



www.commonspacemaine.org



**Mission:** Commonspace creates shared spaces of care, justice, and recovery in all its forms.

**Communities Served:** Historically marginalized and excluded populations, with a disproportionately significant experience of homelessness, negative substance use outcomes, hunger, legal system involvement, and inadequate access to healthcare and treatment

### Our Vision for Health Equity

*Our obligation is to support the transformation of existing systems, so that they engage, learn from, and respond to the voices of those who have been previously excluded*

### Notable Impact to Our Communities

- We are developing a new model of recovery-centered, peer supported permanent housing that meets the needs of our communities’ most marginalized populations.
- Over half of the staff at Commonspace are former participants in our programs, bringing the irreplaceable value of their own experience to their work supporting others.
- We’ve been able to respond to real-time and relevant community needs by standing up programming such as rapid re-housing, harm reduction, and emergency food and shelter.



### Our Work

We listen to and work alongside our community’s most marginalized individuals in order to develop meaningful and relevant programs and supports that meet existing needs, provide opportunities for peer input and leadership, and advance equity.

### Unique Strengths, Skills, and System Impact

We embrace our relationships with each other as the central focus and foundation of our work and of our hopes for meaningful societal change. We believe that there are as many roads to recovery as there are people in the world. We challenge all efforts to create false divisions within our communities, and welcome all people into our common spaces. We are shaped and informed by robust and ever-evolving engagement with, and leadership from, the people in our community who have been the most marginalized and disregarded.



***“In order to effectively challenge our society to change, we have to effectively and continuously challenge ourselves, as an agency and as a group of humans holding this work together, to truly model and live our vision of a more just and equitable world.”***



# In Her Presence

EMPOWERING IMMIGRANT WOMEN & FAMILIES

[www.inherpresence.org](http://www.inherpresence.org)



## Our Work

Our goal is to create and increase educational opportunities and provide access to knowledge through high level training; to empower more women and girls to reduce systems of inequity; to advocate for themselves and their families; to understand, to analyze, and to assess the impact of racial inequities.

Our main objective is to provide educational opportunities, which include community wellness classes and Women's Conversational English Groups focused on various conversation topics, activities and group building exercises that will allow attendees to improve their level of English proficiency and confidence with the language.



**Mission:** Organized and led by immigrant women living in Maine, we strive to bring together immigrant women from across communities and generations to ensure that Maine's economic agenda includes their aspirations and needs. We create spaces that support women's empowerment and personal ambitions without losing our unique identity, and we connect immigrant women and girls for collective empowerment in their communities to address common challenges and issues

**Communities Served:** Programs are open to all members of the immigrant community, though spots are prioritized for women. With language learning, we have internal capacity for all. We serve people from 19 countries; we always have an assistant with the language who is an In Her Presence member

## Our Vision for Health Equity

*Our vision is that through connecting with immigrant women and families, we grow our collective empowerment so that our voices may lead in our communities and define new pathways for racial equity and justice. We lift up health equity through our maternal and child health work, ensuring we serve the whole person*

## Notable Impact to Our Communities

- St. Francis House, a residence for pregnant women and new mothers providing trauma-informed care, support, and coordination and access to doulas.
- Influencing hospital providers through cross-cultural conversations and training them to understand the women they serve.

## Unique Strengths, Skills, and System Impact

Passion for the community, shifting power dynamics by moving power to the people we serve, and knowing the people in the community.

We change the narrative and we change structures. We bring a unique impact and innovation to our programs, informed by the facts.

***“We are the people we serve. With our vibrant vision we attract people.”***



Feminist. Local. Independent.

www.mabelwadsworth.org



**Mission:** Provide health care using a feminist model focused on sexual and reproductive health through education, advocacy, and clinical services

**Communities Served:** LGBTQ Community, Pregnant people, All genders, Teens to people in their 90s, Low-income people



### Our Vision for Health Equity

*Our vision of health equity includes reproductive justice: the ability to create the families we want and parent our kids in safe and sustainable communities. We believe that every person must be able to access the healthcare they need, in the community they live in, with providers they choose to trust*

### Notable Impact to Our Communities

- Our philosophy of care is based on empowerment and putting individuals in charge of their own healthcare decisions. Each of us, as individuals, are the experts of our own bodies and own lives.
- We are independently funded. We neither accept nor seek restrictive federal or state government funding and never have, allowing us to provide unrestricted clinical services, advocacy, and education for all.
- We have a shared leadership model with three co-directors which increases equity throughout our organization, and strengthens our resiliency.
- Our organization is led by the community we serve, the majority of our staff and board are either part of the LGBTQ community and/or have had abortions.

### Our Work

We offer a unique integrated care model that provides mental health counseling, primary care, prenatal care, abortion care, gender-affirming hormone therapy, and other reproductive and sexual health care across the lifespan in one location.

We offer educational programming for healthcare providers, community groups, schools, and colleges.

We also advocate for reproductive freedom and LGBTQ rights at the local, state, and federal levels.

### Unique Strengths, Skills, and System Impact

- As a community-based health center, we are responsive to the specific and changing needs of the people we serve.
- We have a Client Advocate whose role is to support our patients as they navigate the health system.



***“We prioritize relationship building and work to ensure people feel welcome and respected at our Center.”***



www.mainetrans.net



**Mission:** To support and empower transgender people to create a world where they can thrive

**Communities Served:** Transgender people, those who love us, and those who care for us

### Our Vision for Health Equity

*Addressing multi-layered barriers to positive health outcomes across various types of marginalization in cooperation and in community with partner organizations. We see health equity as broader than healthcare and inclusive of seemingly tangential issues as housing and socioeconomical fairness*

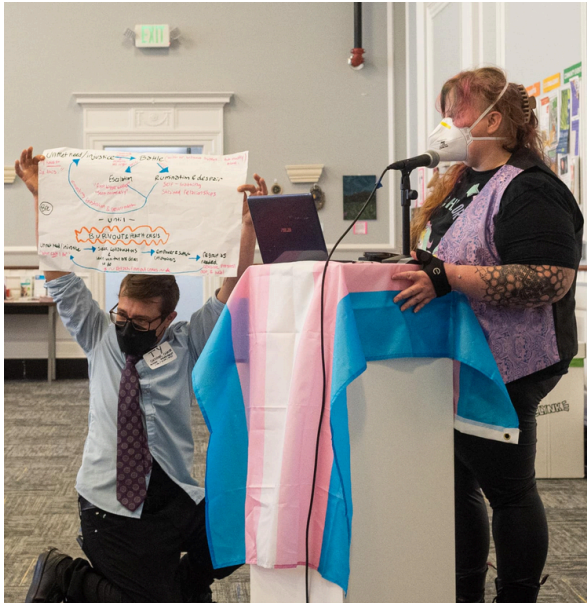
### Notable Impact to Our Communities

- Our thrift store as a drop-in support program: We have a safe adult to talk to, safer sex supplies, binder fittings, and we often hold pop-up health clinics where people can access free health care. Having a low pressure, high connection space has created a safe hub where we can offer ad-hoc, one time case management making us better connectors for trans people to the resources that are available.
- We are an incubator for affirming behavioral health, using our connections, reputation, community, and data to demonstrate the need for behavioral health providers north of Augusta. Through this work, we have a behavioral health clinic slated to open in the Bangor area with clinicians who are affirming to LGBTQIA+ clients.
- We helped pass a series of systemic bills regarding health access and insurance coverage and improved hormone prescription access to a level where it is available in all 16 counties.

### Unique Strengths, Skills, and System Impact

We are the only organization in Maine specifically dedicated to supporting transgender people. We play a vital role in advocacy work on issues that directly affect gender diverse people in Maine. No one talks to as many trans people as we do. Our expert testimony contributes to policy implementation.

***“Having a seat at the table leads to positive policy decisions.”***



### Our Work

We are a community-based organization led by transgender people for transgender people. Our work is rooted in a deep desire to care for one another and create community.





www.manomanine.org



## Our Work

- Advancing educational equity/activism
- Creating wellness equity
- Supporting people holistically
- Celebrating identity/culture/language
- Working with people to overcome systemic barriers to accessing services
- Providing services in Hancock & Washington counties, as well as all of Downeast Maine and statewide



**Mission:** Mano en Mano works with farmworkers statewide and immigrants in Downeast Maine to empower them to thrive

**Communities Served:** Migrant farmworkers; kids, families, individuals; Immigrant communities; Native communities; BIPOC folks

## Our Vision for Health Equity

*We envision a stronger, more inclusive Maine where the contributions of diverse communities are welcomed, access to essential services, education and housing are ensured, and social justice and equity are embraced. When the focus shifts from basic needs to investing in dreams.*

## Notable Impact to Our Communities

- Developing safe space for culture and language in childcare space to house food pantry, indoor recreation, and community space for celebrations.
- Creating leadership and employment opportunities.
- Partnership with community colleges and organizations to support those interested in early childhood education to get a college education and English classes via Adult Ed and created an opportunity for youth interested in EC ed to have internships in childcare centers to get experience.
- Took over management of housing, improved the tenant experience, and supporting home ownership as well as new program to purchase, renovate, and transfer to people – build intergenerational wealth.

## Unique Strengths, Skills, and System Impact

- Connections and authentic relationships we have with the community we serve
- Language skills
- Holistic view on health equity
- Community vibrancy
- Health and wellness programming—getting close to creating systemic change

***“We are moving to develop community leadership throughout the organization, to be community led and driven.”***



# Mi'kmaq Nation

<https://micmac-nsn.gov/>



**Mission:** To unite with Tribal Members to elevate the health status of the Mi'kmaq Nation to the highest level possible. This will be accomplished by educating and providing services that encourage and promote responsibility for personal, family, and tribal wellness.

**Communities Served:** Primarily Mi'kmaq tribal members and their families.

We also serve members of other federally recognized tribes living in Aroostook County; We serve non-indigenous allies and community members at large with youth programs, retail services at the farm, donations to towns and non-profits in the County; and cultural education

## Our Vision for Health Equity

*A person's care, when it comes to their health, is not only food it's social, mental, emotional, cultural, all of those things. Approaching a person from a 360 view and set them up with all of those supports, from each angle, and have a community and a community of supports trying to help you.*

## Our Work

- Health Dept: Medical care, behavioral health, psychiatric services, community health
- Environmental Health, water testing
- Mi'kmaq Farms and fish hatchery support food sovereignty
- Education: Little Feathers Headstart, Boys & Girls Club, extensive teacher education project with 23 cultural education videos/curriculum
- Community Support: social services (food pantry, fuel assistance).
- Housing, includes aging in place
- Elder Services including language, congregate meals, recreation, behavioral health, activities with Little Feathers
- Domestic violence services/shelter
- Completing development of family and criminal Tribal Court



## Notable Impact to Our Communities

- We have a big, long-term vision that carries the tribe. We work together toward our vision, then evaluate and do better the next time.
- We know how to use our resources effectively and partner with other tribal and non-tribal entities,
- We follow through on project and we are resilient
- We are the first in the State to do things like a Narcan vending machine using new technology
- We conducted a food exchange with Somali Bantu Community Association of our fish for their cornmeal.

## Unique Strengths, Skills, and System Impact

- Having a full service tribal organization supports health in many ways
- Our culture is our biggest strength bringing it back in everything we do to help our community

***“We'll have a really unique model of what tribes aspire to, because we do care about the individual, as an individual and not just a person out there. We want to help them, in full.”***



www.neaao.org



## Our Work

- We provide services and programming that connects participants to resources and support networks.
- As cultural brokers, NEEAO is proactively identifying the root causes of exclusion and social changes.
- Base our programming on needs of the people informed by ongoing needs assessments and dialogue with community members.



**Mission:** New England Arab American Organization bridges culture, celebrates diversity, empowers Arab Americans and New Mainers to build healthy, fulfilling and productive lives in their community while preserving their heritage

**Communities Served:** All immigrants who speak Arabic; Expanding to Afghan community, want to serve additional communities such as Ukraine; New Mainers moving to rural areas

## Our Vision for Health Equity

*The Arab and New Mainer communities have access to economic, educational, and health-related resources; Respectful, culturally appropriate health care provided in preferred languages; Barriers related to social determinants of health are reduced and eliminated*

## Notable Impact to Our Communities

- “Not Alone” is a program for women that combines many elements that build health and resiliency, including exercise and swimming classes, conversational English, sewing, driving classes, healthy eating and recipes, and entrepreneurship training.
- We center open dialogues, not defending rights because we get a reaction; no bullying; no racism within. Come gently so people see how we are alike and come closer. We cannot solve racism alone, we have to do it together.

## Unique Strengths, Skills, and System Impact

- No solution fits all, we tailor to family need and host community needs as well.
- Consideration of family dynamics, especially between parents and children, and support for family members through strategies that address multiple needs.
- How we conduct ourselves; relationship with community, the unique ways we navigate system barriers.
- Our appreciation for partnerships with other organizations and providers; our creative approach to nurturing new partnerships.

***“We all have to believe in the movement and come together to make it happen together”***



[www.nmphi.org](http://www.nmphi.org)



## Our Work

To advance our mission, NMPHI takes a multifaceted approach to identifying and addressing health inequities. By engaging with the community, we bridge the gap between individuals and healthcare providers, working collaboratively to minimize health disparities and inequity. Our initiatives focus on health education, promoting healthy behaviors, and transforming attitudes and beliefs within the population we serve. Through advocacy efforts, we amplify the voices of the marginalized community, advocating for policy changes that prioritize equitable access to healthcare resources. By empowering and supporting individuals, we strive to build a stronger and healthier community, fostering a culture of wellness and well-being for all.



**Mission:** New Mainers Public Health Initiative (NMPHI) focuses on identifying and addressing health inequities. In order to improve the health of the population we serve, we encourage healthy behaviors and alter attitudes, beliefs, and behaviors of those we serve. NMPHI advocates for the marginalized community to build stronger and healthier members of the community

**Communities Served:** NMPHI is dedicated to serving two primary groups within our community. First, we provide support and resources to immigrant and refugee youth and families, acknowledging that unique challenges they face with adapting to a new environment. Secondly, we extend our services to families and children who have behavioral health issues, intellectual disabilities, and various medical conditions

## Our Vision for Health Equity

*The vision of NMPHI is to create awareness of health through health literacy and health promotion. Our community health worker programs and advocacy help people to access a healthy environment, healthy eating habits, and access to health care without barriers of language, race or ethnicity.*

## Notable Impact to Our Communities

- The Junior Community Health Workers program empowers high schoolers to take a more prominent role in addressing health disparities and promoting equity within their communities. These young leaders continue to develop their research, writing, gaming, and outreach skills while focusing on culturally appropriate care. Through lived experiences and community engagement, they become key solutions in the workforce, serving their communities with empathy and understanding.

## Unique Strengths, Skills, and System Impact

- NMPHI's on-the-ground presence and involvement at the decision-making tables give us a unique perspective. Collaborating with international organizations and working with lawmakers strengthens our reach and impact.
- Our inclusive approach with community members using our services ensures that vulnerable populations receive the tailored care they need.

***“We know the needs of the community and are connected to others as well.”***





[www.portlandoutright.org](http://www.portlandoutright.org)



## Our Work

We address the things that intersect with health equity: keeping people in community, out of prison; sharing a meal; connecting people with lived experience, advocating for health care access, speaking out against MaineCare cuts, and mutual aid.

We connect people to whatever they need. We address social determinants of health: working to address the barriers to getting comprehensive health; we address day-to-day health and well-being and confront bias in the systems that are supposed to provide health service.



**Mission:** Portland Outright is a youth-led, membership organization building the power of LGBTQ+ young people in Maine through intersectional organizing for LGBTQ+, racial, and economic justice. Our mission is building the power of LGBTQ+ people. We build movements and spaces where young organizers are building relationships, resources, and tools in their communities while seeking long-term systems change

**Communities Served:** LGBTQ+ young people in Maine (aged 14-25)

## Our Vision for Health Equity

*Eliminate the intersecting oppressions that are currently barriers for our people to thrive. A world in which there are no oppressions that hinder us from thriving. No one has to wonder if they have the time, money, resources to access to healthcare, plus people have the abundance they need to thrive, to be in their power and access what they need. We are working for collective liberation.*

## Notable Impact to Our Communities

- We've helped change the way juvenile justice is talked about. Creating alternatives to incarceration is now a public issue.
- We've moved the LGBTQ+ movement in Maine to health justice and are pushing our community to have a more liberatory and radically intersectional approach to their advocacy.
- We've been a consistent and steady voice advocating for economic justice.

## Unique Strengths, Skills, and System Impact

- Our weekly member meeting is the cornerstone of our programming. It means that our people have a weekly space that is their own where we share a meal, and folks get to talk through what life is looking like for them in that moment. This is where we do a lot of our political education and where we decide on strategy.

***“Every day we aim to cultivate the queer & trans joy and abundance our members deserve while we build the futures we know are possible - where the whole world reflects what we have created for each other at Portland Outright”***



[www.somalibantumaine.org](http://www.somalibantumaine.org)



## Our Work

We provide means for community members to uplift themselves and each other through collective visioning and have been a proven resource for refugees and immigrant populations in central Maine since it was founded by Somali Bantu elders in 2005.

The Somali Bantu leadership is a flexible, diverse body of decision-makers, who represent different demographics and generations within the community and maintain traditional methods of reaching consensus that strive to reflect the needs of as many people as possible.



**Mission:** To provide vital transitional services, advocacy, and food production that empowers refugee community members to uphold cultural identity and economic well-being to thrive in their new life here in Maine

**Communities Served:** The majority of our stakeholders live in downtown Lewiston/Auburn areas as part of a community of roughly 4,000 people who identify as Somali Bantu - about 1/3 of the nation's population of Somali Bantu people

## Our Vision for Health Equity

*We believe that when people get the support they need to access healthcare in an equitable way, the system will work for everyone. With increased access to resources, it is our belief that clients will experience increased overall health outcomes, which will ultimately lead to higher quality of life, integration and participation within the community, and increased livelihood opportunities. Representation in healthcare and other systems creates more power for individuals and communities and enables the full exercise of our voices and rights*

## Notable Impact to Our Communities

- Liberation Farms, our Community Farming program, providing access to land and resources where farmers grow fresh, chemical-free, culturally relevant produce.
- Our Office and Community Center-based Community Advocacy assistance work with childcare, housing, employment, legal migration, and healthcare.
- Our Youth Program in an intercultural, reciprocal, and intergenerational exchange of Somali Bantu culture and traditional growing practices.

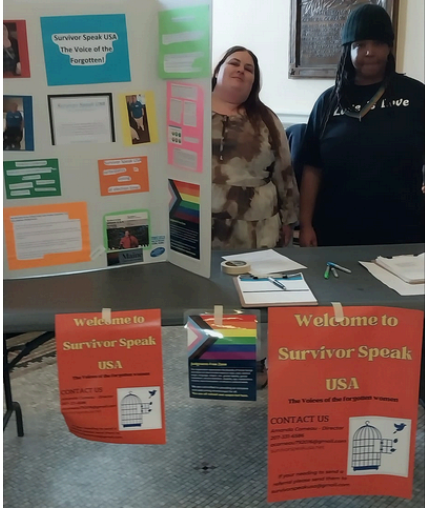
## Unique Strengths, Skills, and System Impact

Our Board of Directors, Executive Director, and majority of staff identify as Somali Bantu and Muslim, with close ties to the community we serve. Therefore, we are uniquely positioned to respond to challenges facing our community, with lived experience and sensitivity to the cultural setting and understanding of how to best create an environment for our people to thrive.

***“Ours is a tight-knit community that has a strong, clear vision about how to improve the lives of Somali Bantu people and immigrants in Maine”***



[www.survivorspeakusa.net](http://www.survivorspeakusa.net)



## Our Work

We encourage, support, and enable survivors to understand the gaps and barriers to success, and to engage with coalitions and decision makers in Maine's anti-trafficking movement.

Our aim is to foster a network of women that provides a place for survivor collaboration on projects and mutual support towards healing and personal growth.

We are developing a cohorts of survivor-leaders who are knowledgeable about the current state of sex trafficking culture and policies, readily equipped to educate, advocate, and mentor fellow survivors, as well as become a valuable resource to organizations and policy makers who share our goal of ending human trafficking and sexploitation in Maine.



**Mission:** Survivor Speak USA is a Maine-based survivor-led organization working to end sex trafficking and sexploitation through centering the experiences, healing, voices, and leadership of survivors

**Communities Served:** Victims of sex trafficking, disproportionately Black, Brown, Indigenous, and young.

## Our Vision for Health Equity

*We envision a transformation of the anti-trafficking movement where survivors are at every decision-making table, at the front of every room where education on the issues is occurring, all stakeholders are addressing root causes, and there is more transparency on racial disparities in child welfare and incarceration*

## Notable Impact to Our Communities

- Survivor Advocacy and Leadership Training follows a multi-faceted curriculum that enables survivors to begin healing, build fellowship, and develop into survivor-leaders. The training involves coaching, mentoring, running workshops and reaching out to community, law enforcement, and law-makers.
- Hosted a virtual Peer support groups during the first years of the COVID-19 and started a new group in partnership with the Cutler Institute called Family Justice, a support group working with parents who have been involved with Child Protective Services. It is peer-to-peer sharing, resources with an emphasis on healing and harm reduction.
- Services have expanded into the Lewiston/Auburn area.

## Unique Strengths, Skills, and System Impact

- The outreach done in community-based and intentional and works to meet people where they are.

***“Survivors have a powerful clarity of how power moves and how oppression works and have an abundance of solutions”***

# Together Place



## Peer Run Recovery Center

[www.togetherplace.org](http://www.togetherplace.org)



### Our Work

We are a place where people in recovery can find support, education, and community. The community sees us as a resource, not only for people who have mental health and substance use issues, but as a public space as well. We have integrated Together Place into the community to reduce stigma.

Our programs include peer run recovery groups, The Creative Recovery Initiative, 2nd Street Diner, and Employment Connections.



**Mission:** Our mission is to empower individuals seeking mental health or substance use recovery support through peer support. We aim to create a safe and inclusive environment where people can find the strength to seek recovery and take control of their mental health journey

**Communities Served:** People in recovery; the community as a whole, especially people who experience poverty and isolation

### Our Vision for Health Equity

*Our members are housed, have adequate food and shelter, and adequate resources to access all they need to maintain their recovery. Everyone who walks through the door is on the same footing as everyone else. This is equity in all services*

### Notable Impact to Our Communities

- The neighborhood festival we organized with Wabanaki Public Health and Wellness and Food as Medicine had close to 800 people in attendance. 32 organizations set up resource tables. The collaboration is part of our effort to lay the foundation for these kinds of partnerships.
- In Bangor, we are getting together as organizations to create a web of care, amplifying each other's events and programs while attending to our own mission.

### Unique Strengths, Skills, and System Impact

- Peer support specialists lift people up and remind them they have dignity, rights, and opportunities.
- Our advocacy is driven by our members and member needs. This has led to new relationships and new funding, such as from Penobscot County to fund a low barrier shelter in Bangor.

***“We are a place where people with challenges can celebrate their creativity, their togetherness.”***



# Wabanaki Public Health & Wellness

www.wabanakiphw.org



**Mission:** To provide community-driven, culturally centered, public health and social services to all Wabanaki communities and people while honoring Wabanaki cultural knowledge, cultivating innovation, and fostering collaboration

**Communities Served:** Four federally recognized tribes in five communities: the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians, the Mi'kmaq Nation, the Passamaquoddy Tribe at Indian Township and Pleasant Pond, and the Penobscot Nation and indigenous people who call Maine home and who want to heal and learn through cultural connection

## Our Vision for Health Equity

*Freedom and visibility - our knowledge is seen, recognized in all sectors of living, and you have the ability to be free to live well. We are represented in sacred spaces, in professions. People can see themselves in places and have a connection, especially youth.*

*We reach equity by building social and political capital, organizational strength, and might.*

## Our Work

**Culture, Connection, and Support Services:** Culture and language are key to protective factors.

**Wabanaki Healing and Recovery:** Treatment and recovery services to support tribal members on their recovery journey. We center culture, ceremony, language, and traditions at the heart of the recovery journey.

**Injury and Violence Prevention:** Aims to prevent intentional and unintentional injury and reduce injury related disability and death by providing culturally appropriate and trauma informed programming.

Wherever you are in your journey, we have a place for you.



## Notable Impact to Our Communities

- During COVID, we hand delivered masks that were otherwise unavailable to New Mainer's Public Health Initiative and wrote a grant for \$1 million with immigrant-led groups to secure further COVID support funding.
- We work through conflict and repair through service. After being told we did not belong in Millinocket, we decided to center the relationship and though patronizing local businesses, working there, and feeding work crews with local food, we were able to start building a relationship that showed our reliability and grew into a collaborative relationship.

## Unique Strengths, Skills, and System Impact

- We are supporting immigrant and refugee communities in doing a health needs assessment in the same model we followed in 2009.
- Two-eyed seeing: The ability to look at the world through both an indigenous perspective and a more western or colonized perspective.
- Trusting, strong relationships with tribal leadership.

***"In order to belong, you need to see yourself in the work; you can't do that without centering culture"***