

**Summary Report of the *Gathering of Native Americans*  
Survey**  
*Nevada Native Youth Community Project*

Prepared by  
RMC Research Corporation  
October 2022

**Overview of the Gathering of Native Americans**

The three-day-long *Gathering of Native Americans* (GONA) was held August 25–27, 2022, in Yerington, NV. It was funded by the Nevada Department of Education’s Native Youth Community Project (NYCP) and facilitated by a team from the Native Wellness Institute. Approximately 20 people participated in the training, including educators; parents, grandparents, and caregivers; community members, and students.

According to the GONA flyer, it is “a time for community members of all ages and stages to come together and check in with each other, grieve and heal together, and learn new tools to live better in balance as family and community.” Separate sessions, ranging from two to four hours long, were provided for youth and community members over the course of the three days. Each session featured conversations and interactive activities.

**Participant Perceptions of the Gathering of Native Americans**

At the conclusion of the GONA, participants were asked to complete a survey (Attachment A). There were 10 respondents, representing a response rate of approximately 50%. The respondents included two educators, six parents/grandparents/caregivers, and two community members. Three parents/grandparents/caregivers also indicated they were community members. Attachment B contains all respondent comments. Due to the small sample size, the results should be interpreted with caution.

Twelve survey items pertained to the quality of the GONA, and 13 survey items pertained to the perceived impact of the GONA on participants’ understanding of key concepts. These results are reported in Tables 1 and 2, respectively. Overall, participant perceptions of the GONA were favorable, with all agreeing, at least somewhat, to 8 of the 12 survey items relating to the quality and content of the GONA. Eighty percent *strongly agreed* that the quality of the GONA was excellent, the presenters were knowledgeable, that their time at the GONA was well spent, and that they would recommend this GONA to a friend. Fewer participants agreed that enough time was allowed to ask presenters questions and talk with other attendees (80% and 70%, respectively).

**Table 1***Participant Perceptions of the Quality of the Gathering of Native Americans*

Item	N Respondents	% Strongly Agree	% Somewhat Agree	% Somewhat Disagree	% Strongly Disagree
Overall, the quality of the GONA was excellent.	10	80	20	0	0
Attending the GONA was helpful.	10	60	40	0	0
The content of the GONA was meaningful to me.	10	60	40	0	0
The GONA was interesting.	10	70	30	0	0
The presenters were knowledgeable.	10	80	20	0	0
The presenters held my attention.	10	70	30	0	0
Enough time was allowed for asking questions of presenters.	10	50	30	20	0
Enough time was allowed for talking with other attendees.	10	50	20	30	0
My knowledge of the content presented increased as a result of my attending the GONA.	10	40	50	10	0
I plan to use what I learned at the GONA.	10	50	40	10	0
I feel that my time at the GONA was well spent.	10	80	20	0	0
I would recommend this GONA to a friend.	10	80	20	0	0

Participants also rated the extent to which their understanding of 13 key concepts increased. At least 85% agreed that their understanding had increased on 11 of the 13 concepts. *All* agreed that their understanding of team and trust building, what it means to be *trauma informed*, and the power of positive thinking had increased. Fewer (67%) agreed that their understanding of behaviors that support recovery had increased.

**Table 2***Participant Perceptions of the Impact of the Gathering of Native Americans on Their Understanding of Key Concepts*

Item	N Respondents	% Strongly Agree	% Somewhat Agree	% Somewhat Disagree	% Strongly Disagree
<b>Attending the GONA increased my understanding of...</b>					
Team and trust building.	9	67	33	0	0
What it means to be <i>trauma informed</i> .	10	80	20	0	0
The characteristics of adult children of alcoholics.	9	44	33	22	0
Roles within the chemically dependent family.	8	38	38	13	0
Behaviors that support recovery.	9	33	33	33	0
The stages of grief.	9	33	56	11	0
The myths of grieving.	9	33	56	11	0
The relationship between the mind, emotions, body, and spirit.	9	56	33	11	0
Healing from trauma.	9	44	44	11	0
The four “directions” of Native wellness: emotional, spiritual, mental, and physical.	9	56	33	11	0
The power of positive thinking.	9	67	33	0	0
Signs of healthy and unhealthy relationships.	9	44	44	11	0
The importance of assertive behaviors.	9	44	44	11	0

Participants were asked to list what they learned at the GONA and how they plan to use what they learned. There were eight responses to these items. Participants reported that they learned to respect others and build community; the value of healing, grieving, and positive thinking; and the *Trauma Web*. Participants reported that they would use what they learned by showing others that they value them, having positive thoughts, and practicing self-awareness.

Participants were asked to provide commentary on topics they would like to learn more about. There were seven responses to this item. Participants noted that they would like to learn more about overcoming trauma, grieving, healing, forgiving, and staying positive. Participants also noted they would like to learn more about colonization and have train-the-trainer sessions that include the youth.

Participants were also asked to provide suggestions to improve the GONA. There were four responses to this item, all of which centered around having more time for the GONA.

### **Summary of the Gathering of Native Americans**

Due to the small sample size, the results presented should be interpreted with caution. Overall, participant perceptions of the GONA were favorable, with all agreeing, at least somewhat, to 8 of the 12 survey items relating to the quality and content of the GONA. Eighty percent *strongly agreed* that the quality of the GONA was excellent, the presenters were knowledgeable, that their time at the GONA was well spent, and that they would recommend this GONA to a friend. Fewer participants agreed that enough time was allowed to ask presenters questions and talk with other attendees. Participants also rated the extent to which their understanding of 13 key concepts increased. At least 85% agreed that their understanding had increased on 11 of the 13 concepts. Attendees offered commentary on topics they learned about, topics they would like to learn more about, and suggestions for improving the GONA.

## Attachment A



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### **Evaluation of the Nevada Native Youth Community Project** Principal Investigator: Elizabeth Bright

#### **GONA PARTICIPANT CONSENT FORM AND SURVEY: AUGUST 2022**

Dear GONA Attendee,

RMC Research Corporation is conducting an evaluation of the Nevada Native Youth Community Project (NYCP). The project is designed to help prepare students for college and careers through intensive counseling and tutoring, parent and family engagement, and community outreach. The project is overseen by the Nevada Department of Education and is funded by the U.S. Department of Education. The purpose of the evaluation is to measure the value and effects of the project; results will be used to document impacts and improve the program.

The GONA in which you have participated is sponsored by the NYCP grant. This survey contains questions about your experiences with GONA. There are no right or wrong answers to the questions on this survey. It is only about what you think is true. About 100 people are expected to take part in this study. Answers to the survey questions are completely confidential, and all responses are combined in our report with those from other participants. Individual answers will not be shared with anyone. No names are used in our report. Any information about you that is collected as part of this research study will not be used or shared in any other research studies. Your participation is voluntary, and you can withdraw your consent and stop participating in the study at any time without any negative consequences. Your decision to participate or not participate in this study will not affect your relationship with the school or the NYCP grant.

If you have any questions about the survey, please raise your hand, and the person giving the survey will help you. If at any time before, during, or after the study you have questions, please contact Dr. Elizabeth Bright, Principal Investigator at RMC Research Corporation, at (800) 762-5001, and she will be happy to answer any questions you have. If you have any questions regarding your rights as a participant in the study, you may contact Solutions IRB (the organization that oversees the protection of study participants) at 1-855-226-4472 or email [participants@solutionsirb.com](mailto:participants@solutionsirb.com).

The survey will take about 10-15 minutes to complete. Please turn in the completed survey to the person giving the survey. Thank you for your participation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Elizabeth H. Bright".

Elizabeth Bright



**3. Attending the GONA increased my understanding of...**

	<b>Strongly Agree</b>	<b>Somewhat Agree</b>	<b>Somewhat Disagree</b>	<b>Strongly Disagree</b>	<b>Doesn't Apply</b>
a. Team and trust building.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. What it means to be <i>trauma informed</i> .	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. The characteristics of adult children of alcoholics.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Roles within the chemically dependent family.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. Behaviors that support recovery.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f. The stages of grief.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g. The myths of grieving.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
h. The relationship between the mind, emotions, body, and spirit.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
i. Healing from trauma.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
j. The four "directions" of Native wellness: emotional, spiritual, mental, and physical.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
k. The power of positive thinking.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
l. Signs of healthy and unhealthy relationships.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
m. The importance of assertive behaviors.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**4. What are the TWO most important things you learned at the GONA?**

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**5. How do you plan to use what you learned at the GONA?**

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**6. What would you like to learn more about?**

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**7. What suggestions do you have for improving your experiences at the GONA?**

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*Thanks for completing this survey!*

## **Attachment B: Participant Comments on Gathering of Native Americans**

### **4. What are the TWO most important things you learned at the GONA?**

- Respect People - even with persons with addictions.
- Interaction, communication. Self healing.
- Energy and power.
- Trauma web. Positive talking.
- That we need more time for GONA!. Our Community needs more effort!
- Healing is important. Grieving is also important.
- How to build community and it's OK to be vulnerable.
- Trauma web from both sides.

### **5. How do you plan to use what you learned at the GONA?**

- Tell my family and friends I love them.
- Value them.
- Self love.
- Positive thoughts.
- I do, as a Member and Council member.
- Share w/others.
- Continue to support community building and health and Wellness work.
- Be aware of characteristics. In myself resulting from trauma.

### **6. What would you like to learn more about?**

- Dealing with past trauma, forgiveness with parents.
- Trauma and grieving.
- Staying positive.
- Community strength.
- Colonization.
- Train the trainer with youth.
- Coping/healing skills to use.

### **7. What suggestions do you have for improving your experiences at the GONA?**

- Longer sessions daily 10 - 2....
- More time.
- More time!
- More time outside with you.