

There's Heart Here (short documentary)
See Us. Stand With Us. (educational video)

One Sheet

Project: IHS Education and Outreach Initiative focusing on the Two Spirit and LGBTQ Community

Goal: To improve health outcomes for indigenous people who identify as Two Spirit or LGBTQ.

Narrative: People often stigmatize things they don't understand. This includes sexual orientation and gender identity. In an effort to destigmatize and create new understandings of sexual orientation and gender identity in American Indian and Alaska Native people, the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board is creating an education and outreach initiative to show the beauty and diversity of this community. The primary audience for the completed set of assets is health care providers serving indigenous Americans who identify as Two Spirit or LGBTQ. The theme guiding this project is, "To treat me, you have to know who I am."



The resulting print campaign, documentary film (10-12 minutes), and testimonial video (2-4 minutes) are meant to catalyze a deeper understanding of the Two Spirit and LGBTQ experience, especially as it relates to that community receiving high quality medical treatment. It will also feature the reflections and experiences of those providing health care to indigenous, Two Spirit or LGBTQ patients and clients. Participants from both rural and urban settings will be featured, including individuals living in Oregon, Seattle, Oklahoma, and North Dakota.

The goal for the documentary film component of the project is to provide a nuanced, personal reading of the indigenous, Two Spirit and LGBTQ experience through the first-hand stories of those who are a part of this community and the medical providers who treat them. Selected experiences and activities of each participant will be documented. Interviews will communicate the experiences of the participants and activities will communicate the shape of the participants' life, work, interests, culture, family, and friends as well as their dealings with health care providers and clinics. The documentary will take advantage of the strength of the form to promote in the viewer a deeper understanding of the participants as multi-dimensional and relatable people who need access to quality health care treatment.

The goal for the testimonial video is to offer the viewer personal reflections on and best practices for approaching the care of Two Spirit and LGBTQ patients and clients. It will feature excerpts from interviews with several participants, including both providers and patients. The strategy will be to highlight common threads and points of connection between the speakers, present a comparison/contrast between their stories where present, and articulate culturally sensitive approaches to the treatment of Two Spirit and LGBTQ people in both rural and urban settings.

Sample documentary story: L is a transwoman from Oklahoma. In her interview, L reports that her experience of receiving health care at the area clinic has been positive and her providers have been proactive in assisting her with her gender-affirming transition. We will hear her discuss specifics about how her providers approach their care. We will see her training a team of bicyclists, including her sister, for the "Remember the Removal" bike ride; a 950 mile ride tracing the route of the Trail of Tears. We will see L on her community college campus studying between classes and interacting with friends.

Contact: Morgan Thomas at 850-748-3458 or mthomas@npaihb.org.