

Indians into Medicine Program (INMED)

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Dear Indigenous Health Science Family,

It is with great sorrow I write this letter to our Indigenous Health Science Family, students, staff, and faculty. Today is one of those days where we will remember where we were and what we were doing when first hearing the news. Ancestors and Sacred Artifacts were found on the University of North Dakota campus in Grand Forks. I was notified of the discovery on July 14th, and soon thereafter took on a role with the repatriation committee. Truthfully, I am devastated, grieving, sad, and disappointed; the same feelings you may be feeling now, the same feelings I have felt since that day. The committee, in my view, has done all we can to bring this devastating news to the public in an appropriate and respectful way; to honor our Ancestors and correct their mistreatment from being disturbed from their initial resting places. We are committed to making sure they are taken care of in the proper manner, and to be at peace in their eternal rest once again.

For those who are impacted by this news, we have resources on campus to support you. Professor Doug McDonald runs our Indians into Psychology Doctoral Education (INPSYDE) program, and he and his team are available with counseling services in support of Native American students, faculty, and staff. They can be reached at 701.777.4495 or 4497. The University Counseling Center also provides great support to students, and you can reach them at 701.777.2127. The American Indian Center will also be open during the day and into the evening the rest of the week which will include counseling, smudging, and just a safe place to vent, cry, laugh, and heal. The process of repatriation will take time, as will the healing for ourselves and loved ones throughout campus and Indigenous country.

Miigwetch (Thank you),

Dr. Daniel Henry
INMED Co-Director
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