

Meet the Panelists and Meeting Facilitator

Native Spirituality: Creating Time and Space for Trauma Recovery and Wellness

**Chief Mutáwi Mutáhash (Many Hearts)
Dr. Marilynn “Lynn” Malerba
Mohegan Tribe**



Chief Mutáwi Mutáhash (Many Hearts) Marilynn “Lynn” Malerba became the 18th Chief of the Mohegan Tribe on August 15, 2010 and is the first female Chief in the Tribe’s modern history. The position is a lifetime appointment made by the tribe’s Council of Elders. Dr. Malerba follows in the footsteps of many strong role models in the Mohegan Tribe, including her mother, Loretta Roberge, who holds the position of Tribal Nonner (elder female of respect), as well as her great-grandfather, Chief Matagha (Burrill Fielding). Prior to becoming Chief, she served as Chairwoman of the Tribal Council and served in tribal government as Executive Director of Health and Human Services.

Preceding her work for the Mohegan Tribe, Dr. Malerba had a lengthy career as a registered nurse, ultimately as the Director of Cardiology and Pulmonary Services at Lawrence + Memorial Hospital. She earned a doctorate of nursing practice at Yale University and was named a Jonas Nurse Scholar. She holds an honorary doctorate from the University of St. Joseph in West Hartford, Connecticut, and a master’s degree in public administration from the University of Connecticut.

Dr. Malerba is Chairwoman of the Tribal Self-Governance Advisory Committee of the federal Indian Health Service (IHS), a member of the U.S. Department of Justice’s Tribal Nations Leadership Council, a member of the Tribal Advisory Committee for the National Institute of Health, a member of the U.S. Department of the Treasury’s Tribal Advisory Committee, Secretary of the United South & Eastern Tribes Board of Directors, and a member of the Board of Directors for the Ms. Foundation for Women. Locally, she serves as a Trustee for Chelsea Groton Bank, a Board member for the Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut, and an Advisory Committee member for the Harvard University Native American Program and served on the Board of Directors for Lawrence + Memorial Hospital for 11 years.

Dr. Malerba published “The Effects of Sequestration on Indian Health Funding” in the *Hastings Center Report* in 2013 and authored two chapters in *American Indian Health and Nursing* (edited by Margaret P. Moss, Springer Publishing Company) in 2015.

Dr. Malerba lives in Niantic with her husband, Paul. They have two adult daughters, Elizabeth and Angela, and a granddaughter, Taylor.

July 29, 2021

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**Jennifer 'Healing Waters' Harding
Herring Pond Wampanoag Tribe
Tribal Council Member**

Jennifer 'Healing Waters' Harding, serves her Herring Pond Wampanoag Tribal community as the Tribal Administrative Assistant, Tribal Health, Wellness, and Prevention Nurse, Tribal Youth Educator, as well as Tribal Council Member.

As Tribal Nurse, Jennifer is currently focused on implementing the training she has been doing around substance use disorder, including providing individual and community Narcan training and Narcan distribution for any and all Tribal members. She is soon starting a grief support group for Tribal members who have lost a loved one due to SUD.

She is also responsible for the development and directing of programs, lesson plans, and curriculum to educate the Tribal youth through the Tribe's TEK project, bringing her traditional and cultural knowledge of the land, and all of its resources, to the youth.

Jennifer previously worked with the Wampanoag Language Reclamation Project (WLRP) for 10 years, becoming fluent in the Wampanoag language, and becoming a community language teacher. She directed and organized Summer Camps for the children, as well as serving as the summer camp nurse; she also helped to launch and open the Weetumuw school in 2016, where she co-taught children ages 3-8, in addition to her role as the Weetumuw School Nurse.

Meet the Panelists and Meeting Facilitator



Mike Duncan
Maidu/ Wailaki / Wintun and
Western Band Shoshone

Mike Duncan is an enrolled member of Round Valley Indian Tribes. His tribal heritage is Maidu/Wailaki/Wintun and Western Band Shoshone. Mr. Duncan experienced many of the challenges faced by Indigenous native communities when confronted with lack of culturally and linguistically sensitive services (i.e., prolongation of stigmas, on-going isolation, discriminative and inappropriate healing modalities).

In 2012 Mike Duncan founded Native Dads Network and is currently the CEO. The Native Dads Network vision (i.e., *ideal future*) is to address, reduce, and ultimately eliminate the cycle of addiction, domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse, incarceration, suicide, poverty, homelessness, and mental illnesses, among other interpersonal harmful behaviors and societal stressors affecting the well-being of our native communities.

In this time Mike has facilitated the “Fatherhood/Motherhood is Sacred” curriculum with great success and has helped create a network of Fatherhood/Motherhood groups in Northern California. He has worked in urban and rural Tribal communities conducting workshops discussing topics such as – Fatherhood/Motherhood Is Sacred, Historical/Intergenerational Trauma, Cultural Competency, Substance Abuse prevention, Suicide prevention and Healthy Relationships. He has used these topics and personal stories to help participants look at barriers and to encourage traditional teachings as solutions.

At Native Dads Network, Duncan focuses on Indigenous traditions as he speaks with both men and women working to overcome addiction, improve their relationships, and become better parents. He encourages participants to learn more about their own tribes and to connect with their roots through prayer and ceremony. Mike is certified as CADC II substance abuse counselor and lives in Northern California.

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**Holly Echo-Hawk
Pawnee Nation
Tribal Behavioral Health SME
New England MHTTC**



The meeting facilitator for the Native Spirituality session is Holly Echo-Hawk. Holly is a former tribal and mainstream behavioral health director with over 30 years of experience in mental health and substance abuse treatment services. An author of tribal best practices, Ms. Echo-Hawk has advised over 100 tribal and Indigenous health programs across Indian Country and Indigenous world. She is a board member of the International Initiative for Mental Health Leadership (IIMHL) and served as the U.S. co-host for the International Indigenous Mental Health Leadership convening held in Washington DC in 2019. She attended the University of Oklahoma, the University of Texas at Austin, and the California School of Professional Psychology. She earned a Master of Science degree in Organizational Behavior within a school of psychology.

Holly Echo-Hawk was born and raised in Pawnee, Oklahoma and is an enrolled member of the Pawnee Nation of Oklahoma. She can be reached by email at echohawk@pacifier.com or by phone at (360) 737-4747.