

LARRY MURILLO BIOGRAPHY

Larry Murillo is Shoshone from Fort Hall, Idaho on his mother's side and Guamara from Mexico on his father's side. He is an Assistant Professor at Idaho State University and the Director of the Master of Public Health Program in the Department of Health and Nutrition Sciences. Prior to his work in Idaho he



worked with Oregon Health and Science University for three years and was associated with the One Sky Center. Dr. Murillo recently completed a two-year grant from the National Institute of Alcohol Abuse Administration to study Native American Health Disparity. Larry received his doctoral degree in Public Health from the University of California, Berkeley. His research interest is Native American culture and how it contributes to public health. He has written a position paper on Native American Cultural Health Care for the National Institute of Health's National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine. "Native American Public Health Issues" is a course he taught for three years in the school of public health at Berkeley. Dr. Murillo has worked for over 25 years with various Native American communities as a public health educator and community organizer. His specialized experience includes organizing Native American cultural health gatherings, program planning and evaluation using cultural based interventions, and interpreting information about healing and traditional health practices.

As a cultural health educator he has developed health promotion disease prevention programs in the areas of Maternal Child Health, AIDS, Tobacco Education, Diabetes, and Obesity. Using a cultural health model he developed a 10-year plan to prevent obesity by using a model that included medical, fitness, environmental, ethnic nutrition, cultural health practices, epidemiology and media advocacy services. The program was designed to account for the context of health and life experience of the Navajo, Hopi and Paiute people in Tuba City, Arizona.

Larry has been honored as a keynote speaker at several California Statewide and national health conferences. Larry and a group of aerobic volunteers were awarded 4 national awards named after Jim Thorpe for obesity prevention work they accomplished in Tuba City, Arizona. His recently completed dissertation is entitled "American Indian and Alaska Native Traditional Health Practices: Providing a Socio-Cultural Context for Health Care and Implications for Health Disparity. His latest publication is a chapter in the book "Healing and Mental Health for Native Americans: Speaking in Red." The chapter is called "Perspectives on Traditional Health Practices." Dr. Murillo was invited to address a national conference sponsored by the National Science Foundation and the National Center on Science and the Environment.