



Photo by Nikolle Dasey

Camie Jae Goldhammer is one of only a few Native American International Board Certified Lactation Consultants in the United States, and it is she who created an Indian-friendly breastfeeding outreach program for Native American women.

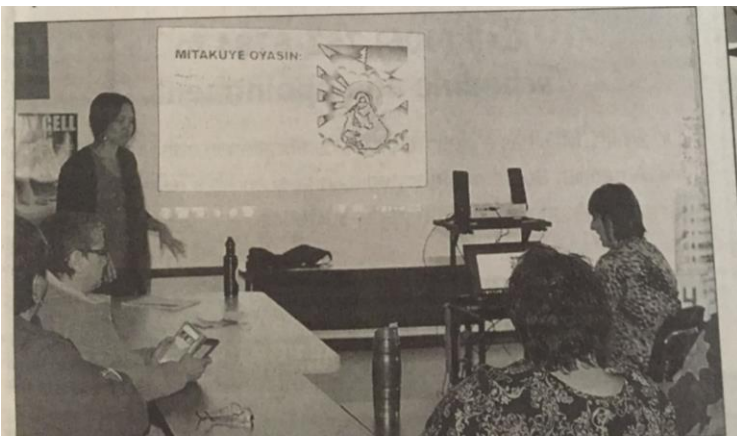


Photo by Nikolle Dasey

Blackfeet Community College played host to the AI/AN CHAMPS breastfeeding presentation and training, called "All My Relations: Health and Healing Through Breastfeeding."

## Blackfeet Community College hosts advanced breastfeeding presentation and training

By JOHN MCGILL  
Glacier Reporter Editor

Last week, Blackfeet Community College (BCC) hosted a presentation and training session by the American Indian and Alaska Native Communities and Hospitals Advancing Maternity Practices (AI/AN CHAMPS). "AI/AN CHAMPS is a breastfeeding-focused initiative geared toward improving maternal and child health outcomes through the promotion of Baby-Friendly practices in Tribal and Alaska Native Hospitals and the communities that surround them," reads a description on their website.

Blackfeet Community Hospital enjoys being one of only three Baby-Friendly hospitals in Montana, having been certified in November 2014, at that time the second hospital so designated. The training at BCC included nursing staff from IHS who were receiving their competency training in breastfeeding.

Kirsten Krane of CHAMPS explained the program works

across the United States in communities of color, but the breastfeeding education program had been created "by white women for white women. So we're looking to do that through the lens of Native American people," Krane said. The result was a program developed by Camie Jae Goldhammer, LICSW, MSW, IBCLC, CLE (Sisseton-Wahpeton), founder and chair of the Native American Breastfeeding Coalition of Washington, a member of the Native American Women's Dialogue on Infant Mortality, a member of the Center for Social Inclusion's First Food Social Equity Cohort, and a founding member of the National Association of Professional and Peer Lactation Supporters of Color. Camie received her Master's of Social Work degree from the University of Washington in 2006, specializing in attachment, bonding and complex trauma, and focusing the majority of her clinical social work in positions serving Washington State's Native community and with

King County Public Health's WIC and Maternity Support Services.

Goldhammer emphasizes issues specific to Indian Country, Krane said, and she is traveling to different Native American communities with her presentation and training. Her work focuses on the effects of historical and complex traumas on American Indian/Alaska Native families, inequity in breastfeeding support and food/tribal sovereignty through breastfeeding.

Locally, Krane said AI/AN CHAMPS is working with the CHR program and Blackfeet Tribal Health to help improve the Tribe's policies for nursing moms, allowing more time before new mothers return to work and providing private spaces for mothers to pump milk for their babies.

In addition, Krane reports Browning Public Schools is in the process of adopting a District breastfeeding policy, and Blackfeet Community College is following suit with a policy aimed at both students and staff members.