



# The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) American Indian/Alaska Native (AIAN) Employee Resource Group (ERG)

CMS' AI/AN ERG works to provide an inclusive and multidimensional perspective to educate CMS employees on AI/AN culture, traditions and their healthcare issues. Through the annual AI/AN Heritage Month we have provided a lecture series in 2021 and 2022 on the Tuesdays in November to provide this education along with the best practices of our AI/AN ERG.

## 2021 Lecture Series

- 11/2, **"Traditional Healing"**, Tara Durand
- 11/9, **"Smudging"**, D 'Share Barnett
- 11/16, **"Native Wellness Institute-Storytelling"**, Gene Tagaban
- 11/23, **"Indigenous Foods"**, Chef Nephi

## 2022 Lecture Series

- 11/1, **"Native American Art and Storytelling"**, Preston Singletary
- 11/8, **"An Overview of the Culturally Enhancement of Trauma Focused Cognitive Behavior Therapy: Honoring Children, Mending the Circle"**, Dr. Subia Bigfoot
- 11/15, **"Steps in Understanding How AI/AN Can Achieve Health Equity"**, Carrie Fields
- 11/22, **"Health Equity with Tribal Self Governance: In partnership with the Indian Health Service"**, Benjamin Smith
- 4/5, **"Indigenous Foods: Benefits in Health Outcomes for All People"**, Chef Sean Sherman



## Methods

The AI/AN ERG surveyed their members to determine a lecture series theme and topics in the months leading up to the Heritage month lecture series. The foundation of the lecture series was to expand on the knowledge and awareness of AI/AN community and culture.

## Results

Expanded participation in this virtual platformed lecture series that included AI/AN history culture and tradition encouraged CMS employee participation with over 1900 participants. In comparison to the 2019 in-person event, approximately 10 CMS employees attended that single lecture event that year.

## Conclusion

The focus of the Career, Community, and Culture strengthens the foundation of the AI/AN ERG program through historical knowledge of the people and expansive collaboration and participation within the CMS ERG groups.