

Using evaluation to strengthen institutional collaborations in the Partnership for Native American Cancer Prevention



Overview and Brief History of NACP

- UACC, NAU (and tribal nations)
- First funding cycle
2002-2007
- Second funding cycle
2009-2014

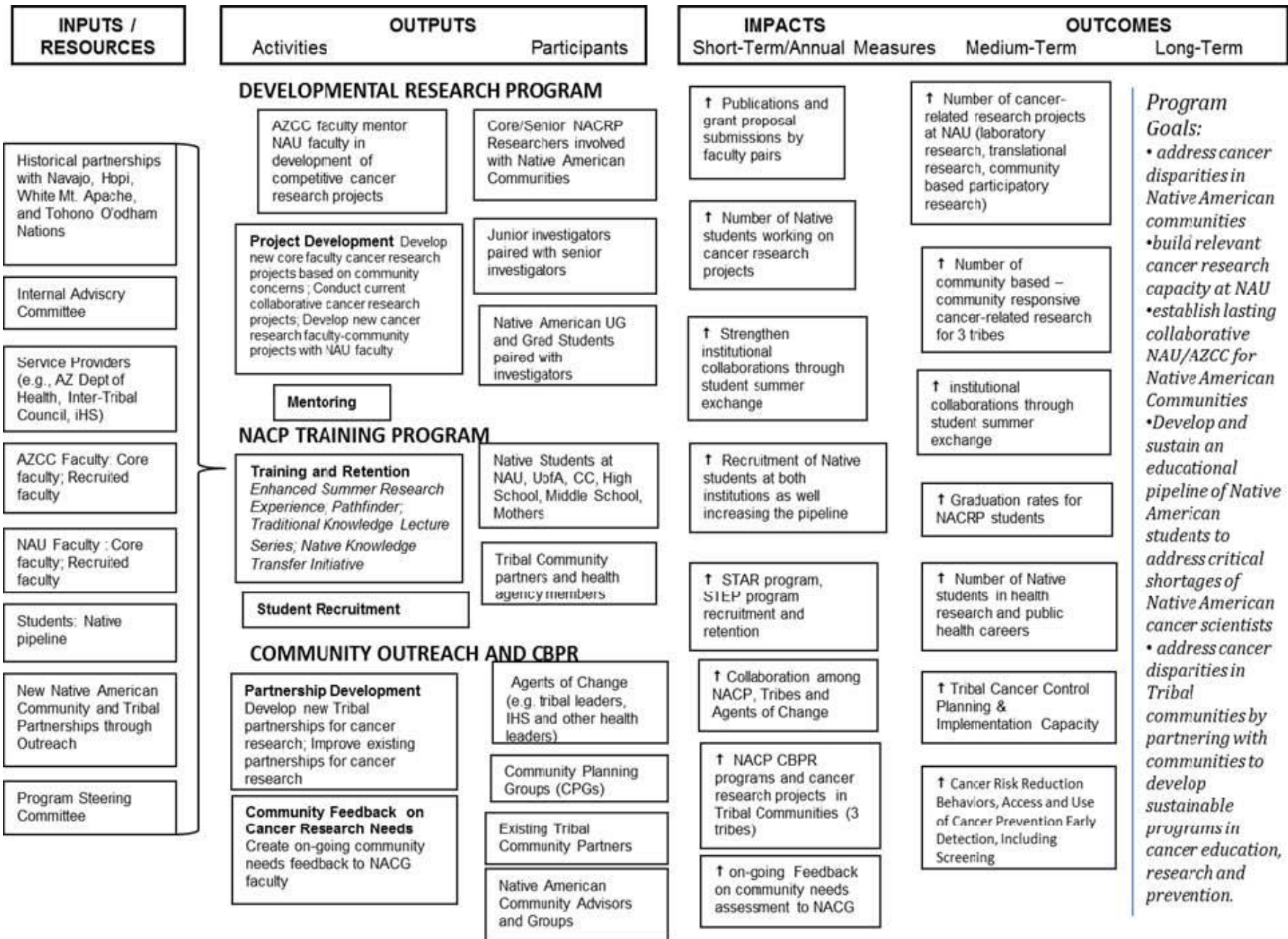


NORTHERN
ARIZONA
UNIVERSITY

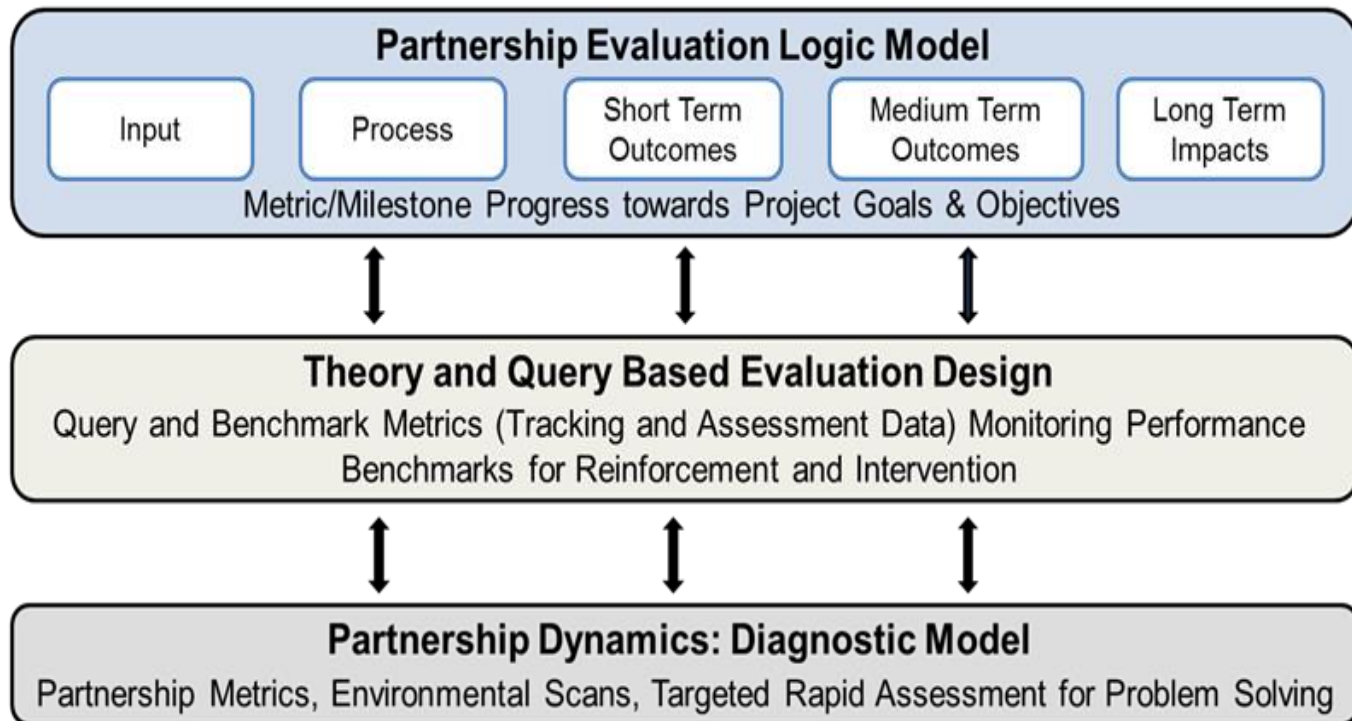


Challenges for institutional and community partnerships

- Differences in institutional capacity and research infrastructure
- Differences in faculty roles and rewards (institutional missions and culture)
- Intersection of our community engagement with government-to-government relations between state and tribal nations
- ***Evaluation program designed to explore and manage these challenges***

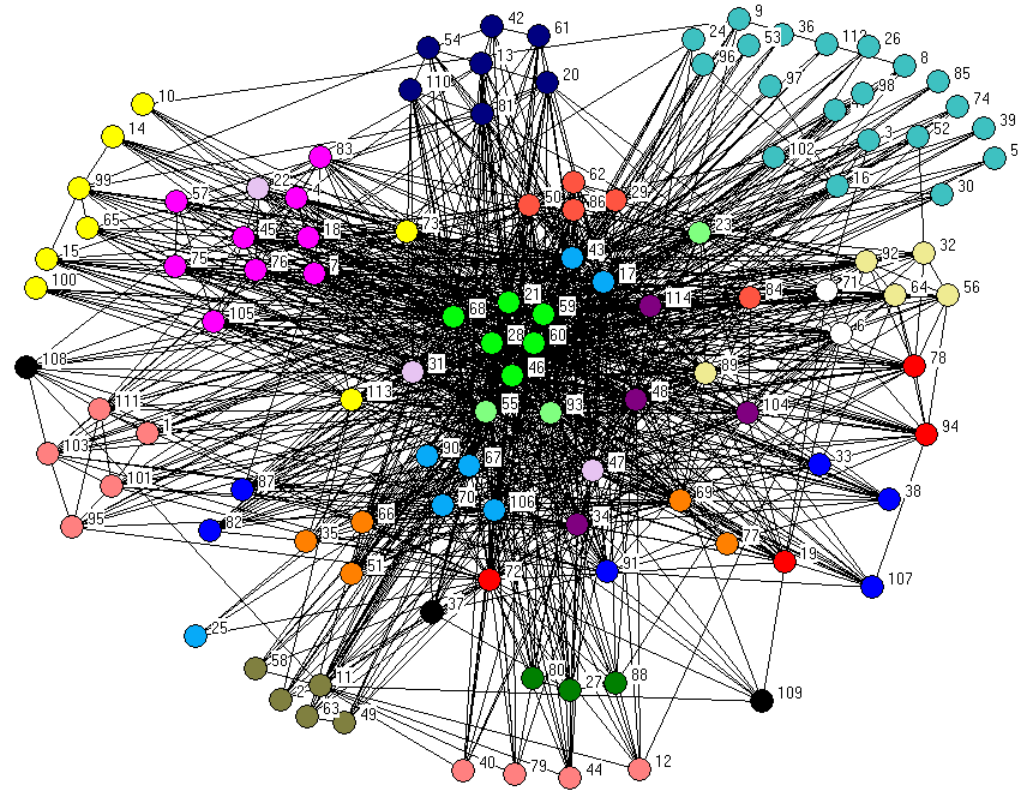


Integrated Evaluation Model for NACP



Evaluation Model in NACP: Partnership Function and Health

- Frequency of communication and of working together
- Perceived importance of work done together
- Perceived trust



*Data analysis utilized UCINET, Key Player, Netdraw, and SPSS programs. The full empirical data is available in a special report: Year 2 Partnership Dynamics and Progress

Evaluation Model in NACP: Data Collection

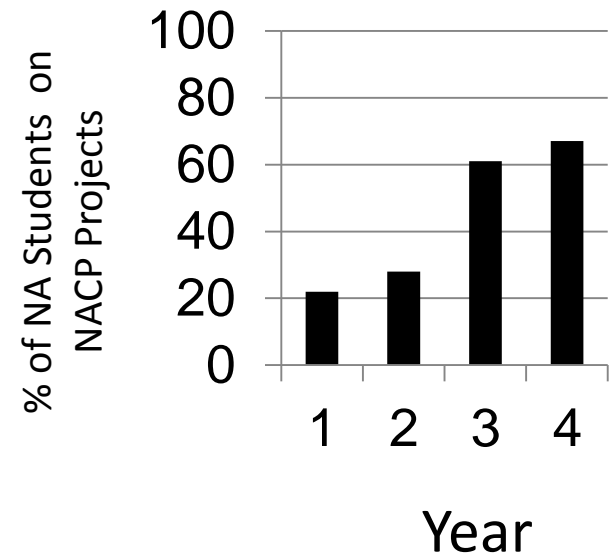
- Periodic reports on publications, proposals, conference presentations
- Detailed data on and from student trainees, mentors (including Nat'l Clearinghouse tracking)
- Detailed data on community outreach activities and interactions
- Detailed annual reports on interactions within partnership
- On-line reporting and surveys, focus groups, observation of annual and monthly meetings

Evaluation Model in NACP: Feedback to PI's

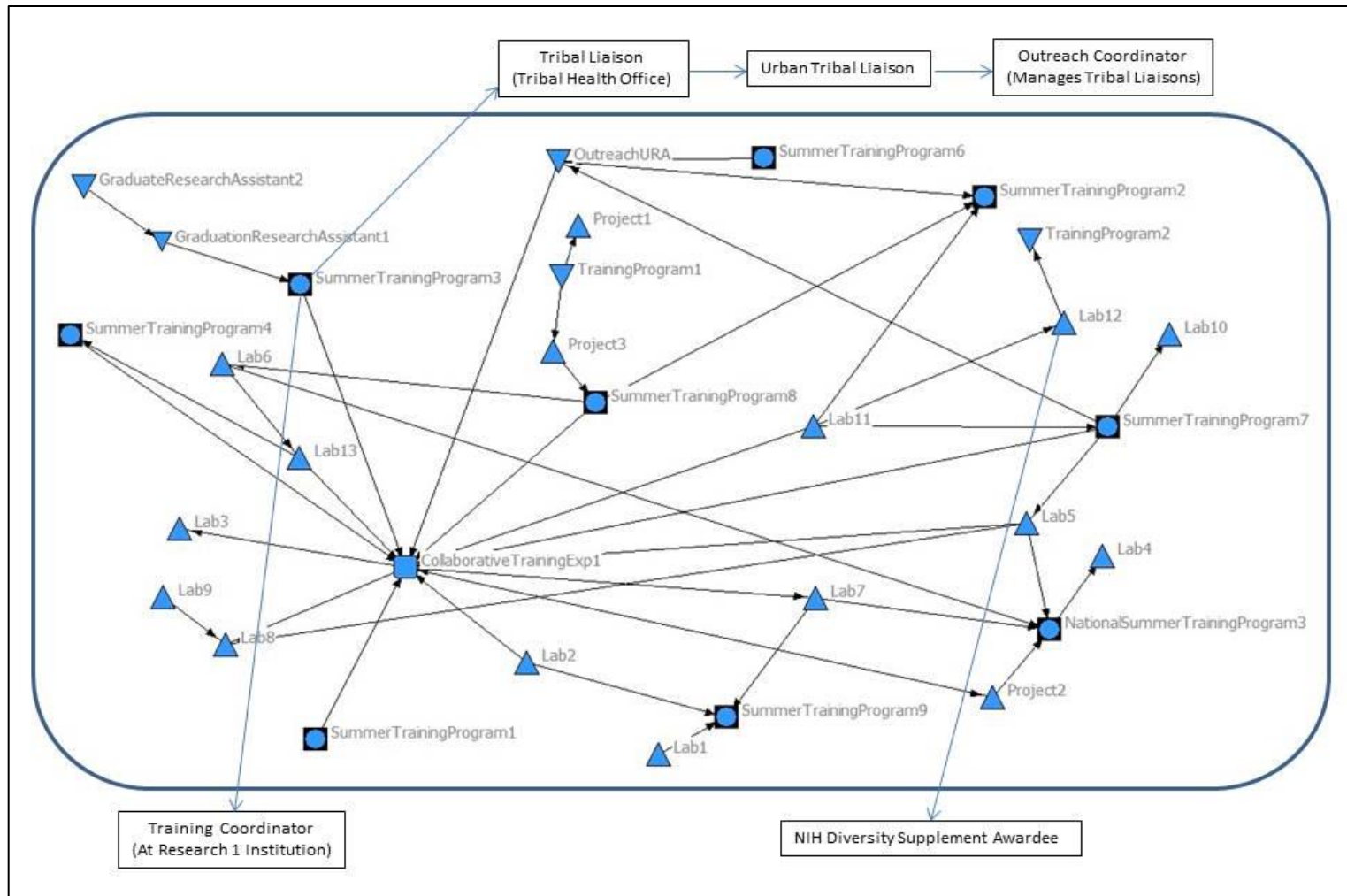
- Monthly, quarterly, annual reports
- Participation in annual planning meetings, IAC, PSC meeting materials
- Frequent interaction with specific program teams, providing data for use in proposals
- Monthly executive committee review and discussion
- Collaboration with PI's over evaluation datasets of potential value

Evaluation Impacts: Training Program

- Tracking numbers and percentages of AIAN students – feedback to PI's and teams
- Reports of activities benefiting students most – modifications of summer exchanges etc.
- Feedback on mentors' activities and effectiveness
- Pilot data from STEP summer program used for Bridges to Baccalaureate R25



Evaluation Impacts: Changing Concept of Pipeline Model



Evaluation Impacts:

Research Collaboration Productivity

- Papers and grant proposals are *trailing* indicators of productivity
- *Leading indicators* include student presentations, joint mss preparation, meetings, etc.
- New tool (based on *Excel* pivot tables in publication database) gives instant indication of mss that are not advancing
- Evaluation data have pointed to needed university improvements in research infrastructure at NAU (VPR Health Research Initiatives, regional collaborations in clinical and population research = THRIVE)

Evaluation Impacts: Engagement with Community Partners

- Evaluation often reviewed as research by tribes
- Assessment of kinds, number of interactions with different community partners led to:
 - Different ways of seeking research priorities (participation in conference, visits on sites vs original advisory board concept)
 - Need for PI cultural competence building
 - Evolving concept of CPBI, now viewed as tribal capacity building to partner with different communities in different ways
- Evaluation data provided to community partners as significant resource for their grant-writing, presentations, planning efforts

Distinctive Challenges for Evaluation of Native American-serving Programs

- Small numbers make it difficult to access national benchmarks (eg from NSF Surveys)
- Differences among tribes (eg in cancer incidence) exacerbate difficulties of understanding disparities and measuring impacts
- Tribal government ownership and use of data may conflict with NCI or university expectations

Native American Cancer Prevention: Making a Difference By and For Native Americans

David S. Alberts, MD - Principal Investigator, UACC

Laura Foster Huenneke, PhD - Principal Investigator, NAU

Jesse Martinez, PhD - Research PI, UACC

Diane Stearns, PhD - Research PI, NAU

Margaret Briehl, PhD – Training PI, UACC

Jani Ingram, PhD (Navajo) - Training, NAU

Teshia Solomon, PhD (Choctaw) – Outreach PI, UACC

Octaviana Trujillo, PhD (Pascua Yaqui) – Outreach PI, NAU

Robert Trotter III, PhD – Evaluation, NAU



Special Credits to our Evaluation Team

- Robert Trotter, NAU Regents' Professor
- Kelly Laurila
- Alejandra Figueroa
- Laurie Rogers

