Boozhoo (Hello) Colleagues and Friends,

We write to you knowing that current events around the spread of COVID-19 are weighing heavy on us all and creating a global climate that is uncertain, chaotic, and troubling. We want to thank you for all you may be doing in support of community, friends, and family, but also want to encourage you to take care of yourself as well. It is times like these in particular that it is comforting to not only turn toward one another but to turn toward the traditional ways of our respective peoples. As Edward Benton-Banai, one of the original founders of the American Indian Movement, has said, “I do believe that with the teachings of yesterday we can better prepare ourselves for the uncertainties of tomorrow”. The Anishinabe have as a part of their traditions and history the Seven Grandfather Teachings which create balance in mind, body, and spirit when all principles are practiced. We offer affirmations based on these seven teachings in the hopes that they can help us all find balance in the rocky terrain of today’s global climate and move forward in collective solidarity.

1. **Love**: I will love myself for all that I am capable of and practice acts of love with others, including our Mother Earth.

2. **Respect**: I will respect myself, as well as my community, neighbors, family, and friends, by taking the time to care for myself, in order to be well, and care for others.

3. **Wisdom**: I will cherish the wisdom within myself, the wisdom from my ancestors, and the wisdom from those around me, and use it mindfully.

4. **Courage**: I will have the courage to trust my own instincts and stand strong in the face of uncertainty.

5. **Honesty**: I will be honest with myself and others to acknowledge that I cannot control all things, but I will do my part to to control the things that I can, including my actions, reactions, and words.

6. **Humility**: I will reach out when I need help and acknowledge when I need rest and support.
7. **Kindness/Truth:** I will be gentle in thoughts and actions toward myself and others, and know that acts of kindness have the ability to overcome acts created from fear.

Now more than ever, our traditions and relationships will help give strength, clarity, and guidance to each other. In 2019, we expanded our leadership to deepen and broaden how we connect in timely and relevant ways; updated the policy and procedures to clarify and strengthen operational processes of our IPE TIG, including remote voting and communications; and have been working successfully with AEA leadership to include Tribal affiliations on the annual membership survey and annual conference survey. Our 2020 will be no different as we continue to strengthen partnerships with non-Native allies, work to constructively address the many faces of systematic and institutionalized privilege, and proactively request that Indiginized space and voice within the academy, our contexts of practice, and through reciprocal relationships that strategically move our Indigenous agenda forward are connected to AEA and other TIG’s strategic direction. Evaluation “by us and for us” (Wehipeihana, 2020) is defined as, “Indigenous evaluation as evaluation that is led by Indigenous peoples; has clear benefits for Indigenous peoples; has Indigenous people comprising most of the evaluation team; is responsive to Tribal [Nation] and community contexts; and is guided and underpinned by Indigenous principles, practices, and knowledge.” Wehipeihana’s model also addresses non-Indigenous participation, “by invitation only” and to “explore how power is shared or not shared” (p. 368). Our IPE TIG leadership is doing that work, asking these questions, and engaging in discussions with partners that are authentic and sustainable. Our IPE TIG leadership and membership activities now are critical to recovering voice, reclaiming space, and reclaiming power in the academy and literature by and for Tribal Nations and Indigenous peoples. The work we do now also has implications for the politics, power, and corporate or government supported industry funding evidence based policy, pathways to evidence, and practice movement going on more broadly in the evaluation, research, and policy arenas. We appreciate your participation and welcome your ideas whenever they come to you. IPE TIG’s social media and leadership contact information is included at the end of the newsletter. Stay in touch and be safe relatives!

As always, thank you for your continued membership and support,
Elizabeth and Nicky, IPE TIG Chair and Co-Chair

**Introducing new IPE TIG leadership**

During the 2019 IPE TIG business meeting we voted and made changes to our leadership team. For starters, former Program Co-Chair, Elizabeth Taylor-Shiro was voted into the position of TIG Chair and Aneta Cram was voted in to serve another term as Program Chair. Karen Alexander,
new to the leadership team, was voted in as Program Co-Chair. We also introduced two new positions: Communications Chair and Co-Chair. These positions will focus on communications over social media with our members. The positions have been filled by Joan LaFrance and Mariah Norwood.
The newest members of our leadership team have shared a brief description of who they are in the following bios.

Karen L. Alexander, LMSW, CAADC. Karen is Anishinaabe (Ojibwe) and is a member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians. She received her Bachelor’s Degree in Psychology from Lake Superior State University in 2003 and her Master of Social Work Degree from Grand Valley State University in 2011. Karen is working toward her PhD in Evaluation at Western Michigan University. She is in the dissertation phase of her program with a focus on culturally competent evaluation methods. Her interest in evaluation is focused on both utilizing culturally appropriate evaluation methods and indigenizing mainstream evaluation to create a better fit with Tribal cultural beliefs and values. In addition, Karen has always been passionate about helping other Tribal members to heal from addiction and has worked over the years for Sault Tribe as a clinician and a therapist in substance abuse and mental health. In her free time, Karen enjoys spending time with family, learning more about her culture, and attending ceremonies.

Joan LaFrance. I am the owner of Mekinak Consulting, a management and evaluation service in Seattle, Washington specializing in educational program evaluation, research, and management studies. I was born and raised in the Pacific Northwest to parents who worked for the BIA. Our family are members of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa. I share my home with my grandson and two daughters. Mekinak Consulting has a long history of evaluation of programs in Tribal Colleges and Universities, tribal and indigenous communities, and for non-profit organizations. With support from the National Science Foundation (NSF) through a grant to the American Indian Higher Education Consortium (AIHEC), I worked with my late colleague, Richard Nichols, to conduct the research that resulted in AIHEC’s workshops and book Indigenous Evaluation Framework: Telling Our Story in Our Place and Time (which is currently being revised). In addition to ongoing work in American Indian tribal communities, I work on projects in the United States Affiliated Pacific Islands. I was a founding member of the IPE TIG, which started, ironically, in a meeting in the Captain Cook room at a casino in Reno, Nevada, the site of the 2003 AEA conference.
served as the Program Chair of the IPE TIG for 6 years. I believe that traditional Indigenous voices and values will make significant contributions to evaluation theory and practice and welcome the opportunity to serve as communications chair.

Siyo! My name is Mariah Norwood and I am an enrolled citizen of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma. I completed both my undergrad in Psychology and my Masters in Health and Human Services Administration at the University of Oklahoma (with a break in between programs to work at an inpatient psychiatric unit). I have recently accepted an offer and will begin working on my J.D. with a dual focus in Tribal and public health law in the fall. I currently work for the Lower Sioux Indian Community as the Electronic Health Record Support Specialist and Research and Evaluation Coordinator. I currently serve on the Mayo Clinic’s Healthy Nations Advisory Board and am a Tribal Researchers’ Cancer Control Fellow. I have also been recently appointed to the Minnesota Department of Human Service’s Cultural and Ethnic Communities Leadership Council as a representative for American Indian Communities. Outside of work, I enjoy spending my free time buried in books, learning and practicing language, gardening, or enjoying life with my partner. I am excited to be a part of this team and am looking forward to contributing however I can!

AEA 2019

We enjoyed seeing many of you at the AEA 2019 convening in Minneapolis, Minnesota! It was a whirlwind as we focused on ‘Paths to the Future of Evaluation,’ AEA 2019 President Tessie Catsambas’ chosen conference theme. It was also comforting to be in the presence of some exciting introductions to the typical conference format.

The Minnesota Evaluation Association (MNEA) and local area working group (LAWG), in partnership with our TIG leadership, led efforts to pay respect and acknowledge the land and traditional guardians of the land. This played out during the conference through the opening plenary that began with a Land Acknowledgement, recognizing that the conference was being held on the traditional and ancestral lands of the Dakota people. This was followed by an introduction and welcome led by two local Indigenous activists - Wakinyan and Thorne LaPointe. MNEA and the LAWG shared a Land Acknowledgement at the conference venue and distributed the Minnesota Indigenous Resource Guide for members. There was also space provided for two local Anishinabe (Ojibwe) artists during the poster Session/vendor exhibition, and renowned and local Native American Flute Player Darren Thompson (Ojibwe/Tohono O’odham) performed during the Friday evening silent auction. Additionally, we saw the formation of a respite space for Black, Indigenous, and Persons of Color which was made
possible through efforts led by BIPOC identifying members of AEA, including Leah Peoples, Geri Lynn Peak, Kimberly Harris, Ivan Lopez, Vidhya Shanker, Dane Verret, and our own Elizabeth Taylor-Schiro. For BIPOC evaluators, navigating and taking part in white-dominated spaces is stressful and impacts our mental, emotional, and physical well-being; having a separate space to be in community and healing was necessary, and we hope this work can move forward into AEA 2020 and similar spaces.

The IPE TIG was honored to sponsor 8 sessions, including one Presidential Strand Session, and leadership contributed to numerous other presentations and workshops, including:

- (Pre-conference workshop) The Foundations of Indigenous Evaluation
- (Poster) Elevating Indigenous Voices through Formative Evaluation and Learning
- AEA’s Role in EvalPartners – What Difference Has it Made?
- Intersectionality, Equity, and Evaluation: Decreasing Intersectional Barriers
- In the Spirit of Reciprocity and Respect
- Pilot of a Professional Development Certificate in Program Evaluation
- (Presidential Strand) The Case for Attention to Environmental Sustainability in all Evaluations
- Evaluators as leaders to promote equity, diversity and the protection of human rights
- Lessons in Indigenous Evaluation: Paving the Path to the Future of Evaluation
- (Presidential Strand) African Paths to the Future of Evaluation in Africa
- Contributing to the Future of Evaluation: Grounding Practice in a Hawaiian Worldview
- Practical Experience with Made in Africa Evaluation: Two Examples
- (Presidential Strand) Paths to the Future of Qualitative Methods in Evaluation
- Braiding Together Indigenous Ways of Knowing and Centering Indigenous Voices
- The Role of Evaluation in Ensuring that No One is Left Behind
For some of our newer members navigating the conference can at times be daunting. Mariah Norwood shared her impressions:

*This was my first time attending AEA, and participating in any TIG activities. As a Native Researcher, attending national conferences can sometimes be incredibly stressful (as I’m sure you all know). Joining in for the TIG business meeting and the diversity social quickly showed me that this community of evaluators was something special. I felt fortunate to attend multiple sessions that focused on evaluation through a culture-centered lens and felt hopeful seeing things like a widespread Land Acknowledgement being done by a national organization. I am excited to be a part of this leadership team and to play whatever small role I can in continuing to show how impactful culture-centric evaluation is.*

**AEA 2020 and New Year Updates**

This year’s conference, with the theme “How Will You Shine Your Light?”, will be held in Portland, Oregon. This is the traditional and ancestral lands of the Multnomah, Clackamas, Clowwewalla (or Willamette-Tumwater) and Cascades (or Watlala) bands of Chinookan peoples, and the Tualatin Band of Kalapuya. The last time AEA was held there was in 2006 and we are excited to return October 26-31, 2020.

By now you will have submitted your proposal to present at this year’s conference. There is a bit of uncertainty whether the conference will still go ahead given the current global climate amidst COVID-19. However, at this stage, the IPE TIG leaders remain hopeful as conference planning moves forward. We look forward to reading your proposals and wish you the best of luck for proposal acceptance. Additionally,
every year we are so appreciative of our members who volunteer a brief amount of time to review proposals- thank you!

Elizabeth Taylor-Schiro, IPE TIG Chair, enjoyed the opportunity to be a part of the Local Area Working Group as one of the numerous volunteers who helped to make AEA 2020 run smoothly, and worked to ensure local, Indigenous voices were being integrated into the event. She is excited to continue a partnership with the Minnesota AEA affiliate, Minnesota Evaluation Association (MNEA) as a Student Board Representative for 2020-2021. Additionally, she will do her best to bring forward Indigenous and evaluation voices into government, policy, and organizations as she takes on new roles in 2020 as an American Indian Community Representative for Minnesota’s Department of Human Services Cultural and Ethnic Community Leadership Council, 2020 Fellow for the New Leaders Council, and a member of AEA’s Diversity and Inclusive Excellence Working Group.

Do you have updates that you want to share that are related to the mission, values, and interest of the IPE TIG and our members? Email the leadership team using the emails listed at the end of our newsletter and/or post on our TIG social media! We want to celebrate you and all of the amazing work you are doing for Indigenous peoples around the globe!

For new and also already established members of AEA and the IPE TIG, just a reminder that we have a Facebook page that we update regularly and we’re starting to also be more engaged on Twitter. If you are interested in engaging more with the TIG over social media, you can find a link to our Twitter and Facebook pages at the end of this newsletter!

Take Note

Recent Publications That May Be Of Interest:

- The Canadian Journal of Program Evaluation Special Issue: Evaluation in Indigenous Contexts (Includes an article from our very own Nicole Bowman-Farrell!) https://journalhosting.ucalgary.ca/index.php/cjpe


**Looking Ahead: Key Dates**

Again, the turbulence of the current state of the globe due to COVID-19 creates an uncertain future, upcoming conferences notwithstanding. We will continue to provide updates in our newsletters, email, and social media communication, but for now, the following are conferences we are aware of occurring in 2020 that are related to the values of the IPE TIG and its leadership. We invite you to email us or post information on our Twitter and Facebook pages about others you know of that are not on this list.

The following list of events (to our knowledge) are still going ahead:

- AEA’s Summer Evaluation Institute (June 7-10 in Atlanta, Georgia, United States): [https://www.eval.org/p/cm/ld/fid=754](https://www.eval.org/p/cm/ld/fid=754)
- Center for Culturally Responsive Evaluation and Assessment (CREA) Conference (September 30 - October 2 in Chicago, Illinois, United States) [https://crea.education.illinois.edu/home/conferences/sixth-international-conference](https://crea.education.illinois.edu/home/conferences/sixth-international-conference)
- Hawai’i - Pacific Evaluation Association Conference (October 8-9 in Kāne'ohe, Hawai’i) [https://h-pea.org/](https://h-pea.org/)

The following list of events have been cancelled or postponed due to COVID-19:

- *Nation Indigenous Women’s Resource Center 2020 Women Are Sacred Conference has been postponed until a later TBD date: [https://www.niwrc.org/was](https://www.niwrc.org/was)*
- *Canadian Evaluation Society (CES) Conference (June 13-17 in Ottawa, Canada) has been postponed until May 2021: [https://c2020.evaluationcanada.ca/](https://c2020.evaluationcanada.ca/)*
General Update

Nicole Bowman, IPE TIG Co-Chair, will continue on as a member of AEA’s International Work Group (IWG). IWG meets monthly and includes representatives from: AEA leadership, IOCE/EvalPartners, EvalIndigenous, EvalGender+, EvalSDG, EvalYouth). The focus for 2020 is addressing how to strengthen evaluation around the world and how the field of evaluation will be working to address and include the United Nation’s Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) as part of the EvalPartner 2030 agenda. EvalIndigenous meets monthly to work on our global agenda. Recently (February 2020), EvalIndigenous completed their 2019 annual report and updated the 2020 annual plan. EvalIndigenous also has several updates that will happen at CES June 2020, AEA Oct/Nov 2020, and other global conferences if these are still being held given the pandemic. For more information, please see EvalIndigenous Global Chair Serve Eric Yakeu Djiam at serge.eric01@gmail.com or keep in touch by joining the EvalIndigenous FaceBook page (see end of newsletter for social media address).

**EvalIndigenous Indigenous Voices project**

The Indigenous Voices project is a project which looks to highlight the voices of Indigenous evaluators. The idea was to capture these voices either through audio or audio and visual means to showcase different journeys, experiences and quality evaluation practices of Indigenous practitioners with evaluation, within and beyond their respective communities.

This year, EvalIndigenous have edited and made available interview clips from a number of Indigenous evaluators from all around the world. We heard from Elisa Vega who spoke of her work within her own Indigenous community in Columbia. We also heard from Dr Manulani Meyer of Hawaii who spoke of her work as an Indigenous Epistemologist, and the importance of continuity and learning from our kupuna (elders/ancestors).

To date, you can find interview clips on the EvalIndigenous Youtube Channel for 30+ Indigenous evaluators. Interviewees come from countries including the United States, Canada, South Africa and New Zealand amongst others. To learn more about the project and watch these clips visit the EvalIndigenous Youtube Channel or email evalindigenous@evalpartners.org.
EvalIndigenous Atlas Project

Over the past year, EvalIndigenous has embarked on a project to compile an international directory of indigenous evaluators – an atlas. This directory is for purposes of advocacy, networking and not leaving any evaluator who identifies as Indigenous or supports evaluation being done with Indigenous people behind in global development and evaluation spaces. For this project, Indigenous are defined as those self-identifying as peoples who by descent belongs to the ethnic group that is native to the land of their birth or residence.

If you are an evaluator who is Indigenous or whose evaluation work supports evaluation done with Indigenous communities, and wish to be included in the directory please email Elizabeth, our chair, at tayl0564@umn.edu with the following details:

1. Name
2. Location
3. Indigenous/Non-Indigenous
4. Evaluation areas of expertise or Community Experience related to evaluation
5. Tribal/People Affiliation(s)
6. Education and/or Experience
7. Contact information (Email and/or phone number and/or website)

Please feel free to circulate this to your networks and colleagues!

Reminder: AEA GEDI Scholarship Applications Due

AEA’s Graduate Education Diversity Internship (GEDI) program is accepting applications for potential scholars until April 17, 2020. AEA will be hosting a live webinar Thursday, April 2 at 3:00 pm/EST to answer questions and provide more information. More information about the program and application can be found here: https://www.eval.org/GEDI.

Parting Message

Some have noted that the term “social distancing” may be the wrong way to frame our situation today. Yes, it is important to keep a physical distance and to stay home if we are able to as recommended by public health officials, but it is still important to maintain our social connections. If you have not already done so, we invite you to join our TIG’s Facebook group (https://www.facebook.com/groups/867856760014023/) and Twitter Page (comm.eval.org/aeaitig/home) to stay connected.

In times like these, full of uncertainty, when it’s not clear where we will head to next or even what tomorrow will look like. Find what keeps you going, stay hopeful and take care of the
people around you and remember those who may not have many people to call in on them to make sure they are okay.

Thinking of our membership around the globe.

Ngā mihi aroha, ngā mihi mahana kia koutou!

The IPE TIG Leadership Team

IPE TIG Elected Leadership (Nov 2020). The above photo was taken during our 2019 TIG business meeting. Left to Right: Nicole Bowman, Elizabeth Taylor-Schiro, Karen Alexander, Mariah Norwood, Aneta Cram, and Joan LaFrance. Photo credit: Alison Bowman (Stockbridge-Munsee).

IPE TIG Leadership Contact Information
Elizabeth Taylor-Schiro (St. Croix and Lac Courte Oreilles Anishinabe), Chair at tayl0564@umn.edu
Nicky Bowman (Mohican/Lunape), Co-Chair at nicky@bpcwi.com
Aneta Cram, Program Chair at anetacram@gmail.com
Karen Alexander, Program Co-Chair at karenalexander04@gmail.com
Mark Parman, Secretary at mark-parman@cherokee.org
Joan LaFrance, Communications Chair at joanlafrance1@msn.com
Mariah Norwood, Communications Co-Chair at mariah.norwood@lowersiouxhealth.com

Connect with the IPE TIG’s Social Media

Find us on IPE TIG on Facebook
@AEAIPETIG
AEA IPE TIG Website