Institute for Indigenous Studies

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Core Faculty and Staff
- Justin Begaye (Navajo)
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- River Gunville (Cheyenne River Sioux)
- Jason Hale (Prairie Band Potawatomi)
- Caitlin Haas
- Sara Levy
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- Maddie Schott
- Luke Swimmer (Eastern Band of Cherokee)

Affiliated faculty
- Sara Kangas, PhD, College of Education
- John Hughes, PhD, College of Health
- Michelle LeMaster, PhD, College of Arts and Sciences
- Patricia Manz, PhD, College of Education
- Thomas McAndrew, PhD, College of Health

Mission
The Institute for Indigenous Studies (IIS) partners and collaborates with Indigenous peoples, nations, communities, and organizations to improve the physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual well-being of Indigenous peoples throughout the Western Hemisphere. IIS researchers work with Indigenous peoples, nations, communities, and organizations to identify and address the current health and education needs of Indigenous peoples using a multi-level socio-ecological framework and partners with tribal and community organizations, colleges, universities, and other academic institutions to develop culturally appropriate research methodologies and frameworks that can be used to address the health and education needs of Indigenous peoples.

Research Activities
The IIS is actively involved in research and utilizes Community-Based Participatory Research (CBPR) where Indigenous peoples and communities are involved in all stages of our research, from ideas to implementation. Some of our current research includes:
- Prevention and treatment of tobacco addiction
- Mental health and addiction
- Environment and health
- Obesity, weight loss, and diabetes
- Maternal child health
- Youth suicide prevention
- Infant and child speech and language acquisition
- Reservation youth college prep
- COVID-19
- Contemporary Indigenous identity
- Grant writing and research training programs for Native community and organization members
- Cultural education programs for non-Native organizations

IIS research is currently funded by the American Cancer Society, the Office of Research and Graduate Studies, the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute, and Graduate Studies at Lehigh University, and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.
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Educational Opportunities
The IIS is committed to educating Native and Non-Native people about the current state of Indigenous affairs. The IIS accomplishes this through Indigenous-focused undergraduate and graduate courses, independent studies, and internships. We host live and virtual film screenings, panel discussions, presentations, and events focused on Indigenous health, education, and culture. We also assist elementary schools, middle schools, high schools, other colleges and universities, community organizations, and governmental organizations with their Indigenous-focused research and educational programs.