

# National Native American Heritage Month

## Employee Spotlight

### Teresa Brockie, PhD, RN, FAAN

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#### What is your role and area of research at the Johns Hopkins School of Nursing?

My research focuses on achieving health equity through community-based prevention and intervention of suicide, trauma and adverse childhood experiences among vulnerable populations.

#### How long have you been with Johns Hopkins?

I first came to the Johns Hopkins School of Nursing as a graduate student back in 2003, getting both my M.S.N. and Ph.D. here. I became involved with Native Circle, the student group newly established in 2002, whose purpose is to gather Native American students, staff and faculty to advance the well-being of Native people. In 2008 I started working as a research nurse specialist at the National Institutes of Health Clinical Center, where I established the peer support group Native American Scholars. In January 2017, I returned to Hopkins as faculty at the school of nursing and was proud to find Native Circle still going strong.

#### What tribe(s) are you a member of?

I am a member of the White Clay Nation (A'anandin) from the Fort Belknap Reservation in rural Montana. I represent the Frozen Clan, my father is from the Fast Travelers. I grew up in Hays, Montana, on the southern end of the reservation.

#### How does your culture influence what you do?

Clinically trained as a public health nurse, I was inspired by the cultural care provided by the Native American nurses who worked on my reservation in my community. I use tribal strengths in my approach to working with tribal communities as a public health nurse and as an Indigenous researcher.

#### How do you celebrate your heritage personally?

I celebrate who I am by following the vision and the teachings of my grandmothers and grandfathers. That means I embrace and engage in the values, traditions, spiritual practices and culture of the Aaniiih way of life and that I represent my tribe, my family and community in a good way.

#### Do you work directly in indigenous communities?

For over six years now I have worked with the Fort Peck Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes in Montana and now with the White Mountain Apache Tribe in Arizona.

Currently, we are developing key cultural components for use in an intergenerational Early Head Start intervention designed to reduce rates of trauma, substance abuse and suicide in Native American communities. We are also developing a smartphone app to assist Native American girls and women in establishing healthy and safe relationships.

#### What do you want readers to know about Native Americans?

Most importantly, that we are still here. There are 566 different federally recognized tribes, each with their own traditions, histories, economies and health outcomes.

#### Who are your heroes?

My mother, K/GutsUtt, and my father, ThayEeWusHoth/ DabbitaNethah, are my heroes for their unwavering support, for stressing the importance of education and for providing me a solid foundation in the cultural values, traditions and history of the A'anandin (People of the White Clay), all of which have helped me to develop a purposeful vision.

#### Please give us an interesting fact about you.

I grew up on a ranch. The summer pasture for our cows was in the mountains so I spent a lot of my younger years on a horse. I especially enjoyed riding in the mountains. I also competed in barrel racing. When I was younger my dream was to own a horse ranch.

#### What mark do you hope to leave on Johns Hopkins, the nation, indigenous nations or the world?

My life goal has been to improve health and health care for Native Americans, first as a public health nurse and now as an indigenous scientist and faculty. If I could entice others to join me by advocating, educating and engaging, I would feel fulfilled.

