Annual Meeting, Denver, CO.
- Yazzie-Mintz, T. (2016, October 6). "Tribal College and University Early Childhood Education Initiatives: Helping Native serving early learning centers blossom." Invited Research Presentation, Early Childhood Development in Indian Country: Strategies for Tribal Communities to Enhance the Well-being of their Youngest Members, Center for Indian Country Development, Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis, Minneapolis, MN.
- Yazzie-Mintz, T. (2016, March 21). "Going and Doing More: The Development of Shared Responsibility to Transform Native Early Childhood Education." Invited Keynote Address, 9th Annual American Indian/Alaska Native Education Summit, Nevada Department of Education, Reno, NV.
- Yazzie-Mintz, T. (2015, December 17). "College Fund TCU Initiatives: Systemic change and progress toward educational equity." Invited Panelist. *Return on Investment: The Impact of Our Work*. Rapid City, SD.
- Yazzie-Mintz, T. (2015, November 5). "Wakanyēja 'Sacred Little Ones' ECE & K'é Family Engagement Initiatives" Invited Speaker, Congressional Baby Caucus Briefing, *Creating a path for our children: Early learning in Native communities*. Washington, D.C.
- Yazzie-Mintz, T. (2015, August 17). "American Indian College Fund: TCU Early childhood education initiatives" Featured Speaker, Office of Head Start Tribal Consultation, Billings, MT.

- Yazzie-Mintz, T. with the *Wakanyeja* ECE Initiative. (2015, February 27-28). “Drawing upon places of strength and knowing: *Wakanyeja* communities of inquiry strengthen early childhood learning opportunities with Native children and families.” Invited Speaker, *Inequality, Poverty, and Education: An Ethnography Invitation*, Communities of Inquiry Symposium. 36th Annual Ethnography in Education Research Forum, Graduate School of Education, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA.
- Yazzie-Mintz, T. (2014, October 17). “Wakanyeja “Sacred Little Ones” ECE Initiative: Creating systems of care and learning for Native children. Invited speaker, National Indian Education Association Expert- Driven Presidential Session: Building Strong Foundations for Early Learning, Anchorage, AK.
- Yazzie-Mintz, T. (2014, March 6-7). “Innovative Research in Education: Educating Tomorrow’s Tribal Leaders,” Invited Panelist, Good Native Governance: Innovative Research in Law, Education, and Economic Development Conference, University of California – Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA.
- Yazzie-Mintz, T. (2013, May 9-10). “Developing pathways to college access: *Wakanyeja* ‘Sacred Little Ones’ early childhood education initiative.” Invited Panelist, The Role of Foundations in Post-Secondary Access and Success, 12th Annual Diversity Summit on Inclusive Excellence” Championing Equity to Inspire Change, University of Denver, Denver, CO.
- Yazzie-Mintz, T. (2012, August 20). “*Wakanyeja* ‘Sacred Little Ones’ early childhood education initiative from the American Indian College Fund: Initial findings. Invited Keynote Address – Tribal Gathering, First Things First Summit, Phoenix, AZ.
- Yazzie-Mintz, T., & Goldstein, G. (2012, August 19-21). “*Wakanyeja* ‘Sacred Little Ones’ early childhood education initiative from the American Indian College Fund.” Invited Learning Session, First Things First Summit, Phoenix, AZ.
- Yazzie-Mintz, T. (2009, December 2-6). “Ethical demands shaping Native educational research.” Invited Paper, Presidential Session, 108th American Anthropological Association (AAA) Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA.
- Yazzie-Mintz, T. (2009, November 3). “Essential questions for American Indian and Alaska Native curricular context: Intersections of leadership and curriculum.” Invited Paper, Forum on Leadership in American Indian Education, Pennsylvania State University, State College, PA.
- Yazzie-Mintz, T. (2009, April 13-17). “Native teachers enacting a curriculum to sustain Indigenous traditions.” Invited Panelist, Division B: Curriculum Studies - Fireside chat, “Enacting curriculum through inquiry.” Annual Meeting of the American Educational Research Association, San Diego, CA.
- Yazzie-Mintz, T. (2008, October 23). “Early Childhood Educational Opportunities for American Indian and Alaska Native Children and Families” Invited Presentation, “Improving Pre-K for Native Americans: National Call/Webinar convened by Pre-K Now.
- Yazzie-Mintz, T. (2008, February 15-17). “Response to Dr. Teresa McCarty: Ethnography and literacy research/praxis – Pushing past the divides.” Invited Respondent, National Council of Teachers of English Assembly for Research (NCTEAR). Indiana University, Bloomington, IN.

- Yazzie-Mintz, T. (2008, April 10-12). "Knowledge, Inquiry, Power, and Practice Across Disciplines and Traditions." Invited Panelist, "Native American and Indigenous Studies – Who are we? Where are we going?" An International Scholarly Meeting hosted by The University of Georgia, Athens, GA.
- Yazzie-Mintz, T. (2007, May 3-5). "Usable pasts: Indian educational histories and contemporary politics." Invited Panelist, "What's Next for Native American and Indigenous Studies?" An International Scholarly Meeting hosted by The University of Oklahoma, Norman, OK.
- Yazzie-Mintz, T. (2005, July 28-29). "Early Childhood Educational Opportunities for American Indian Children and Families." Invited and Commissioned Paper, Rural Early Childhood Forum on American Indian and Alaska Native Early Learning, William J. Clinton Presidential Center, Little Rock, AR.
- Yazzie-Mintz, T. (2005, July 28-29). "Nila Rinehart – Native language learning in early childhood education." Invited Discussant, Rural Early Childhood Forum on American Indian and Alaska Native Early Learning, William J. Clinton Presidential Center, Little Rock, AR.
- Yazzie-Mintz, T. (2004, November 6-9). Invited Participant, Conference on Culturally Responsive Math Curricula, National Science Foundation, Arlington, VA.
- Yazzie, T. (2001, November 8). "Historical and Philosophical Foundations of American Indian Education." Invited Panelist, American Indian/Alaska Native Forum, National Education Association & National Indian Education Association, Washington, D.C.
- Yazzie, T. (2001, May 18-19). "Culture and Curriculum in Urban Indian Education." Invited Paper, Urban Indian Summit 2001 hosted by the Indian Community School, Milwaukee, WI/
- Yazzie, T. (2000, May 30-June 1). "Holding a mirror to 'Eyes Wide Shut': The role of Native cultures and languages in the education of American Indian students." Invited and Commissioned Paper Presentation, American Indian Education Research Agenda 2000 Conference, Albuquerque, NM,
- Yazzie, T. (2000, February 25). "Globalization Futures: Globalization, Development, and Education." Invited Panelist, Student Research Conference, Harvard Graduate School of Education, Cambridge, MA.
- Yazzie, T. (1999, April 19-23). "The Education of American Indians and Alaska Natives: What we know, what we don't know, and what the future holds: Graduate student perspectives on Indian education research and practice." Invited Address, Annual Meeting of the American Educational Research Association, Montreal, Canada.

RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS

- Yazzie-Mintz, T. (2019, November 4-6). "Native Families and Places of Indigenous Learning and Restorative Practices." Paper Presentation, National Center for Families Learning: 2019 Families Learning Conference, Louisville, KY/
- Yazzie-Mintz, T., Skenadore, B., Teague, K., & LaRose, C. (2019, October 9-12). "Strengthening tribal colleges and communities: Indigenous frameworks and mapping place-based programming." Panel, National Indian Education Association, Minneapolis, MN.

- Youngbull, N., Yazzie-Mintz, T., Skenadore, B., Loudhawk-Hedgepeth, C., & Teague, K. (2018, June 6-8). "Indigenizing Native Student Success: Examples from Tribal Colleges & Universities." Panel, Native American Student Advocacy Institute, Honolulu, HI.
- Yazzie-Mintz, T. (with Lansing, D. & Towery, L.) (2017, November 15). "Restorative Teachings: Our Collective Journey to Health and Wellness in Native ECE." Tribal and Indigenous Early Childhood Network (TIECN) Forum, National Association for the Education of Young Children, Atlanta, GA.
- Yazzie-Mintz, T. (2017, July 24-29). Building Native Early Childhood Education from within Native Communities" Paper, World Indigenous Peoples Conference on Education, Toronto, Ontario, Canada.
- Yazzie-Mintz, T. (2017, June 19). "Restorative Teachings: The role of Indigenous knowledge in increasing health and wellness within Native communities." Chair & Panel facilitator, American Indian College Fund Faculty Research Conference, Denver, CO.
 Panel featured the following Tribal College and University faculty:
 Nahrin Aziz-Parsons, Northwest Indian College
 Kimberlee Brent, Iḷisaḡvik College
 Manda Davis, Salish Kootenai College
 Danielle Lansing, Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute
 Cheryl La Rose, Keweenaw Bay Ojibwa Community College
 Yuliya Manyakina, Sitting Bull College
 Cyndi Pyatskowitz, College of Menominee Nation
- Yazzie-Mintz, T. (2017, April 27-May 1). "Together we dream: Tribal colleges and university partnerships and interdisciplinary research to inform educational opportunity." Symposium & Session Chair, American Educational Research Association, San Antonio, TX.
- Yazzie-Mintz, T. (2017, April 27-May 1). "*We are thinking of our children's future: #NativeECE, restorative teachings, and educational opportunity*" Paper, American Educational Research Association, San Antonio, TX.
- Gutierrez-Gomez, K., Lansing, D., Yazzie-Mintz, T., & Towery, L. (2016, November 2-5). "Sharing best practices from Indigenous early childhood education: Networking with the Indigenous early childhood network. Forum, National Association for the Education of Young Children, Los Angeles, CA.
- Yazzie-Mintz, T. (2016, April 26). "Across Indian country, children sing": The development of educational opportunities for Native children and families. Presentation, University of California – Los Angeles.
- Yazzie-Mintz, T. (2016, March 29-April 2). "From places of strength: Cultivating early learning opportunities from within Native communities." Paper presentation, Society for Applied Anthropology, Vancouver, Canada.
- Yazzie-Mintz, T. (2016, March 21-22). "Building systems of care and learning: Chronicling the first five years of the Wakanyeja "Sacred Little Ones" Early Childhood Initiative. Presentation, Annual American Indian/Alaska Native Education Summit, Nevada Department of Education, Reno, NV.

- Yazzie-Mintz, T., Smith, H., de los Reyes, E., Hussein, Y., & Tuitt, F. (2016, March 3-5). Education for Social and Political Change (T-128): A reflective and generative dialogue, Alumni of Color Conference (AOCC), “Educators as architects: Building mosaic for democracy.” Harvard Graduate School of Education, Cambridge, MA.
- Yazzie-Mintz, T. (2015, November 18-21). The Tribal & Indigenous Early Childhood Network: Making Critical Connections Nationwide. Panelist & Forum Facilitator, National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) Annual Conference, Orlando, FL.
- Yazzie-Mintz, T. (2015, October 18-23). “Cradle-to-career pipeline: Empowering Native communities to transform systems of care and learning for Native children.” Paper, National Congress of American Indians Annual Convention, San Diego, CA.
- Yazzie-Mintz, T. (2015, June 1). Opening Plenary: Wakanyeja ‘Sacred Little Ones’ Early Childhood Education Initiative. Facilitator, Native Early Childhood Education Symposium, Albuquerque, NM.
- Yazzie-Mintz, T. (2015, June 1-2). Plenary: Generation of powerful learning across developmental areas and milestones. Facilitator, Native Early Childhood Education Symposium, Albuquerque, NM.
- Yazzie-Mintz, T., & Lansing, D. (2015, June 1-2). Closing Plenary: Theory and institutional practices: Policy implications and transformation of early childhood education from TCUs to the world. Co- Facilitators, Native Early Childhood Education Symposium, Albuquerque, NM.
- Yazzie-Mintz, T. (2015, April 16-20). Shifting Native Early Childhood Education –Toward Justice and Inclusive Family Engagement at the Earliest Levels of Education, Symposium Session Chair, American Educational Research Association, Chicago, IL.
- Akee, R., & Yazzie-Mintz, T. (2015, April 16-20). “National data – What can we learn about Native families and their engagement in early childhood education?” Symposium Panelist, American Educational Research Association, Chicago, IL.
- Yazzie-Mintz, T. (2015, April 2). Cultivating the seeds of knowledge: Empowering Native communities to transform early childhood education. Invited Speaker, INSPIRE School of Education, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN.
- Yazzie-Mintz, T., & Lansing, D. (2014, October 16). “Re-envisioning early childhood education from tribal colleges and universities.” Paper presentation, National Indian Education Association: 2014 Research Forum, Anchorage, AK.
- Yazzie-Mintz, T. (Chair), Pyatskowitz, C., Lansing, D., Bates, D., Macy, S., & Smock, A. (2014, May 19-24). “Imagining our Indigenous knowledge within reach of our children: Lessons from the *Wakanyeja* “Sacred Little Ones” ECE Initiative.” Session, 2014 World Indigenous Peoples Conference on Education (WiPC:E), Honolulu, Hawaii.
- Yazzie-Mintz, T. (2014, March 26-28). “Engaging community-based partnerships to strengthen early childhood educational opportunities.” Native American Conference on Special Education. Albuquerque, NM.

- Yazzie-Mintz, T. (2014, March 16-18). "To become a teacher of the next generation: Counting coup with education in honor of our youngest tribal members." Paper Session, 2014 American Indian Higher Education Consortium – Student Conference. Billings, MT.
- Sarche, M., & Yazzie-Mintz, T. (2013, August 26-29). "Two Tribal Early Childhood Initiatives: *Wakanyeya* 'Sacred Little Ones' Early Childhood Education Initiative and the Tribal Early Childhood Research Center" Presentation, 20th Anniversary National Indian Child Care Association Conference, Denver, CO.
- Yazzie-Mintz, T. (Chair), Lansing, D., Pyatskowitz, C., Bates, D., Macy, S., & Smock, A. (2013, August 7-10). "*Wakanyeya* 'Sacred Little Ones': Educating our Future TCU Students." Interactive Symposia and Poster Session, American Indian Higher Education Consortium (AIHEC) 40th Anniversary Conference, Santa Fe, NM.
- Yazzie-Mintz, T. (2013, March 19-23). "Recognizing landscapes: Place-based curriculum in Indigenous contexts." Refereed paper presenter & Session Chair, Annual meeting of the Society for Applied Anthropology, Denver, CO.
- Yazzie-Mintz, T. (2013, March 19-23). "*Wakanyeya* 'Sacred Little Ones' Early Childhood Initiative." Session Chair & Discussant, Annual meeting of the Society for Applied Anthropology, Denver, CO.
- Yazzie-Mintz, T. (2012, October 3-5). "*Wakanyeya* 'Sacred Little Ones' early childhood education initiative: Highlights from four tribal college funded projects." Paper, Native Children's Research Exchange, University of Colorado- Denver, Denver, CO.
- Yazzie-Mintz, T. (2012, August 17). "Institutional Research Review – Connecting Research with the Needs of Native Communities." Moderator/panelist. American Indian College Fund & Mellon Research Fellows Convening, Denver, CO.
- Yazzie-Mintz, T., & Goldstein, G. (2012, February 27-March 1). "*Wakanyeya* 'Sacred Little Ones' early childhood education initiative: Workshop for practitioners." Native Child and Family Conference, Albuquerque, NM.
- Yazzie-Mintz, T. (2012, April 13-17). "From places of knowing: Indigenous knowing and knowing the limits of educational research." Co-chair & Discussant, Annual Meeting of the American Educational Research Association, Vancouver, Canada.
- Quigley, C., Beeman-Cadwallader, N., & Yazzie-Mintz, T. (2011, April 8-12). "Enacting decolonized methodologies: The *doing* of research in educational communities." Roundtable Session, Annual Meeting of the American Educational Research Association, New Orleans, LA.
- Yazzie-Mintz, T. (2011, April 8-12). "The role of language and culture in the education of Indigenous children and youth." Discussant, Annual Meeting of the American Educational Research Association, New Orleans, LA.
- Yazzie-Mintz, T. (2010, August 25-27). "Early childhood Native teachers enacting a curriculum to sustain Indigenous traditions." Paper, Native Children's Research Exchange, Denver, CO.

- Yazzie-Mintz, T. (2010, April 30-May 4). “‘E.T. Phone Home’: Indigenous Scholars Finding Our Place.” Chair & Discussant, Annual Meeting of the American Educational Research Association, Denver, CO.
- Yazzie-Mintz, T. (2009, April 13-17). “Native teachers’ beliefs and practices: Choosing language and cultural revitalization over uniformity and standardization in instructional practice.” Refereed Paper, Annual Meeting of the American Educational Research Association, San Diego, CA.
- Yazzie-Mintz, T. (2009, April 13-17). “From the classroom to the world: Unmasking identity and methodological orientation.” Refereed Paper, Annual Meeting of the American Educational Research Association, San Diego, CA.
- Akee, R., & Yazzie-Mintz, T. (2009, April 13-17). “Counting experience’ among the least counted: The role of cultural and community engagement on educational outcomes for American Indian, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian Students.” Paper Discussion presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Educational Research Association, San Diego, CA.
- Damico, J.S., & Yazzie-Mintz, T. (2009, April; 13-17). “Investigating Issues of Social Class and Poverty with Preservice Teachers.” Refereed Paper, Annual Meeting of the American Educational Research Association, San Diego, CA.
- Yazzie-Mintz, T. (2008, August 14-16). Moderator, First Biennial Symposium on Teaching Indigenous Languages of Latin America (STILLA). Indiana University – Bloomington.
- Yazzie-Mintz, T., & Akee, R. (2008, April 10-12). “Determinants of educational attainment for Indigenous peoples: Initial findings from a new survey instrument.” Refereed Paper, “Native American and Indigenous Studies – Who are we? Where are we going?” An International Scholarly Meeting hosted by The University of Georgia, Athens, GA.
- Akee, R., & Yazzie-Mintz, T. (2007, May 3-5). “Creating new tools for researchers: A longitudinal data set for Indigenous peoples in the US and the determinants of their educational attainment.” Refereed Paper Presentation, “What’s Next for Native American and Indigenous Studies?”: An International Scholarly Meeting. University of Oklahoma, Norman, OK.
- Yazzie-Mintz, T. (2007, April 9-13). “Mapping ‘Common Ground’ through interactive dialogue: Fostering cross- cultural research collaborations between Native educational research and research in the larger field of education.” Interactive Symposium, Co-Chair (with S. Faircloth), American Educational Research Association Annual Meeting. Chicago, IL.
- Yazzie-Mintz, T. (2006, November 15-19). “Weaving circles of inquiry: Non-linear nomadic expressions of my research identities.” Refereed Paper, The 105th American Anthropological Association (AAA) Annual Meeting. San Jose, CA.
- Yazzie-Mintz, T. (2006, November 15-19). Special Topic Panel: “Nomads, Weavers, Gatherers tell their stories: Metamorphosis of the Alternative.” Co-Chair (with N. Waldhubel), The 105th American Anthropological Association (AAA) Annual Meeting. San Jose, CA.
- Yazzie-Mintz, T., & de los Reyes, E. (2006, October 25-29). “Grounded in practice: Building capacity and closing the teaching and knowledge gap with teachers in ELL education.” Refereed Paper, 7th Annual Curriculum and Pedagogy Conference, Balcones Springs, TX.

- Yazzie-Mintz, T. (2006, April 20-22). "Decolonizing Research: A discussion of emergent educational research in Indigenous communities." Session Chair, Seventh Annual CIC American Indian Studies Graduate Conference, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN.
- Thompson, N. L., Big Crow, O., Banks, S., Wilson, C., Faircloth, S., Bowman, N., & Yazzie-Mintz, T. (2005, October) 6-8. "Prekindergarten-twelfth grade American Indian and Alaska Native issues across multiple contexts. Panelist, National Indian Education Association, Denver, CO.
- de los Reyes, E. & Yazzie-Mintz, T., & Campanario, M. (2005, March 11-12). "Sticking to the weaving: Public intellectuals in difficult times." Refereed Presentation, The Reform Agenda: Leave no ELL Behind – Policies – Practices – Programs, 2005 Massachusetts Association for Bilingual Education (MABE) – Massachusetts Association of Teachers of Speakers of Other Languages (MATSOL) Conference, Leominster, MA.
- Mendez, N., de los Reyes, E., Campanario, M., & Yazzie-Mintz, T. (2004, August 18-20). "Language Discourse and the Achievement Gap." Presentation, Proficiency for all: Getting to the heart of closing the achievement gap, Boston Public Schools Principals' Institute, University of Massachusetts – Boston.
- Yazzie, T., & Campanario-Aracia, M. (2003, December 11). "Making Connections and Building Capacity to Support English Language Learners." Presentation, Building a Culture for Learning: Strategies for Inside and Outside the Classroom, Bayside Expo Conference Center, Boston, MA.
- Yazzie, T. (2000, April 24-28). "Inventing 'Indian' education: The federal government's role in constructing a system of education for American Indians, 1928-1975." Roundtable Discussion, Annual Meeting of the American Educational Research Association, New Orleans, LA.
- Yazzie, T. (2000, March 7). "Overcoming Conquest: Cultural, Social, and Political Interventions in the Education of American Indian children." Colloquium, Harvard University Native American Program, Harvard University Faculty Club.
- de los Reyes, E., Tuitt, F., Yazzie, T., Hussein, Y., Morales, D., & Napier, S. (2000, February 25). "Sustaining the Movement Toward Inclusion: Transforming the Curriculum and Pedagogy in Institutions of Higher Education." Panel Discussion, Student Research Conference, Harvard Graduate School of Education, Cambridge, MA.
- Salgado, J. A., & Yazzie, T. (2000, February 5-6). "Educational Intervention: A Comparative Study of Systems of Inequity for Native Americans and Latin Americans." Roundtable Discussion, Comparative and International Educational Society (CIES) Northeast Regional Conference, Teachers College, Columbia University, New York, NY.
- de los Reyes, E., Smith, H., Yazzie, T., Hussein, Y., Moreno, J., & De Jesus, A. (1999, November 19-21). "Sustaining the Movement Toward Inclusion - Transforming the Curriculum and Pedagogy of Institutions of Higher Education." Focused Dialogue, Association for the Study of Higher Education (ASHE), San Antonio, TX.

de los Reyes, E., Smith, H., Yazzie, T., Tuitt, F., de Jesus, A., Hussein, Y., Moreno, J., del Prado-Hill, P., & Salgado, J. (1999, June 3-5). "Education for Social and Political Change." Dialogue, Pedagogy and Theatre of the Oppressed: Popular Education and Social Change, New York, NY.

Yazzie, T. (1999, April 19-23). "Expanding the knowledge in American Indian/Alaska Native research." Discussant, Annual Meeting of the American Educational Research Association, Montreal, Canada.

Yazzie, T. (1997, October 17-19). "Crossing Historical and Cultural Boundaries: Three generations of Navajo women's experiences and learning in boarding schools." Refereed Paper Presentation, Celebrating the American Woman: Native Voices, Columbia College of South Carolina,

Yazzie, T. (1996, April 8). "Cultural dichotomies and American Indian Education." Roundtable Discussion, Annual Meeting of the American Educational Research Association, New York, NY.

Yazzie, T. (1995, November 14). "Studies in American Indian Education: Cultural Dichotomies." Refereed Paper Presentation, Annual Meeting of the National Indian Education Association, Tucson, AZ.

RESEARCH INITIATIVES

For the Wisdom of the Children: Strengthening the Teacher of Color Pipeline

April 2018- April 2020

VP for Program Initiatives & Principal Investigator: Tarajeon Yazzie-Mintz

Restorative Teachings: A Tribal college and university collaborative to strengthen systems of care and learning with Native families and children.

January 2016 – February 2018

Senior Program Officer & Principal Investigator: Tarajeon Yazzie-Mintz

Cultivating Lakota Early Childhood Learning Opportunities

April 2015 – October 2016

Senior Program Officer & Principal Investigator: Tarajeon Yazzie-Mintz

Ké' Family Engagement Initiative: Strengthening systems of shared responsibility among families, schools, and communities

April 2014 – September 2015

Senior Program Officer & Principal Investigator: Tarajeon Yazzie-Mintz

Wakanyeya "Sacred Little Ones" Tribal College Readiness and Success by Third Grade Initiative

July 2011- December 2015

Program Officer & Principal Investigator: Tarajeon Yazzie-Mintz

Determinants of Educational Attainment: Longitudinal data set for Indigenous Peoples

January 2007- 2013

Principal Investigators: Randall Akee & Tarajeon Yazzie-Mintz

The Influence of Teachers' Conceptions of Culture and Language on Instruction

Funded in part by: The Maris M. Proffitt & Mary Higgins Proffitt Endowment Grant and The Maris M. Proffitt & Mary Higgins Proffitt Endowment Faculty Summer Fellowship

May 2006 - 2011

Principal Investigator: Tarajeau Yazzie-Mintz

A multilayered approach to a complex problem: Deepening pedagogical, conceptual, and institutional understandings about diversity with web-based tools.

July 2008 -2010

Funded by School of Education Diversity Innovation Grant

Principal Investigators: Tarajeau Yazzie-Mintz & James Damico

Improving Quantitative Literacy with a web-based teaching and research tool

January 2007- 2009

Funded by IU Faculty Research Support Program Grant

Principal Investigators: James Damico, Tarajeau Yazzie-Mintz, Veronica Herrera, Stephanie Carter, & Gerald Campano

Office of Language Learning & Support Services – Research & Program Development

Boston Public Schools – The Use of Data to Inform Instruction of English Language Learners

June 2003 - June 2005

Project Manager: Tarajeau Yazzie-Mintz

Office of Language Learning & Support Services – Research and Program Development

Boston Public Schools – Implementation of Question 2 “English-Only Instruction”

June 2003 - June 2005

Project Manager: Tarajeau Yazzie-Mintz

TEACHING

University Courses:

- S400/S500: Community of Teachers Seminar, School of Education, Indiana University (Undergraduate/Graduate Course in the Teacher Education Program)
- J500: Curriculum in the Context of Instruction, School of Education, Indiana University (Graduate Course in Curriculum and Instruction)
- E351: Foundations in Early Childhood Education, School of Education, Indiana University (Undergraduate Course in the Teacher Education Program)
- E300/M300: Elementary/Secondary Education for a Pluralistic Society, School of Education, Indiana University (Undergraduate Course in the Teacher Education Program)
- J760: Cultural Research in Indigenous Educational Communities, School of Education, Indiana University (Doctoral Special Topics Seminar: Curriculum and Instruction)
- J760: Readings in Critical Theory, School of Education, Indiana University (Doctoral Special Topics Seminar: Curriculum and Instruction)
- S501: Secondary School Curriculum, School of Education, Indiana University (Masters Course: School of Education)
- J762: Curriculum, Ideology and Action, School of Education, Indiana University (Doctoral Special Topics Seminar: Curriculum and Instruction)

Courses taught prior to Indiana University

- Sociology of the School, Department of Education, Tufts University (Graduate Course)
- Reflective Pedagogy for Social and Political Change, Center for Peaceable Schools, Lesley University, Cambridge, MA (Graduate Course)

Teaching Fellow for the following courses

- Education for Social and Political Change, Harvard Graduate School of Education
- Teachers, Leadership and Power: School Reform from the Classroom, Harvard Graduate School of Education
- The Socio-historical Context and the Issues of Diversity in American Schooling, Harvard Graduate School of Education

Doctoral Dissertation Committees

- Indiana University-Bloomington, Bloomington, IN
 - 8 doctoral students (2005-2012)
- Pennsylvania State University, State College, PA
 - 1 doctoral student (2011)
- Northwestern University, Evanston, IL
 - 1 doctoral student (2013)

LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE

National/International

Committee Member, National Association for the Education of Young Children, Early Learning Systems Committee, June 2019 – **Present**.

Advisory Board Member, National Families Learning Center, January 2019 – **Present**.

Committee Member, National Indian Education Association – subcommittee: Native Educators Education and Development (NEED), April 2018 – **Present**.

2017 Presidential Appointee (President Barack Obama), Board of Directors, National Board for Education Sciences, January 2017- **Present**.

Member of National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) Workgroup on DAP and Diversity and Equity, September 2017- **Present**.

Manuscript Reviewer, *Bilingual Research Journal*, February 2014 – **Present**.

Strategic Partner Contributor, Margaret A. Cargill Philanthropies Program Evaluation and Strategic Partner Workgroup, August 2017-August 2019.

Accreditation Site Visit Committee, World Indigenous Higher Education Consortium (WINHEC), Review of Kahuawaiola Indigenous Teacher Education Program, October 2017 – July 2018.

Steering Committee Member, Tribal Early Childhood Research Center, University of Colorado - Denver, January 2011 – January 2018.

Editorial Board Member, *Curriculum Inquiry*, January 2015- January 2018.

Technical Review Panel for the National Indian Education Study, Department of Education, Office of Indian Education (OIE) and National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), Washington, D.C., April 2007 – January 2018.

Member of Review Panel, *Journal of American Indian Education*, November 2004 – January 2018.

Phase I Design Team, *Family Leadership Design Collaborative*, University of Washington, Seattle, WA, December 2015 – December 2017.

Invited Manuscript Reviewer, *Cultural Studies of Science Education*, 2017.

Member, Editorial Board, *Tribal College and University Research Journal*, February 2015- December 2017.

Manuscript Reviewer, *American Educational Research Journal – Social and Institutional Analysis* (Centennial Issue), July 2015 – April 2016.

SIG Chair, American Educational Research Association – Special Interest Group: Indigenous Peoples of the Americas, April 2015-April 2016.

Planning Committee Member & Host, American Educational Research Association – Special Interest Groups IPA/IPP Pre-Conference, Washington, D.C. April 7, 2016.

SIG Chair-Elect, American Educational Research Association – Special Interest Group: Indigenous Peoples of the Americas, April 2014 - April 2015

Member of Editorial Board, *Mellon Tribal College Research Journal*, January 2013 – February 2015.

Manuscript Reviewer, *Curriculum Inquiry*, February 2010 – December 2014.

Reviewer, *American Indian Culture and Research Journal*, October 2010 – 2012.

SIG Secretary/Treasurer, American Educational Research Association – Special Interest Group: Indigenous Peoples of the Americas, April 2010 – 2011.

Member of the Research Advisory/Steering Committee, American Indian and Alaska Native Head Start Research Center, University of Denver and University of Oklahoma, November 2008 – 2011.

Ad Hoc Reviewer, *Asia Pacific Education Review*, March 2010.

Reviewer, *Ethnography and Education*, Special Issue, 2009.

Reviewer, *Journal of Language and Identity Education*, Special Issue, 2009.

Reviewer, *The International Leadership Journal of Education*, Special Issue, 2008.

Program Chair, AERA Division B, Section 2: Studies in Diversity, American Educational Research Association, April 2008-2009.

Proposal Reviewer, Division B: Sections 1, 4, & 5, American Educational Research Association, August 2008 - October 2008.

Proposal Reviewer, Division K: Sections 10 & 6, American Educational Research Association, August 2008 - October 2008.

Proposal Reviewer, Indigenous Peoples of the Americas (SIG), American Educational Research Association, August 2008 - October 2008.

Developmental Reviewer for a Book Chapter, *Routledge International Companion on Multicultural Education*, Edited by James A. Banks, April 2008.

Chair, AERA Division B: Curriculum Studies Book Award Committee, American Educational Research Association, April 2006 –2007.

Proposal Reviewer, Division B: Curriculum Studies – Critical Perspectives, American Educational Research Association, August 2006 - October 2006.

Proposal Reviewer, SIG Bilingual Research and Education – American Educational Research Association, August 2006 - October 2006.

Proposal Reviewer, Division G: Social Context of Education, Section 2: Multicultural Context of Education Within and Across Areas – American Educational Research Association, August – October 2006.

Ad Hoc Member of Review Panel, *Anthropology & Education Quarterly*, December 2004 – May 2006.

Reviewer, *American Indian Culture and Research Journal*, 2003 – 2006.

Ad Hoc Manuscript Reviewer, *Journal of American Indian Education*, December 2003 & October 2004

Proposal Reviewer, The City University of New York – PS/CUNY Research Award Program, January 2003.

Developmental Reviewer of a Book Chapter, *Handbook of Research on Multicultural Education*, Edited by James A. Banks, Cherry A. McGee Banks, & Cristine Hinman, 2002.

Editorial Board Member, ERIC Clearinghouse on Rural Education and Small Schools, 2001- 2003.

Proposal Reviewer, American Educational Research Association - Special Interest Group: American Indian/Alaska Native Education, 1999.

Reviewer, *International Journal of Qualitative Studies in Education*. Special Issue: “Through our eyes & in our own words,” 1998-1999.

Committee Member, 150 years of Chicano/a Education Conference, co-sponsored by the *Harvard Educational Review* and University of California - Irvine, Irvine, CA, April 1998.

Proposal Reviewer, American Educational Research Association - Special Interest Group: American Indian/Alaska Native Education, 1998.

Conference Chair (97-98) & Planning Committee Member, American Indian and Alaska Native Annual Professors Conference, Haskell Indian Nations University, 1993-1998.

Indiana University – Bloomington

Member, Committee on Native American and Indigenous Studies: Native Studies Minor Ph.D. Program, American Studies, College of the Arts and Sciences, Indiana University, January 2008 - July 2011.

Advisory Committee Representative, American Studies Advisory Committee, American Studies Program, Indiana University, 2008 - 2010.

Search Committee Member: Director of the First Nations Cultural and Education Center, Office of the VP for Diversity, Equity and Multicultural Affairs, Indiana University, August 2009 - December 2009.

Proposal Reviewer, IU President's University Diversity Initiative, Office of the VP for Diversity, Equity, and Multicultural Affairs, Indiana University, November - December 2008.

Invited Panelist, IU Office of the VP for Diversity, Equity & Multicultural Affairs: "Transitions and Expectations," Indiana University, November 8, 2008.

School of Education and Curriculum & Instruction – Indiana University

Research and Development Committee, School of Education, Indiana University, May 2008 – July 2011.

Co-Area Coordinator of E 300 and M 300 Courses, *Education for a Pluralistic Society*. Curriculum and Instruction, School of Education, Indiana University, Fall 2009 – July 2011.

Nomination and Election Committee - Policy Council, School of Education, Indiana University, February 2008.

Annual Review Committee, Curriculum and Instruction, School of Education, Indiana University, January 2008.

Committee on Teacher Education, Office of Teacher Education, School of Education, Indiana University, October 2007 – January 2008.

Committee Member, Diversity Committee, School of Education, Indiana University, October 2007 – June 2008.

Dissertation Award Committee Member, Curriculum and Instruction, School of Education, Indiana University, February 2007.

Committee Member, Policy Council, School of Education, Indiana University, July 2007 – 2008.

Committee Member, Undergraduate Scholarship Committee, Office of Teacher Education, School of Education, Indiana University, September 2006 – 2008.

Alternate Member, Policy Council Committee, School of Education, Indiana University, September 2006 – July 2007.

Featured Speaker, Annual Call to Teach, “Call to Teach: Honoring the Profession,” Office of Teacher Education, School of Education, Indiana University, November 11, 2006.

Northwest Indian College

Speaker, Early Childhood Teacher Program Event, Early Childhood A.A. Program, Northwest Indian College, May 14, 2013.

Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute

Speaker, Early Childhood Pre-Service Teacher Kick-off, Early Childhood A.A. Program, Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute, September 11, 2013.

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Indian Higher Education Consortium (AIHEC)

National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)

 Early Learning Systems Committee

 Diversity and Equity Statement Workgroup

 Developmentally Appropriate Practice Workgroup

National Indian Education Association (NIEA)

 Native Educator Education and Development, Subcommittee

Native Children’s Research Exchange (NCRE)

Select Published Works

- Yazzie-Mintz, T. with Aziz-Parsons, N., Lansing, D., Manyakina, Y., & Pyatskowitz, R. (2018). Collective work and inquiry: Transforming early childhood education from within Native communities. *Research in the Teaching of English*, 53(2), 179-183.
- American Indian College Fund. (2018). *Tribal College and University Early Childhood Education Initiatives: Strengthening systems of care and learning with Native communities from birth to career*. Denver, CO: Author. (Authored by Tarajeon Yazzie-Mintz). Available online: https://collegefund.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/Early-Childhood-Education-Initiatives_B.pdf
- Yazzie-Mintz, T. (2016). The power of place-based, small scale inquiry (Section 3) in NCAI Policy Research Center. *Tips for researchers: Native Youth Research*. Washington, DC: Author. Available online: <http://www.ncai.org/policy-research-center/research-data/prc-publications/TipsforResearchers-NativeYouth.pdf>
- de los Reyes, E., Smith, H., Yazzie-Mintz, T., Hussein, Y., & Tuitt, F. (2016). A democratic pedagogy for a democratic society: Education for social and political change (T-128). In F. Tuitt, C. Haynes, S. Stewart, & L. Patton (Eds.), *Race, equity, and the learning environment: The global relevance of critical and inclusive pedagogies in higher education*. Sterling, VA: Stylus.
- Yazzie-Mintz, T. (2013). American Indian educational leadership: Context, conceptions of leadership, and practice. In L. C. Tillman & J. J. Scheurich (Eds.), *Handbook of research on educational leadership for diversity and equity*. New York: Routledge.
- Beeman-Cadwallader, N., Quigley, C., & Yazzie-Mintz, T. (2012). Enacting decolonized methodologies: The *doing* of research in educational communities. *Qualitative Inquiry*, 18(1), 3-15.
- Yazzie-Mintz, T. (2011). Native teachers' beliefs and practices: Choosing language and cultural revitalization over uniformity and standardization. *Contemporary Issues in Early Childhood*, 12(4), 315-326.
- Akee, R., & Yazzie-Mintz, T. (2011). Counting experience among the least counted: The role of cultural and community engagement on educational outcomes for American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian students. *American Indian Culture and Research Journal*, 35(3), 119-150.
- Yazzie-Mintz, T. (2011). Sustaining Indigenous traditions. In P. B. Joseph (Ed.), *Cultures of curriculum* (2nd ed.). New York, NY: Routledge.

Press Releases/News Articles

(see selected links below)

- Alaskan News: Native village youth and education news (2011)
<https://www.nativevillage.org/Archives/2011%20Archives/SEPT%202011%20News/Navajo%20Continues%20Work%20with%20AICF.htm>
- Harvard Graduate School of Education Alumni Award (2016), press releases -Available online:
<https://www.gse.harvard.edu/news/16/05/yazzie-mintz-receive-alumni-council-award>
<https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/college-funds-tarajeau-yazzie-mintz-honored-by-harvard-graduate-school-of-education-alumni-council-300273509.html>
<https://tribalcollegejournal.org/american-indian-college-funds-tarajeau-yazzie-mintz-honored/>
- Presidential (Obama) Nomination (2017): College Fund press release and White House Press – Available online:
<https://collegefund.org/news-list/president-obama-appoints-american-indian-college-fund-early-childhood-expert-board-directors-national-board-education-sciences/>
<https://obamawhitehouse.archives.gov/the-press-office/2017/01/05/president-obama-announces-more-key-administration-posts>
<https://tribalcollegejournal.org/college-funds-yazzie-mintz-serve-national-board-education-sciences/>
- Globe newswire: Release of Early Childhood Education Report (2018)
<https://www.globenewswire.com/news-release/2018/02/13/1339749/0/en/American-Indian-College-Fund-Early-Childhood-Initiatives-Spur-International-Self-Determination-Movement-as-Detailed-in-New-Report.html>
- WK Kellogg Foundation Article: “Sacred Little Ones” infuses Native language and culture into early childhood education (n.d.)
<https://www.wkkf.org/what-we-do/featured-work/creating-stronger-connections-for-early-education-to-elementary-success-for-native-american-children>

**Includes photos and video

Websites, Videos, and Social Media Citations

“Sacred Little Ones” infuses Native language and culture into early childhood education

<https://www.wkkf.org/what-we-do/featured-work/creating-stronger-connections-for-early-education-to-elementary-success-for-native-american-children>

Wakanyeja “Sacred Little Ones” – Tribal College Readiness and Success by Third Grade (2011-2016)

<https://collegefund.org/research-and-programs/early-childhood-education/wakanyeja/>

*Site includes photos, description and video shorts and associated social media feeds

Wakanyeja “Sacred Little Ones” (2014)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jvKXQyAjSzo>

Ké’ Early Childhood Initiative: Strengthening systems of shared responsibility with families, schools and communities

<https://collegefund.org/research-and-programs/early-childhood-education/ke-early-childhood-education-family-engagement-initiative/>

*Site includes photos, description and video shorts and associated social media feeds

Cultivating Lakota Early Childhood Learning Opportunities

<https://collegefund.org/research-and-programs/early-childhood-education/cultivating-lakota-early-childhood-learning-opportunities/>

*Site includes photos, description and video shorts and associated social media feeds

Restorative Teachings Early Childhood Initiative

<https://collegefund.org/research-and-programs/early-childhood-education/restorative-teachings-early-childhood-education-initiative/>

*Site includes photos, description and video shorts and associated social media feeds

For the Wisdom of the Children: Strengthening the Teacher of Color Pipeline

<https://collegefund.org/research-and-programs/early-childhood-education/wisdom-of-the-children/>

FLDC (The Family Leadership Design Collaborative)

“Leveraging Family and Community Expertise to Strengthen Native Early Childhood Education”

http://familydesigncollab.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/FLDC_Brief_FamilyCommunityExpertiseforNativeECE_18.08.08.pdf

Featured Presentations

1) Ethnography Forum 2015 Practitioner Day: Communities of Inquiry Symposium

“Drawing upon places of strength and knowing: Wakanyeja communities of inquiry strengthen early childhood learning opportunities with native children and families”

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hzsf_UcIs4Q&feature=youtu.be

This video features the co-presentation of the work of Sacred Little Ones, with the Northwest Indian College team.

2) Ethnography Forum 2019 Plenary Keynote Talk (YouTube)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8RGf_v8RJrQ

"On the Other Side of Invisibility: Community-Based Inquiry from within Indigenous Educational Contexts"

In this talk, Dr. Yazzie-Mintz examines a longstanding notion that Natives are invisible. On the other side of invisibility are vibrant Indigenous communities of educational practitioners engaged in collective inquiry to transform Native education from within tribal communities. But what is invisibility? Invisibility is how Native people, Native communities, and Native research are seen when looking from the mainstream—borne from the onslaught of research studies that include “insignificant” numbers of Native participants; the pervasive myths of Native communities as lost in the past; the co-optation of arts, science, literature, education, and inquiry in Native communities by non-Native artists, scientists, writers, educators, and researchers. However, going straight into what looks like a great void, from the mainstream side, gets us to the other side of invisibility. Reframing the inquiry stance from within tribal communities opens up the possibilities of seeing and understanding all the ways in which Indigenous and tribal communities are vibrant and empowered to address historical inequities, including invisibility. Standing on the other side of invisibility, we witness Native teachers, parents, community members, and their early learning partners engage in innovations in culture-based education and community transformation. These highly visible communities contribute knowledge from research and practice within early learning environments across Native communities—knowledge that strengthens early learning for all children.

3) 2019 Higher, Adult, and Lifelong Education Spring Raines Colloquium, Michigan State University

“Grounded in Place and Purpose; Tribal Colleges and Universities as Places of Indigenous Learning and Restorative Practices”

<http://chae.msu.edu/events/grounded-in-place-and-purpose-tribal-colleges-and-universities-as-places-of-indigenous-learning-and-restorative-practices>

Additional Evidence of Impact

- 1) In 2015, Dr. Yazzie-Mintz participated at the Congressional Baby Caucus Briefing (“Creating a Path for our Children: Early learning in Native Communities”) on American Indian and Alaska Native Communities, along with representatives of the Tribal Home Visiting and Tribal Early Learning Initiative programs from across the country. Dr. Yazzie-Mintz joined this briefing on behalf of the Wakanyeja “Sacred Little Ones” and K’e’ Early Childhood Initiatives at the American Indian College Fund. During this briefing, Dr. Yazzie-Mintz discussed “innovative efforts at Tribal Colleges and Universities to leverage tribal resources to strengthen systems of care of young children in tribal communities- including pathways to teacher training, engaging families in children’s education, supporting early literacy, and integrating Native language and culture” (excerpted from December 14, 2015 newsletter distributed by the Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Early Childhood Development” - https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/eecd/december_2015_eecd_newsletter.pdf
- 2) Partners in the K’e’ Early Childhood Initiative commit to upholding the following “*experiential truths*”: “*parents as assets*”; “*historical understanding*” of parents’ educational experiences; “*realistic funding*” required to implement and sustain this initiative; “*family engagement*”; “*intergenerational participation*”; “*respecting family demands*”; “*inclusive communication*”; understanding of and commitment to the “*rules of the game*”; “*community-led frameworks*”; “*tech accessibility*”; and “*educational sovereignty*”.
- 3) 2015 Overview and Impact Statement - see attachment
- 4) 2017 Overview and Impact Statement – see attachment
- 5) 2019 Program Initiatives Infographic – see attachment

Early Childhood Education Initiatives

Strengthening Early Childhood Educational Opportunities
& Creating Systems of Care and Learning



AMERICAN
INDIAN
COLLEGE FUND

ECE Programming Across Tribal Colleges & Universities (TCUs)¹

- TCUs served 19,326 students and 91,984 additional community members in AY 2011-2012.
- AY 2013-2014 23 of the 37 TCUs have a program in Early Childhood Education, or similar degree program
 - AY 2013-2014 Associates Degrees Programs: 24
 - AY 2013-2014 Bachelor's Degrees Programs: 6
- 2 TCUs current have reported capacity to offer distance learning for part of their ECE program: Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute and United Tribes Technical College
- 1 TCU offers a Master's Degree in the area of Early Childhood Education, specialization in Special Ed

American Indian College Fund Early Childhood Education Initiatives: Wakanyeja and Ké' ECE Initiatives

Wakanyeja "Sacred Little Ones" Early Childhood Education



- \$5 Million, five-year initiative funded by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation
- 4 Grantees: Ilisagvik College, College of Menominee Nation, Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute, and Northwest Indian College

Ké' Early Childhood Initiative



Ké' Early Childhood Initiative:
STRENGTHENING SYSTEMS OF SHARED RESPONSIBILITY
WITH FAMILIES, SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITIES

- \$500,000, 18 month initiative funded by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation (plus \$100,000 matching funds)
- 4 Grantees: Sitting Bull College, College of Menominee, Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute, and Northwest Indian College

Program Findings and Impact 2011-2013

Fostering Families with Young Children

331 Total families served
326 Total children served
18 local partners engaged
10 regional partners engaged
11 national partners engaged

Percentage of families across four sites at or below poverty line: 80-100%

29 tribal nations served

Family Engagement:

195 parents participated in activities & trainings
43 parents are enrolled TCU students at a TCU

Types of Family Engagement

Chaperone field trips
Parents visit classroom
Encourage reading to their children
Collecting & analyzing developmental assessment data with teachers
Developing & supporting implementing culture-based curriculum

Numbers of Teachers Trained

2011-2012. 226
2013 145

¹ All TCU program and enrollment data reported by AIHEC AIMS AKIS 2012-2013; 2014



AMERICAN
INDIAN
COLLEGE FUND

In 2013, the Wakanyeja ECE Initiative: Launched 5 Websites Collectively Reaching Over 300 Viewers Each Month!

American Indian College Fund main webpages for our ECE Initiatives:

<http://www.collegefund.org/content/wakanyeja>

Grantee Sites: Ilisagvik, College of Menominee, SIPI, and Northwest Indian College:

<http://www.sacredlittleones-ilisagvik.org/>

<http://www.cmnsacredlittleones.com/>

<http://sacredlittleones-sipi.org/>

<http://www.sacredlittleones-nwic.org/>



Adoption of Programming and Processes

The Wakanyeja ECE Initiative Grantees have developed programming, addressing diverse areas of work to inform other tribal colleges on teacher education:

- Envisioning and launching a new early childhood education program
- Engagement in self-study of institutional change to strengthen existing teacher education programming, practicum, scope and sequence of course work, and “Indigenizing” the early childhood teacher education
- Development of empowered early childhood student-teachers and teachers in the areas of family engagement, culturally-based curriculum development, documentation of children’s development, participation in collective inquiry, and leadership advancement



College of Menominee Nation,
World Indigenous Peoples Conference,
Honolulu, HI, 2014

Institutional Impact: Transformation

“The Wakanyeja “Sacred Little Ones” Project has positively impacted the College in a number of ways. First, it has impacted the quality of the Early Childhood Education A.A. degree program by drawing upon high quality faculty and staff [who contribute] to the program; individuals who not only have extensive experience from the field but who can turn around and contribute back to the advancement of the profession.”

– VP Academic Affairs (SIPI Annual Report, 2014)

Program Contact:

Tarajeen Yazzie-Mintz, Program Officer

Wakanyeja & Ké’ ECE Initiatives

Email: tyazzie-mintz@collegefund.org

Websites: www.collegefund.org/wakanyeja

www.collegefund.org/ke-early-childhood-initiative

Twitter: @Wakanyeja_ECE

Tribal College and University Early Childhood Education Initiatives

The American Indian College Fund (College Fund), in collaboration with Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs), engages in early childhood education (ECE) initiatives that draw upon child development knowledge from *within* Native communities melded with the best practices identified in the field of early childhood education. The College Fund's community-based TCU ECE initiatives employ a *collective strategy for educational change*, growing long-term commitment and shared responsibility for the development of high-quality early childhood educational opportunities for Native children and their families. This is done through the development of culturally-responsive and adapted ECE systems, building stronger investments in strategic health and wellness, and supporting Native family economic security directly through partnerships and access to higher education and educational equity.

To address the critical needs of vulnerable populations, our theory of change prioritizes strengthening family, teachers, and community engagement in areas such as health and wellness, economic security, and culturally-based education in order to strengthen birth-to-career pathways that we believe can lead to racial equity.

The College Fund TCU ECE Initiatives are guided by a framework focused on five domains of work:

- 1) Family engagement and empowerment at the earliest levels of education;
- 2) Teacher quality;
- 3) Documenting cognitive and non-cognitive development skills;
- 4) Increasing opportunities to strengthen Pre-K to K-3 transitions, so that Native children are ready for school;
- 5) Incorporation of Native culture and language in teaching, learning, and assessment practices.

Success of the programming in ECE also draws heavily upon strategic partnerships with national groups, including the National Association for the Education of Young Children and the Brazelton Touchpoints Center. Access to and partnerships with these national and international organizations, institutions of higher education such as the Yale Child Study Center, and professional networks in Native education and early childhood education, support the success of the programming, training, and funded projects implemented by the tribal college grantee institutions. All TCU ECE tribal college grantee teams have additional access to resources beyond the financial supports provided.

The larger impact of the College Fund’s TCU ECE Initiatives emerge from *restorative acts*, emphasizing early childhood development *from within* tribal communities; increased engagement of families and communities; upgrading teacher education programs with an expanded investment in



areas of health disparities and families and children with special needs; and supporting economic security. The work to improve culturally-based early childhood curriculum includes alignment of Native-based curriculum with early learning guidelines and expansion of knowledge related to documenting children’s development in tribal-specific contexts. The investment in high quality teachers, family engagement, and community efforts increases strategic potential of systemic advocacy for education and economic equity. **Native children’s well-being and life-long opportunities are the driving force behind the ambitious goals we have set for our collective, community-based program.**

Organizational Background

The American Indian College Fund (College Fund) is a national not-for-profit organization established in 1989. The College Fund is recognized as a premier organization impacting early childhood education and has benefited from increased opportunities to contribute to national dialogue on Native early childhood education.

The College Fund implemented four major funded initiatives: *Wakanyeya* “Sacred Little Ones”, *Ké’* Family Engagement, *Cultivating Lakota Early Learning Opportunities*, and *Restorative Teachings*. The College Fund has leveraged the success of these ECE initiatives, awarding funding opportunities in the total amount of \$7.25 million dollars across seven TCUs located in: Alaska, Michigan, New Mexico, North Dakota, Montana, Washington, and Wisconsin.



Wakanyeya “Sacred Little Ones” ECE Initiative
\$5 Million
2011-2015



K’é ECE Initiative
\$600,000
(\$100,000 Match)
2014-2015



Cultivating Lakota Early Learning Opportunities
\$25,000
2015-2016



Restorative Teachings ECE Initiative
\$1.5 Million
2016-2017

The Early Childhood Education initiatives are directed by nationally recognized educator and scholar, Dr. Tarajeau Yazzie-Mintz. Yazzie-Mintz stewards the early childhood education programming at the College Fund to national visibility, building upon collaborative inquiry, authentic engagement of Native families and communities, and focus on long-term sustainable educational programming and practices. Under her leadership, the TCU ECE Initiatives continue to grow and increasingly are reaching more TCUs, teachers, children, families, and communities.

American Indian College Fund TCU ECE Initiatives Accomplishments

- ◆ Launched the first early childhood center in Barrow, Alaska serving rural Inupiat children.
- ◆ TCUs and their partners are developing systems to collect data on child developmental milestones, teacher knowledge, and family engagement.
- ◆ Over 1,815 families have participated in grant related activities across grantee sites.
- ◆ Over 988 teachers have participated in TCU ECE Initiatives and training.
- ◆ Over 40 literacy kits have been distributed to local early childhood centers serving Native children.
- ◆ Over 3,330 children have been impacted by the project through teacher training, funded activities, conference workshops, and on-going early childhood initiatives.
- ◆ Over 1,000 early childhood educators and tribal leaders concerned about early childhood educational opportunities have been reached through numerous local, regional, and national conference presentations
- ◆ Websites, films, social media and other knowledge products are publically available to inform teacher education, community-based programming and cross-site learning. <http://collegefund.org/research-and-programs/>

Technical Assistance Provided by the College Fund to the Tribal College Grantees

- ◆ Development of project goals with TCU mission, outreach, and degree program goals.
- ◆ Alignment of multiple grant initiatives, to achieve balanced approach and resources across multiple funded programs.
- ◆ Development of project alignment with early learning guidelines, particularly in health and wellness curriculum for early learning center.
- ◆ Review of curriculum enhancements and course revisions for teacher education degree programs.
- ◆ Facilitation of research inquiry process and assistance in selection and implementation of research methodology.
- ◆ Review of research manuscripts developed by project directors for national conference presentations and publication.

- ◆ Review and development of language revitalization programming and outreach for strategic partners in the field.
- ◆ Strategic guidance to teams on cycles of educational change.
- ◆ Provided strategies for development of authentic assessments for child development, family engagement, program improvements, teacher engagement, and health and wellness.

Parent Testimonials

Lumni Mother:

“....for our kids to go learn about our culture of drum making or the smoking of the salmon or drum bag making. With every Family Fun Night, it’s always something to do with culture. So if we didn’t have this, then how are we supposed to teach our kids about culture? Especially if we don’t have those elders to come back to teach these kids. With [Ké’ Initiative] they’re making it possible to do that.”

Parents at Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute Youth Development Inc. Head Start:

“As both of us are full time college students, we think it’s important to surround our son with positive, healthy, and educational settings. With this kind of atmosphere, he will become accustomed to these places, and it will be normal for him. For us, college was a huge step, but for him we want it to be second nature. By being surrounded with positive people and places, our son’s world will be filled with ambition, goals, role-models, and a bright future. We want all parents to take their children to positive places you would like them to be someday. This way the seed can be planted for a healthy future.”

Examples of Continued Areas of Need

- ◆ Expansion of TCU ECE Initiatives to additional TCUs
- ◆ Community based projects and educational engagement
- ◆ Teacher training
- ◆ Language and culture revitalization programming
- ◆ Development and publication of curriculum
- ◆ Natural play-scapes for children at TCU early learning centers
- ◆ Convenings to share best practices
- ◆ Ongoing and increased technical assistance to community based programs

FOR THE WISDOM OF THE CHILDREN:

STRENGTHENING THE TEACHER OF COLOR PIPELINE



413
TEACHERS

Recruited teachers strengthened early childhood teacher quality and instruction in STEM teaching and learning



289
NATIVE TEACHERS

Native teachers reached to participate in training, approximately 70% of the total number of teachers trained in the first year



195%
INCREASE IN TEACHERS TRAINED

Nearly 3 times as many teachers were trained in the first grant year than in the previous year.



240
FAMILIES ENGAGED

Supported family and community engagement, with parents as teachers, along the continuum of practice



329
CHILDREN IMPACTED

Expanded children's learning and development opportunities by increasing STEM learning in early learning classrooms.



29
TRIBES

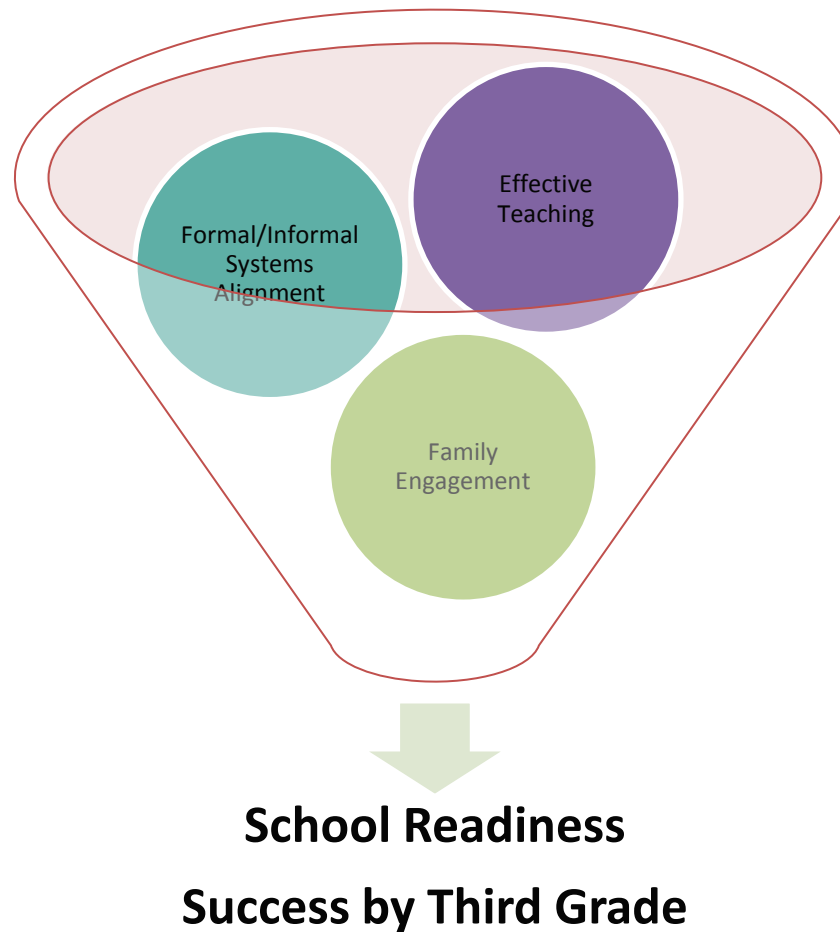
FDLTCC, KBOCC, NWIC, SKC and SIPI TCU's Native teachers were from a diverse number of tribes

For the Wisdom of the Children ECE Initiative seeks to impact Native early childhood education by strengthening and increasing STEM early learning opportunities, starting with opportunities for teachers, and extending to opportunities for families and communities, for children, and for early learning centers.



Wakanyeya “Sacred Little Ones” ECE Initiative

Change Levers Impacting Native Children Ready for School and Success by Third Grade





Wakanyeya “Sacred Little Ones” ECE Initiative

Our funded project aligns with the W.K. Kellogg Foundation’s two major goals: Kids Ready for School and Success by Third Grade via 3 main change levers. The Wakanyeya “Sacred Little Ones” program engages the following change levers/strategies:

- **Family Engagement**

- Empower families and communities to engage in their children’s education through a number of venues, such as literacy nights, college courses, curriculum development, and inquiry projects
- Train teachers to work effectively with parents as partners in curriculum development and advocacy for quality education
- Increase parent and community knowledge in child development through tuition free college education at tribal college campuses
- Increase parent knowledge about curriculum and assessment by engaging them in curriculum development inquiry projects and data analysis
- Prepare parents for pre-K to K-3 transition

- **Effective Teaching**

- Improve teacher quality by establishing new Associate degree programs in early childhood education and strengthening existing teacher education programs
- Increasing teacher knowledge about child development – in particular engaging in discussions about Native perspectives of child development
- Tribal colleges partner with local schools and early childhood centers to offer professional development opportunities
- Partnerships with local schools and early learning centers to provide practicum experience for developing teachers and practicing teachers

- **Formal and Informal Systems Alignment**

- We support the alignment of formal schooling structures with informal systems of learning provided in families
- We support access to quality education for young children by supporting opportunities to foster knowledge growth about child development among practicing teachers, pre-service teachers, tribal college faculty (and administration) and parents.
- Integration of Native language and culture is implemented through alignment of systems of knowledge – elders in the communities, fluent speakers of Native languages (includes parents), tribal college programming, and certified teachers in schools and centers.

Dr. Susan Faircloth
Professor and Director, School of Education, RISE Center
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217 L.L. Gibbons Building
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September 1, 2019

Dear Professor Faircloth,

I am writing this letter in support of Dr. Tarajean Yazzie-Mintz's nomination for the Brock Prize in Education Innovation. I have known Dr. Yazzie-Mintz for over 19 years, and I cannot recommend her more highly for this esteemed award. She brings unique talents and perspectives to all of her work – but in particular to her work on early childhood programs and research for Native Americans. I have witnessed first-hand Dr. Yazzie-Mintz's practical, collaborative, and consultative efforts and work in the area of Native education. I believe that her dedication and contributions to the field make her a very strong candidate for the Brock Prize.

Dr. Yazzie-Mintz has embarked upon an important research and policy agenda during her time at the American Indian College Fund (AICF). In research from fields as wide as developmental psychology and economics (in addition to education), there is an emerging consensus on the impact of early intervention on children's educational outcomes. In this regard, Dr. Yazzie-Mintz has supported the development of early-education programs for some of the most vulnerable populations – American Indian and Alaska Native children. In her role as the Principal Investigator for *Wakanyeja* "Sacred Little Ones" Early Childhood Education Initiative, she has convened several large gatherings of native educators, students and program providers across the country. These meetings and technical assistance workshops have been instrumental in increasing the ability of early childhood education programs to mobilize myriad stakeholders, build the capacity of program staff, and effectively deliver curriculum.

My work with Dr. Yazzie-Mintz focuses on obstacles to education for native peoples. In the past we have collaborated on identifying obstacles to the pursuit of higher education (both college and post-graduate) for native peoples in the US. After designing and administering our survey, we identified several areas for concern; native students reported the need to care for family as one important reason that they delay or stop their college educations. In more recent work we have used existing nationally-representative datasets such as the ECLS-B to examine how native children differ in early childhood with regard to parental inputs. Our analysis focuses on family engagement with young children (0-7). We find, contrary to conventional wisdom, that there is strong evidence for parental participation in activities with their young children. We

completed one paper using this data and expect to be able to explore this topic in several other directions in the future.

I am an applied economist and I broadly study economic and social development for native peoples in the US (American Indians, Alaska Natives and Native Hawaiians). Dr. Yazzie-Mintz and I have been able to collaborate on research that intersects both of our respective disciplines. As a result, our work is better able to speak to the nuanced outcomes, experiences and potential obstacles for these research populations. The combination of our use of nationally-representative data with sufficiently large numbers of native peoples and cutting-edge early childhood education theory (and practice) has certainly improved the quality of my work and efforts in this area. Dr. Yazzie-Mintz and I have created a research agenda that is unique among those working in the American Indian education and economic development fields. We have a unique merging of quantitative and qualitative research approaches that produces novel research outputs.

I view the development of Dr. Yazzie-Mintz's research agenda as a natural progression of her experience and interests. She has worked in a variety of institutions subsequent to her graduation from her doctoral program. Most recently, Tarajeau's leadership role at the American Indian College Fund with the *Wakanyeja* "Sacred Little Ones" Early Childhood Education Initiative has provided her a unique opportunity to shape and support educational practices and programs. I believe that she will have a wealth of research opportunities and activities in the future related to the work that she helped to foster while at the AICF. I am looking forward to working with her on these future endeavors. We have only begun to scratch the surface of understanding what drives the effectiveness and success of these early education programs for native populations. Tarajeau's interest in the cultural and language integration in teacher curriculum will serve as an important area of future investigation here as well. As the program director, she has insights that will serve her own research efforts as well as those of her students in the future.


I can also speak to Dr. Yazzie-Mintz's abilities as a mentor for students. I have invited Tarajeau to present at two events at UCLA in the past few years. In our Good Native Governance conference, Dr. Yazzie-Mintz presented her work and its relation to tribal governance and programming on our education panel. We also invited Dr. Yazzie-Mintz to a later event to provide an overview talk to native graduate students at UCLA. Both events were a huge success and as a result several important collaborative research connections were made between UCLA graduate students and the AICF. Dr. Yazzie-Mintz continues to mentor and meet with several of those graduate students. In fact, several of our UCLA graduate students have been asked to conduct work for the AICF as a result of those meetings.

Finally, Dr. Yazzie-Mintz has an ever-growing national profile in American Indian education. She has been a leader at AERA as chairperson of the association's Indigenous Peoples of the Americas Special Interest Group, and she serves as an on-going technical reviewer for the National Indian Education Study conducted by the US Department of Education. Most recently, Dr. Yazzie-Mintz was appointed to the National Board for Educational Sciences. Dr. Yazzie-Mintz is becoming recognized for her contributions to American Indian education and research; she was most recently awarded by the Harvard University Graduate School of Education Alumni Council for her Outstanding Contribution to Education. Dr. Yazzie-Mintz has also served as an editor for a number of prestigious and influential journals such as the *Journal of American Indian Education*, *Curriculum Inquiry*, and *Tribal College and University Research Journal*. I can only see this national profile increasing even more in the future given her commitment and

dedication to her research, teaching, mentoring and advocacy.

Should you have any further questions, I am happy to elaborate further on these topics by phone or email. I may be reached at 781-502-8894 or by email at rakee@ucla.edu.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Randall Akee". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "R".

Randall Akee, Ph.D.

Associate Professor of Public Policy and
American Indian Studies



September 3, 2019

Dear Dr. Faircloth,

It is an honor to submit a testimonial illustrating the indelible impact that Dr. Tarajeen Yazzie-Mintz has made, and continues to make, on enhancing Indigenous education across Indian Country. Over the past six years I have had the great pleasure of working with and learning from Dr. Yazzie-Mintz in my role serving as one of the Project Directors of the early childhood education initiatives she oversees at the American Indian College Fund. During this time, I have witnessed Dr. Yazzie-Mintz's interactions with colleagues, Native teacher candidates at Tribal Colleges and Universities, and national partners who help to generously fund our movement to strengthen systems of early care and education in Native communities.

Dr. Yazzie-Mintz truly exemplifies the Indigenous values with which she has been raised. She demonstrates leadership by taking an asset-oriented approach in supporting Tribal Nations to improve the quality of teaching and learning for current and future generations in their respective communities. When working with diverse teams from various institutions of higher education, Dr. Yazzie-Mintz underscores the importance of relationality, promotes reciprocal dialogue, and encourages engagement in collective inquiry in order to find innovative and sustainable solutions to any obstacles or barriers in our communities.

Dr. Yazzie-Mintz also leads teams in submitting manuscripts to academic journals and in making presentations at local, regional, national, and international conferences, thus supporting the dissemination of research that informs the greater early learning field of evidence-based practices taking place in Tribal Nations. For the past several years she has co-hosted the Tribal and Indigenous Early Childhood Network (TIECN) at the National Association for the Education of Young Children annual conference (NAEYC), creating space for scholars and practitioners to discuss promising practices in Indigenous education. Such publications and presentations give representatives of early childhood education programs and initiatives in Tribal communities the opportunity to share ways in which they are advancing Native teacher preparation as well as increasing children and families' engagement in high-quality education.

Dr. Yazzie-Mintz's unwavering commitment to enhancing education, especially in Native communities, guides and inspires individuals as they follow her example to bolster transformational systems of teaching and learning. She helps to create dynamic leaders and ardent educators who work collectively to effect systemic change throughout Tribal Nations in support of their youngest citizens and sacred little ones. I therefore strongly recommend awarding Dr. Yazzie-Mintz the Brock International Prize in Education.

Sincerely,

Nahrin Aziz-Parsons, M.Ed.

Program Lead, Associate of Applied-Science Transfer in Early Childhood Education Degree
Project Director, Northwest Indian College Early Childhood Education Initiatives

August 31, 2019

Dear Brock Prize Reviewers:

I am honored to share this statement about the vision and contributions of Tarajeen Yazzie-Mintz, a nominee for the Brock Prize. I met Tarajeen when she was leading the selection of the participating tribal colleges and universities (TCUs) in the American Indian College Fund's (College Fund) early childhood education (ECE) initiative, Wakanyeja (Lakota for Sacred Little Ones). Tarajeen had made the decision to leave the academy to work in the field serving as the director of the early childhood initiative and later in other administrative roles at the College Fund. In 2012, I left my position as President of Northwest Indian College to serve as the President and CEO of the American Indian College Fund. I've worked closely with Tarajeen throughout my tenure and for most of her eight plus years at the College Fund.

Tarajeen's vision for indigenous early childhood education is rooted in her own deeply held belief that Native parents and families can organize and engage in what is best for their children and to experience culturally rooted, place-based education for young children. This belief is complemented by Tarajeen's experience but actually emerges from her identity as a Native woman and educator. In our tribal communities, we appreciate that the Creator gives gifts of wisdom and compassion and I recognize that Tarajeen is one of those individuals.

Tarajeen is always able to bring out the best with the grassroots people she works with and does so by creating a balance among community and cultural resources, practitioners, and experts. Her high expectations combined with her ability to guide and influence set all the TCUs, staff, parents, students, and children, on a path of learning, collaboration, and performance.

Tarajeen's work with tribal communities and early childhood education is global - both in the context of the diversity of tribal communities and TCUs and in the contribution to understanding ECE in an indigenous, place-based, predominately rural framework. Tarajeen brought her understanding of cultural constructs, relationships, and tribal teaching and learning to the design and implementation of a series of ECE programs designed on a continuum, all inclusive of culture and language and all responsive to contemporary environments. She brought her prior experience including her academic knowledge to her work in communities and with disenfranchised parents and children.

Tarajeau empowered the TCU ECE staff in remarkable ways. In my nearly 40 years of experience in the tribally controlled education movement, I've observed that our TCU faculty and staff rarely have the opportunity to share their learning through publications and presentations. Tarajeau provided the opportunity and the guidance to TCU team members and to her own staff for sharing and I've seen how empowering that is to them. Tarajeau did not seek the spotlight, instead she wanted the light to shine on them.

Tarajeau's creation of the five domains from her learning and from her experience with our ECE programming is ground-breaking for both indigenous people and mainstream society. She is particularly skilled at articulating what we have learned and willingly shares with others.

Establishment of the College Fund's office of sponsored programs is also one of Tarajeau's accomplishments. She also substantially contributed to the College Fund's research and evaluation capacity. While creating what are standard systems for sponsored programs and research (grant management, financial oversight, reporting, evaluation), Tarajeau exceeded her responsibilities by actively promoting the knowledge and skills of her team members. She helped team members discover improved approaches to working with TCUs, build partnerships with national organizations, and showed them how to connect their work to transformative strategies that are community-led. Tarajeau's team created collaborative programming including our women's leadership program, Indigenous Visionaries, because she was able to facilitate their ability to make connections among their diverse programs, Native arts, sustainability, and ECE. As the College Fund moved into other areas of programming including student success and workforce education, Tarajeau expanded her teaching and guiding to include staff across the organization's departments.

Tarajeau is one of those rare individuals who has vision and can prompt, guide, and lead others to connect their own vision toward meaningful outcomes. Many times, she came to me having worked on her own or with team members on the development of visual aids to explain connections, plans, and to demonstrate how to achieve goals.

Throughout her tenure at the College Fund, Tarajeau never wavered from her belief in tribal people being able to lead their own work and manage their own resources. Tarajeau is a modern-day Native woman warrior, helping us navigate contemporary society while honoring and revitalizing our tribal knowledge and teachings.

Sincerely,



Cheryl Crazy Bull
President & CEO



August 31, 2019

Dear Dr. Faircloth,

It is my honor and pleasure to support Dr. Tarajeau Yazzie-Mintz's nomination for the Brock Prize in Education Innovation. I have known Tarajeau for the past 6 years and have watched her leadership, mentoring, and collaboration in action as she has changed the face of early childhood education for thousands of American Indian and Alaska Native children and families across the United States.

Dr. Yazzie-Mintz is an innovative thinker and creator – from her early life on the Navajo Reservation, where she “enrolled” herself in Head Start, she has shown determination and grit. She had a vision for herself at a young age, and she made it happen. Education was important to her family and they supported her as she bloomed in the desert and then as she ventured away from her home community, eventually to Harvard University. It was at Harvard where Tarajeau and a group of like-minded friends from all backgrounds formed an advocacy group focused on equity and inclusion that remains to this day.

Dr. Yazzie-Mintz is a visionary – In the last ten years, the importance of early childhood development has become more broadly accepted by the academic, governmental, and philanthropic sectors. Dr. Yazzie-Mintz was there and ready to capitalize on this when she left a professorship to lead a new grant project with the American Indian College Fund (AICF). AICF has historically been a fundraising organization for the Tribal Colleges & Universities (TCU); and Native American higher education is still its main focus. However, because of Tarajeau's big picture thinking about Tribal College students *and* their children, early childhood education and family engagement now have seats at the table.

Dr. Yazzie-Mintz is a builder – The Wakanyeja Sacred Little Ones Early Childhood Education and the Ké' Early Childhood Initiatives are the foundational blocks in the growing AICF Early Childhood Project. Dr. Yazzie-Mintz knew that tribal college students often come to a TCU away from their home community with young children. Her vision was that at TCUs, the early childhood departments would partner with AICF and across campuses to develop culturally-based activities for the children and families that would keep them engaged in their children's development and in their cultural practices, which would keep them enrolled in college. Tarajeau's vision for cultural preservation and practice has become a part of retention and attrition at the TCUs. As is her style, the efforts made today are not shortsighted, but rather part of the river that will flow for generations as Indigenous students feel connections to their own traditions and to other Native peoples as they help their young children grow and learn to walk in two worlds.

Dr. Yazzie-Mintz is a collaborative leader – she developed the Wakanyeja Sacred Little Ones Early Childhood Education and the Ké' Early Childhood Initiatives in collaboration with several TCUs and other

community and national stakeholder partners. Her leadership style is that of having a clear vision, working side-by-side, and mentoring and coaching at each step along the way. Tarajean mentors by asking the questions that need to be asked. Her background and experience in research, and Indigenous Research Methodologies specifically, give her insights into the lives of the peoples with whom she partners. Her way of being has been extremely successful, but not just economically for AICF. Though the AICF Early Childhood Initiatives have grown exponentially since Dr. Yazzie-Mintz took the helm only a few years ago, the real growth has been in leadership development at the TCUs, where many of the local early childhood department staff members have been promoted or moved on to leadership positions; in the positioning of early childhood development as a part of the overall picture for engagement in Tribal Colleges & Universities; and, most importantly in the lives of thousands of Native children and families.

The legacy of the American Indian Fund's Early Childhood Education Initiatives that Dr. Yazzie-Mintz fostered is woven from the tales of native children, families, and communities building on their strengths to develop sustainable systems that will lead to lifelong outcomes for all.

Sincerely,

Joelfré L. Grant

Joelfré L. Grant, M.A.T.

Assistant Director for Partnerships & Professional Development
Project Director, Tribal Initiative
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He Mea Hai Ma Ka Papaha
Kaulike Me Ke Pai Laemāuna

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September 4, 2019

Aloha and greetings to the Brock Prize section committee;

I am writing in support of Tarajeen Yazzie-Mintz for her nomination to the Brock Prize in education innovation. I have known Tarajeen for many years and have been privileged over the years to work on projects and committees at the national and international level that impact Indigenous communities through education. I can say from the deepest part of my heart that this nomination is fitting and long overdue for Tarajeen as a cultural, innovative and visionary leader.

There is a grounded cultural wisdom that exudes from Tarajeen's very presence coupled with her well-established skill set in systemic change and organizational development. She understands the why in the big picture and knows how to work with the what and how in the small details of systemic change through innovative measures that weave culture, community, education and families together towards rebuilding community vibrancy. The Sacred Little Ones is one of her early childhood education initiatives that has impacted those early education years of Native children, families and communities and has served as a national model.

I also serve with Dr. Yazzie-Mintz on a national teacher professional development committee for the National Indian Education Association, an educational association that serves American Indian, Alaskan Native and Native Hawaiian communities towards the development and improvement of teacher education and professional development of which she has been instrumental in honing in on the issues and once again carving out innovative directions to address this common area of national concern.

I applaud and support this nomination and hope you will also support her selection as this years laureate.

Me ka 'oia'i'o (sincerely),

Dr. Keiki Kawai'ae'a
Director, Ka Haka 'Ula O Ke'elikōlani College