

# WISDOM OF THE *Elders*



*We age, Not by years,  
BUT BY STORIES*

## Learning Objectives:

- Identify ways Elders help formulate, document and pass on traditional cultural knowledge for future generations.
- Understand how the use of traditional ways of knowing, teaching, listening, and learning contributes to passing on cultural knowledge to others in the community.
- Discuss appropriate traditional protocols to be used in the interpretation and utilization of cultural knowledge in public health programs.
- Discuss the Elders role to assist members of the community to acquire the knowledge and skills needed to assume the role of Elder for future generations.
- Discuss how Elders assist Native communities in learning the skills needed to improve the health of individuals, family and community.

# Consider JOINING

AMERICAN INDIAN  
*Alaska Native*  
NATIVE HAWAIIAN

# CAUCUS TODAY!

For more info, please go to our website  
[www.aiannhcaucus.com](http://www.aiannhcaucus.com) and  
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[www.facebook.com/aiannhcaucus](http://www.facebook.com/aiannhcaucus).



AMERICAN INDIAN  
*Alaska Native*  
NATIVE HAWAIIAN  
**CAUCUS**

Established in 1981, the Caucus is the longest running professional organization of American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian researchers and public health practitioners who work to address the unique health and cultural needs of these special populations.

Formally recognized by the  
American Public Health Association (APHA)

The **AMERICAN INDIAN, ALASKA NATIVE, AND NATIVE HAWAIIAN (AIANNH) CAUCUS** is a dynamic group dedicated to improving the health of Native people by providing opportunities for public health professionals to share their knowledge and experience. The Caucus promotes equal opportunity and access for Indigenous peoples of North America and the Hawaiian Islands to health care, provides a supportive entry into APHA and disseminates information about major Native health issues and programs. The Caucus also works with APHA to promote policy beneficial to Native health needs to assure quality care and equal access.

## WHAT DOES THE CAUCUS DO?

The Caucus' activities focus on the annual APHA meeting. At the meeting, the Caucus sponsors a variety of scientific sessions; holds a Wisdom of the Elders session; convenes the Annual Business Meeting; and organizes an evening social with food, entertainment, honors, and networking for Native and non-Native members. The Caucus also provides annual student travel assistance to the APHA meeting.

The **MARGO D. KERRIGAN SCHOLAR AWARD** is named after the founder of the AIAN Caucus. At the time of her passing Margo D. Kerrigan, MPH was the IHS California Area Director. A member of the White Earth (Mississippi) Band of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, Margo was a respected and dedicated leader and advocate for American Indian and Alaska Native people. Margo received her BA degree in Human Biology from Stanford and an MPH from UC- Berkeley. As an active member of APHA and the first American Indian to serve on the Executive Board in its 120-year history, she founded APHA's American Indian and Alaska Native Caucus in 1981. The Caucus honors her achievement and memory by presenting the Margo D. Kerrigan Scholar Award to promising AIANNH students as future public health professionals.



*Margo D. Kerrigan* M.P.H.  
Photo Courtesy Indian Health Service Press Release

## WHO MAY JOIN THE CAUCUS?

The Caucus welcomes persons of any racial or ethnic background who are interested in the health and wellbeing of American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians.

## HOW CAN I BECOME MORE INVOLVED WITH THE CAUCUS?

Everyone is invited to the membership meetings held at the annual APHA meeting. The Caucus operates without staff and is an all-volunteer Board with a variety of leadership positions and interesting committees:

### Executive Committee Positions:

- Chair
- Chair-Elect
- Past Chair
- Secretary
- Program Chair(s)
- Treasurer
- Editor
- Membership Coordinator
- Student Representative

### Committees:

- Annual Program
- Communications
- Student Representative
- Membership
- Development
- Resolutions
- Operations
- Strategic Planning
- Nominations