



Department of
Human Services
UNIVERSITY of ALASKA ANCHORAGE

February 14th, 2024

Dr. Sudarsan Rangarajan, Chair
Elizabeth Tower Endowment
Department of Languages, ADM 279
University of Alaska Anchorage
Anchorage, AK 99508
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Dear Dr. Rangarajan,

I humbly submit this letter in application for Round II of the Elizabeth Tower Faculty Award 2023-2024 for Research, Study, or Presentation in or about Canada. I am applying for this award to expand upon my research on the Culturally Responsive healthcare frameworks implemented in health organizations based in Saskatchewan, Canada. The visit will advance my work with Canadian Indigenous communities, through further collaboration with professors of the University of Regina, the University of Saskatchewan, First Nations University, Tribal council members who oversee healthcare delivery methods, and Traditional Healers who deliver care.

My goal is to compare and contrast the Culturally Responsive healthcare framework in Saskatchewan with the Culturally Responsive and Trauma-Informed (CRTI) curriculum I am developing in the UAA College of Health, Department of Human Services in partnership with the Eklutna Community of Alaska. The CRTI curriculum utilizes Saskatchewan's framework as a guide to help health professional students understand Indigenous views and goals on health. The collaborative efforts between the professors, healers, and steering council members contribute greatly to the CRTI curriculum at UAA.

I was honored to receive the Elizabeth Tower Award last spring, which helped tremendously with my establishment of relationships with scholars in Saskatchewan and gaining a better understanding of the tribal healthcare system therein. I am seeking to deepen my research focus through a comparative case study method.

The Elizabeth Tower Faculty Award will support the following project objectives:

1. Conduct site visits of Canadian educational settings and tribal health clinics that deliver Culturally Responsive healthcare with the guidance of indigenous elders and/or tribal councils.
2. Engage with Canadian education leaders such as the Office of the Dean of the Indigenous Health Department within the University of Saskatchewan's College of Medicine to document the history


of traditional health in Canada and to understand how indigenous health serves as a curriculum framework.

3. Continue to translate Canada's Culturally Responsive healthcare practice knowledge base of the University of Saskatchewan, University of Regina, First Nations University, and local Tribal Health Organizations into UAA Humans Services CRTI online training modules and curriculum.
4. Continue to disseminate knowledge of the Canadian model throughout the College of Health and health care community in Alaska.
5. Disseminate Canadian Indigenous knowledge in papers I am preparing for publication including a background statement showing how the Elizabeth Tower Award contributed to the continued collaboration with Canada and expansion of the CRTI model within the state of Alaska.

I anticipate a budget of \$5,000. The funds through the Elizabeth Towers Award will support my travel to Saskatchewan for site visits, networking, documentation of data, as well as per diem for 14 days. A rental car will be necessary in this situation as I will be traveling to remote rural locations on tribal land and a rental car will allow me to travel to these locations promptly which is respectful of my Canadian host's time. I will also apply to other University sources to support further travel. I plan to expend all funds by December 31st, 2024.

Item	Daily Rate	# of Days/Nights	Total
Airfare	900.00	x1 trip	\$900.00
Lodging	120.00	x14 nights	\$1680.00
Meal Per Diem	50.00	x14 days	\$700.00
Car Rental	80.00	x14 days	\$1120.00
Fuel	90.00	x3 refuelings	\$270.00
Other: Ceremonial Gifts for Tribal Hosts	330.00	n/a	\$330.00
Total:			\$5000

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:
 2/15/2024
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Jessica Ross, MEdTL, RDH
 Assistant Professor
 Department of Human Services
 University of Alaska Anchorage

“Chin’an gu ninyu”- Thank you, you came here in Upper Cook Inlet Dena’ina