Our UNMC YES program is in its third year. We have been going strong for more than two years in partnership with wonderful schools, teachers and community organizations. We have had many successful programs for Native youth from middle school through undergraduate college students. Thanks to Mrs. Aislinn Rookwood, our YES Program Manager, we now have a robust engagement with the NICE program of the Omaha Public Schools. This is a great model for our sustained commitment to ensuring student success. A similar plan is now beginning to take shape with the Ponca Youth Centers in Nebraska.

The National Cancer Institute, funder of YES, is hoping that our programs will inspire more Native youth to become cancer research professionals down the road. Therefore, exposing students to multiple possibilities of research pathways is paramount. YES interns have gained diverse and meaningful research experiences in public health and biomedical sciences. Their work ranges from research on developing more effective treatments for pancreatic cancer, to studies of how DNA is replicated and how it becomes mutated to cause cancer, to assessing community readiness to address cancer, environmental health research investigating carcinogens in river water, and medical humanities case studies through art-based methods.

October marked our second Cancer Biology and You Day. Students learned about how health behaviors impact cancer risk. Thank you to all who participated! Summer is around the corner, so it is important to begin to identify students who would like to spend a week at UNMC as part of the Weeklong Institute for Students in High School (WISH) Summer Health Professions Education Program (SHPEP).

### YES! Program—Marty Indian School visit: November 21 & 22, 2019

Drs. Godfrey and Kumar visited Marty Indian School in Marty, South Dakota. More than 50 students took part in hands-on-activities related to diabetes, DNA damage and cancer. Students were engaged and discussed a variety of science and wellness themes that provided enrichment beyond their regular class rooms. All of the students stated that they had a great time and expressed a desire to go to college and become health professionals.

### YES! —Ponca Professional Enrichment Program (PEP) Science Night: December 5, 2019

YES! has partnered with the PEP program for several Science Nights. The first Science Night was in Norfolk, Nebraska. Students and families learned about DNA mutations and cancer through strawberry DNA extraction guided by Drs. Godfrey and Kumar.

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**CANCER AWARENESS**

In his lifetime, 1 in 7 men will get prostate cancer. But there’s hope. Close to 100% of men are still alive 5 years after diagnosis.

Men over age 40 or 45, should be screened for prostate cancer as part of their yearly exam

Source: American Cancer Society

**Newsletter Committee**

Regina Idoate
Joyce Solheim
Misty Pocwierz-Gaines
Aislinn Rookwood
Kim Soper
Liliana Bronner
Maurice Godfrey
Shrawan (Sam) Kumar

This project is funded by the NIH-NCI Youth Enjoy Science Research Education Program Grant# R25CA221777
We organized our 2nd Cancer Biology and You day on October 29, 2019. High school students were invited to a one-day event exploring cancer biology and experimental design. Over 50 students took part in this exciting cancer-education and prevention workshop aimed at increasing student achievement in science and awareness about cancer. The participating schools were: the Omaha Public Schools (OPS) - Native Indigenous Centered Education (NICE) Program (Benson High School, Burke High School, Central High School, North High School, and South High School), Nebraska Indian Community College, Tiospa Zina Tribal School, Ponca Tribe of Nebraska Professional Enrichment Program. The goals of this workshop were to: 1. engage students in cooperative learning to practice the scientific method with a clinical case study; 2. provide high school students an opportunity to work with UNMC graduate students to learn problem solving skills; 3. increase student understanding of common cancer risk factors; and 4. increase student awareness of the relevance of cancer biology to their daily lives.
YES! - OPS NICE Elementary Outreach: November 13, 2019

YES! was a partner in the annual OPS—NICE program’s presentations to 4th grade classes at four elementary schools in the Omaha Public Schools district in honor of National Native American Heritage month and as a part of the 4th grade curriculum to learn about Native American history. These presentations were presented to around 50–80 4th grade students at each school. The students learned about the importance of the bison and its many uses, the main tribes in Nebraska, the Medicine Wheel and its teachings, rawhide containers, and the traditional uses of plants as medicine.

YES! iResearch Club—OPS NICE Partnership: October 1, 2019, & November 4-5, 2019

Twenty-eight middle school students from three Omaha Public School (OPS) Native Indigenous Centered Education (NICE) program schools participated in the 1st and 2nd meeting of the YES! Club program. This program is a collaboration between the YES! and NICE programs to engage students in cancer research. Throughout the year, students will participate in an on-going research project following the scientific process. The topic for this year’s project is Citizen Science and Water Quality looking specifically at the contaminants of nitrates and heavy metals such as arsenic which have been linked to cancer. Students have already formed hypotheses and conducted surface water sampling at the Missouri, Platte, and Elkhorn rivers. During the next meeting, students will review the results, learn how statistics can be used to test their hypotheses, and discuss what can be done with these results at the University of Nebraska—Lincoln (UNL) Innovation Campus the last week of January.
UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA MEDICAL CENTER
Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center, Munroe-Meyer Institute & Eppley Institute

ANNOUNCEMENTS/UPCOMING EVENTS/NEWS

1. Board Meeting: Delta Hotel – Marriott, South Sioux City, NE
   Friday, January 17, 2020
   Time: 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

2. YES! - OPS-NICE Middle School Club Event: UNL—Innovation Campus, Lincoln, NE
   Friday, January 31, 2020
   Time: 8:30 am—2:30 pm

3. Scholarship Boot Camp: UNMC, Omaha, NE
   Saturday, January 18, 2020
   Time: 11:00 am—8:00 pm

4. YES! Teacher Workshop: UNMC, Omaha, NE
   June TBA 2020

5. YES! WISH Program: UNMC, Omaha, NE
   Sunday, June 7 – Saturday, June 13, 2020

6. YES! STEAM Camp Program: UNMC, Omaha, NE
   Monday, June 22 – Thursday, June 25, 2020

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UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA MEDICAL CENTER
Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center,
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JANUARY 2020 NEWSLETTER

Student & Community Art Exhibits for National Native American Heritage Month: November

YES! students who participated in the STEAM Camp artwork June 24th-28th had two exhibits of their collection titled “The Body and Mind of Cancer.” The first exhibit was a part of the “Expanding the Circle” exhibition in the Metropolitan Community College Fort Omaha Campus, Building 21 (The Mule Barn) open during the Fort Omaha Intertribal Pow Wow. The second exhibit was on display at the University of Nebraska-Omaha Criss Library as part of a larger collection of Native American community and student artwork provided by Steve Tamayo, Tracy Hartman-Bradley, Alfonza W. Davis Middle School students, and Field Club Elementary students. Bryan High School students worked with OPS NICE specialist, Tara Burnette, and local professional artist, Anne Steinhoff (Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska), to create a collection of modern Native American-themed collages titled “Oyate” on exhibit in the UNMC Maurer Center for Public Health.