Evolving a Diné-Centered Research & Evaluation Agenda

May 19, 2017 Symposium, Navajo Technical University, Crownpoint, Diné Nation (NM)
GOALS

• TO CONVENE DINÉ COMMUNITY BASED THINKERS TO DISCUSS POSSIBILITIES OF ARTICULATING A DINÉ TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE-BASED RESEARCH & EVALUATION AGENDA

• TO FOLLOW UP
WHAT IS A RESEARCH/EVALUATION AGENDA?

• TO DESCRIBE PURPOSE AND GOALS

• TO IDENTIFY “LENS” OR “LENSES” & APPROACHES

• TO IDENTIFY SPECIFIC AREAS NEEDING ATTENTION

THOUGHTS OF SENeca PARTICIPANTS
AT MAY 17, 2017 NATION REBUILDING FOR WELLNESS

SENeca NATION

• protect sovereignty
• protect the culture & language
• ensure self-determination
• uplift our community to better education and a higher quality of life

INDIGENOUS DATA SOVEREIGNTY & GOVERNANCE WORKSHOP
EXAMPLES OF RESEARCH / EVALUATION AGENDA GOALS

• TO EVENTUALLY DEMONSTRATE THE RELEVANCE OF DINÉ TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE & EPISTEMOLOGY RESEARCH / EVALUATION TO TRIBAL LEADERS

• TO FOCUS ON COMMUNITY - BASED QUESTIONS & VOICE - E.G. FRACKING, RACISM, URANIUM MINING, CASINOS, FOOD SOVEREIGNTY, WATER & LAND SECURITY

• TO PRODUCE VALID DATA THAT OFFERS A TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE CHOICE TO DECISION MAKERS AS OPPOSED TO A WESTERN-ONLY APPROACH TO DECISION MAKING AND UNDERSTANDING CHOICES

• TO OFFER MATRILINEAL BASED DATA AND INFORMATION - WHAT DO OUR GRANDMOTHERS HAVE TO SAY?

• TO EVOLVE DECOLONIZING & INDIGENIZING METHODS

• TO HEAL → DECOLONIZE → TRANSFORM → MOBILIZE COMMUNITIES
EXAMPLE OF “LENS” IN DINÉ-CENTERED RESEARCH / EVALUATION

• IF SUCH A LENS WAS USED TO ASSESS IMPACT OF A WALMART OR A NEW CONVENIENCE STORE TO BE BUILT IN A DINÉ COMMUNITY, WHAT ARE THE IMPLICATIONS?

• WHAT LENSES CAN WE DEVELOP TO ADDRESS CRITICAL ISSUES FACED BY OUR COMMUNITIES?

BRAINSTORM WORK HAZEL JAMES, DUANE “CHILI” YAZZIE, BETSY YAZZIE, LARRY EMERSON, 5.17.17
DINÉ-CENTERED RESEARCH / EVALUATION ALREADY BEING DONE

• NAVAJO WELLNESS MODEL

• HÓZHÓÓGÓ NA'ADÁ MODEL - Dr. HERBERT BENALLY

• NITSÁHÁKEES - NAHAT’Á - IINÁ - SIHASIN - SNBH

• ADAPTATIONS FROM WESTERN RESEARCH PHILOSOPHY: POST-COLONIAL, POST-STRUCTURAL, COMMUNITY BASED PARTICIPATORY RESEARCH, ETC.
QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER …

• WHAT DO WE MEAN BY DATA SOVEREIGNTY?
• WHAT DO WE MEAN BY DECOLONIZED DATA GOVERNANCE?
• MEASURING DINÉ FROM A DINÉ TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE PERSPECTIVE?
• HOW DO WE CREATE A COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE TO PROMOTE & PROTECT DINÉ NATION DATA SOVEREIGNTY THAT EMANATES FROM DINÉ TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE?
• WHAT DO INDIGENOUS WRITERS & SCHOLARS SAY?
DATA SOVEREIGNTY INVOLVES

- KNOWLEDGE & EPISTEMOLOGY: WAYS OF KNOWING & ACTING ON THAT KNOWLEDGE
- HOW WE REASON THE WORLD: DINÉ TRADITIONAL PEOPLE REASON THE WORLD DIFFERENTLY. WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT AND CRITICAL?
- INFORMATION USED TO GOVERN, PROMOTE SELF-DETERMINATION OR NATION BUILDING
- DIGITAL INFORMATION AGE
- RELATIONSHIP TO MAINSTREAM DATA - US GOVERNMENT, CORPORATIONS, NAVAJO NATION THREE BRANCH GOVERNMENT
- DEMOGRAPHICS - HOW DO WE FRAME THIS?
- ENVIRONMENTAL, EDUCATIONAL, JUSTICE
- DECOLONIZATION & INDIGENIZATION THEORY & PRACTICE
WHAT ARE STRATEGIES TO PROTECT DINÉ DATA SOVEREIGNTY? (EXAMPLES BELOW)

- DEVELOP A DINÉ-CENTERED RESEARCH AND EVALUATION AGENDA
- CONTINUE TO EVOLVE DINÉ-CENTERED MODELS: PHILOSOPHY, METHODS, LITERATURE, DATA GATHERING, INTERPRETATION, DISSEMINATION
- CONSIDER ETHICS ISSUES (E.G. DINÉ ARE A MATRILINEAL PEOPLE ... WHAT ARE ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS WHEN ALL RESEARCH DATA EMANATES FROM A PATRIARCHAL & COLONIAL MINDSET?
- CHANGE MINDSET OF FOLKS ... E.G. PENDULUM SWING OR PARADIGM CHANGE USING DINÉ UNDERSTANDING OF PHENOMENA
- EDUCATE ALLIES, NON-INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

BRAINSTORM WORK OF HJ, DY, BY, LE, 5.17.17