



American Indian Alaska Native Clinical & Translational Research Program

BIOGRAPHY

Vernon Grant, Ph.D., Investigator, Blackfeet Community College



Current AI/AN CTR Program Research Project:

Obesity is a major public health concern in American Indian children and is impacted by risk factors including physical inactivity, sleep disorders and screen time. Vernon Grant, a researcher and native of Browning, Mont., is concerned about a paucity of literature on how physical activity, sleep, and screen time impact obesity risk in American Indian populations, especially in his home community. He is currently leading a mixed methods assessment of health-behavior patterns and perspectives of Blackfeet youth. "Sitting is the new smoking," said Grant during a presentation at the Spring AI/AN CTRP Conference in Bozeman where he shared that obesity rates are higher in native children compared to other youth.

With a background in exercise science Grant was drawn into this research project by a desire to positively impact what he sees as a clear health disparity in his community. "I could care less about the titles, the jargon and the accolades, but rather how my research impacts my community," said Grant who is working in partnership with the Blackfeet Community College and is member of the Blackfeet Tribe.

Highlights

- Postdoctoral fellow at University of Wisconsin
- Seeking strategies to increase physical activity among Native American populations
- Member of Healthy Children Strong Families Research Team
- Working on a national multi-level modal obesity and diabetes intervention for children

Education/Publications

Vernon holds an interdisciplinary Ph.D. in Exercise Science and Community Health from the University of Montana. Vernon was born and raised in Browning, Mont. and is an enrolled member of the Blackfeet Nation (Amp-ska-pi-pikuni).

Research Experience

- Univ. of Wisconsin
- Univ. of Montana
- Blackfeet Community College
- AI/AN CTR Program

AI/AN CTRP

Developing Research Capacity