

Jani C. Ingram, Ph.D. Regents' Professor Chemistry & Biochemistry Department Northern Arizona University

Jani C. Ingram, PhD is a Regents' Professor of the Chemistry & Biochemistry Department, and her research focuses on investigating environmental contaminants with respect to their impact on health in at risk populations.

A critical aspect of her research is to foster collaborations with the Native American community and leaders to build trust and gain insights into their health concerns. She works with a diverse group of students in her research. This diversity represents students with different ethnic backgrounds, academic disciplines, and sexual orientations as well as where they are in their academic careers (middle school to graduate students).

She is a member of the Navajo Nation (born to the Náneesht' ézhi clan) and has been involved in outreach activities for Native American students in K-12, undergraduate, and graduate research. She is the principal investigator of the Partnership for Native American Cancer Prevention and the director of the Bridges to Baccalaureate program. She was named the 2018 recipient of the American Chemical Society Award for Encouraging Disadvantaged Students into Careers in the Chemical Sciences. She received an associate degree from Yavapai College, a Bachelor of Science degree in chemistry from New Mexico State University, and a doctoral degree in chemistry from the University of Arizona. She was a staff scientist at the Idaho National Laboratory for twelve years before joining the faculty at Northern Arizona University in 2002.

Her passion is to translate environmental chemistry research to impact the health of at risk populations. She is a trained analytical chemist who works across disciplinary boundaries. Her work provides solutions to complex environmental health issues including community-driven concerns stemming from environmental injustice issues for tribal communities, such as dealing with legacy mining as a result of the Cold War. To add to the intricacies surrounding environmental justice, the living conditions for some Native communities resemble third world countries with the lack of power, water, internet, and health care. As a member of the Navajo Nation, she is particularly interested in working with Native American communities. She has unique insights from an intersectional position that includes both Indigenous and scientific perspectives. She has established a sustained, externally-funded research program at NAU that focuses on environmental health in Native American communities since coming to Flagstaff. She has built a network of collaborators from a variety of disciplines and institutions in order to address important Native American health-related issues including cancer, COVID-19, and other health inequities.