

# 2020 Annual Report

## *Our Vision:*

*American Indian, Alaska Native and other indigenous elders leading healthy and secure lives and contributing to the well-being of their communities and families.*



**INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR  
INDIGENOUS AGING**

[www.iasquared.org](http://www.iasquared.org)

## Message from the Executive Director

The year 2020 will be remembered as a challenging year for all but most especially in Indian Country. Going into 2021 we remember and honor those we have lost in the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly the elders that hold our knowledge and wisdom. We look to a brighter 2021.

During the past year, IA<sup>2</sup> continued to receive recognition as an important voice for American Indian and Alaska Native (AIAN) aging, as well as being invited to speak on behalf of Indian elders at numerous events around the country. Our work on Alzheimer's Disease and related dementias continues and was expanded through new work with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. We are pushing forward in new areas including disparities in addressing migraines as well as cancer in Indian Country. Most importantly, IA<sup>2</sup> continues its commitment to be a voice for AIAN elders at all levels.

We very much look forward to continuing to support elders in Indian Country and urban areas and address disparities that have become even more apparent in this time of crisis. We continue to apply for numerous grants and promote awareness of IA<sup>2</sup> to other national and regional tribal organizations and federal, state and private entities engaged in work with aging Indigenous elders. We look forward to new opportunities with friends both old and new.

Sincerely,



Dave Baldrige

IA<sup>2</sup> Executive Director

## About Us

IA<sup>2</sup> works to identify and implement the most effective solutions to the most significant issues facing indigenous people around the globe, with a focus on American Indian and Alaska Native elders. We help people and programs figure out how to competently and effectively access and serve AIAN elders.

We work to advance both knowledge and practice, and promote engagement at all levels – national, regional, and local. We acknowledge the history, rights, cultures, and value of indigenous people throughout their lifespans. Responding to the needs of those we serve, we generate research, convene stakeholders to identify novel approaches to cross-cutting issues and work to bridge the gap between policy, research and practice.

IA<sup>2</sup> works collaboratively, drawing upon our network of people from all sectors and multiple professions, including researchers, academicians, media experts, and outreach specialists from around the country. We bring their experience and expertise to bear in our work to improve the lives of indigenous people.

## What We Offer

- Coalition Building
- Strategic Planning
- Data Analysis
- Technical & Popular Writing
- Program Management
- Public Policy Design and Implementation
- Literature Reviews & Environmental Scans
- Outreach and Education Support
- Program Evaluation
- Training Design and Implementation
- Subject Matter Expertise in Native American Elder Affairs: aging services, dementia, demographics, diabetes, elder justice, end-of-life, preventive services, public health, SUID, Older Americans Act

## 2020 Year in Review

### Projects

- **American Indian and Alaska Native Resource Center for Brain Health.** IA2 received a five-year National Healthy Brain Initiative award from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Alzheimer's Disease and Healthy Aging program. This Healthy Brain Initiative is focused on promoting brain health and addressing cognitive impairment including Alzheimer's Disease and related dementias (ADRD). The award establishes IA2 as a national hub for ADRD information resources for tribes, tribal leadership, healthcare and public health staff, Urban Indian Health Centers and organizations, and tribal elder services advocates across the country. This year saw the starting months of the project including convening an expert executive committee, developing an advisory board, and setting up initial resource access. Learn more at the project website: <http://iasquared.org/wordpress2/what-we-do/current-projects/healthy-brain-initiative/>.
- **Title VI Resource Manual.** IA2 began development of two chapters for the updated director's resource manual for the Older Americans Act Title VI American Indian, Alaskan Native, and Native Hawaiian Program. Title VI programs are supported by the U.S. Administration for Community Living's Office for American Indian, Alaskan Native, and Native Hawaiian Programs and serve over 250 federally recognized tribes. IA2's Dave Baldrige and Bill Benson are bringing their decades of experience to chapters on Alzheimer's Disease and Dementia in Indian Country and Engaging in Advocacy as a Title VI program.
- **Tribal Alzheimer's Disease Program Initiatives.** IA2 was engaged as an evaluator by GLITC and AST for the Administration for Community Living's Alzheimer's Disease Prevention Initiative (ADPI) grants. The ADPI program works towards creating dementia-capable home and community based services and supports to individuals with ADRD and their caregivers. The tribal projects will work to develop and expand culturally competent ADRD supports and services.
- **Cancer Prevention Across the Lifespan: American Indians and Alaskan Natives.** IA2 staff collaborated with Health Benefits ABCs in the American Indian and Alaskan Native workgroup of the National Association of Chronic Disease Director's Cancer Prevention Across the Lifespan project. Staff engaged in a systematic review of social determinants of cancer in AIAN populations. The work aims to identify gaps in the literature, health inequities, and opportunities for greater work.
- **Education and Advocacy.** IA2 continues to provide national policy advocacy as well as state and local technical assistance on issues impacting AIAN elders. In 2020 this advocacy focused on the reauthorization of the Older Americans Act and pandemic needs in Indian Country. IA2 is an active participant in national coalitions including the Leadership Council of Aging Organizations.

## Conferences & Presentations

- Coalition for Headache and Migraine Patients – “Migraine Headaches in Indian Country”
- Global Brain Health Institute – “Dementia in Indian Country”
- Brain Health Action Institute for Tribal Nations, National Indian Health Board – Group Facilitator

## IA<sup>2</sup> Staff

**Dave Baldrige**, Executive  
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**CCM**, Research and Evaluation  
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**R. Turner Goins, PhD** Treasurer  
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