



Navajo Nation Cancer Conference

June 14th Summer 2014

By Kwaayesnom Onsae

On June 14th I traveled to Window Rock Arizona for The 7th Annual Arizona Myeloma Network Navajo Nation Cancer Awareness and Advocacy Conference. I set up the display and handed out information and materials from CAIR. Many of the individuals appreciated the information we had to offer. While there I attended a couple of the sessions. One was on Cancer on the Navajo Nation: Epidemiology and Statistics. This presentation was interesting to me to see what the Navajo nation has done to identify cancer statistics on the Navajo nation when many other tribes have yet to identify and create data sets to address the cancer burden of each tribe. Sadly the presenter did not adequately explain to the audience what each graph contained and what it meant for the Navajo nation especially with a majority of attendees coming from little to no college experience.

Another session was on the topic of cancer survivorship and what patients should expect after completing cancer treatments. The presentation discussed how patients should communicate regularly with their family and provider and to be aware of any changes in their bodies. As well as how to have healthy lifestyles to prevent cancer recurrence.



CAIR Intern Kwaayesnom Onsae with CAIR Display

While there, I was approached by the Dine Women Helping Women who were seeking to collaborate with CAIR through educational presentations or educational trainings to improve their abilities in better helping the community they serve. They were interested what CAIR has to offer. They hold monthly meetings and we were invited to attend.

From this interaction I would recommend further communication through a conference call with Danielle to recognize each groups' objectives and goals in order to identify how we can be beneficial to one another. From there we can present the tools and resources created by CAIR and our students and possibly collaborate further to create more projects and resources.

In conclusion it was a well worthy trip to listen to the presenters and to feel the motivation from the crowd be more aware about cancer and overall health because it plays a major factor in cancer prevention. I would like to attend the conference again and I am pleased that individuals found our materials useful.