

PREP@UAZ

By Tiffani Begay



Top: 2019-2020 cohort and staff at the 2019 SACNAS Conference in Honolulu, HI.

Middle: 2020-2021 cohort

Bottom: 2018-2019 cohort

The Postbaccalaureate Research Education Program at the University of Arizona (PREP@UAZ) is a year-long program funded through the National Institute of General Medical Sciences and is aimed towards strengthening participants' research skills and working towards being competitive applicants in their matriculation into a biomedical science graduate program. There are currently 36 PREP institutions in the US. Of those 36, PREP@UAZ is the only one primarily focused on American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) students.

PREP@UAZ seeks to provide AI/AN and minority scholars with a rigorous research and educational program that honors Indigenous perspectives and nurtures a strong sense of well-being and belonging as well as increasing the diversity of PhD-level scientists. PREP@UAZ is in its third year and has been successful in having all previous participants accepted into graduate school.

This past June, PREP@UAZ accepted the 2020-2021 cohort. COVID-19 has been challenging for not only staff but students. Students faced challenges such as moving from a different state, finding apartments, and laboratory rotations. Despite these challenges, PREP@UAZ has persevered and is continuously adapting. This Spring, PREP@UAZ has accepted their 2021-2022 cohort and the new cohort will be starting their orientation and lab rotations this summer.

Tiffani Begay (Diné) from Dilkon, Arizona, was the Senior Program Coordinator for the PREP@UAZ for three years. Ms. Begay holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Exercise and Wellness from Arizona State University and a Master of Public Health degree in Health Services Administration from the University of Arizona.

Ms. Begay started working with undergraduates when she was hired as the program coordinator for the Partnership for Native American Cancer Prevention (NACP) Research Education Core in 2013, of which, she coordinated along with PREP@UAZ. Ms. Begay's seven years of experience have given her the opportunity to succeed not only professionally but academically as well.

Dr. Margaret Briehl, PREP@UAZ Program Director and new Senior Program Coordinator Ms. Carolina Pineda are continuously working towards giving the scholars confidence to succeed in their academic and professional journeys.



For more information visit:

<https://pathology.arizona.edu/uaprep>

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