



TRIBAL HEALTH

TRANSFORMING INDIGENOUS HEALTHCARE

Tribal Health Names Timian Godfrey as Director of Clinical Research

Appointment Advances Mission to Build Indigenous-Led Research Infrastructure Across Tribal Communities

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. (June 3, 2026) – Tribal Health, the leader in healthcare solutions for underserved communities, today announced the appointment of Dr. Timian Godfrey (Diné) as Director of Clinical Research. In this role, Godfrey will lead efforts to build a research infrastructure that centers Indigenous health needs and priorities in evidence, policy, and practice.

A member of the Navajo Nation, Godfrey brings to the role more than 20 years of deep engagement with Tribal community health. A Board-certified Family Nurse Practitioner, she has served as a nurse practitioner in emergency healthcare for rural and Tribal communities, and an Associate Clinical Professor at the University of Arizona College of Nursing. There she serves as project director for federal grant programs aiming to increase the number of underrepresented nurses in the workforce.

Tribal Health CEO Morgan Haynes noted that Godfrey's appointment reflects Tribal Health's ongoing commitment to expanding its clinical and behavioral health services in ways that center Indigenous voices.

"Timian's vision aligns perfectly with Tribal Health's mission to transform healthcare in underserved areas," Haynes said. "Her career has been shaped by firsthand work in Tribal nations — listening to the community, navigating healthcare complexities in rural and reservation settings, and advocating for care models that honor Native sovereignty. Her ability to connect deeply with communities while driving rigorous clinical work is unparalleled. There's no one better to establish the partnerships necessary to build the evidence base for Indigenous health and ensure that evidence informs culturally grounded, community-driven solutions."

Tribal Health President Whittney LaCroix (Lakota Sicangu Oyate) mentioned that Godfrey's versatile work will complement the organization's broader mission of delivering culturally integrated care in Indigenous and rural communities.

"Timian's approach deepens her connection to the communities she serves, but it also reflects our values as an organization," LaCroix stated. "In addition to mentoring health professional students from underrepresented backgrounds, she is actively involved in health policy development through the Arizona State Office of Rural Health. We are so impressed with her multidimensional approach to healthcare transformation – and we know her rare combination of clinical precision and community trust will be foundational as we develop new innovations to solve health disparities."

Godfrey earned a Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree from Johns Hopkins University, focusing on public health training in the Bloomberg School of Public Health and specializing in American Indian Healthcare. As a doctoral candidate in the Nursing and Health Innovation program at Arizona State University, she focuses on research in health equity for underrepresented minority groups with a focus on Native American communities. She stated she will work in close partnership with Tribal communities, health systems, and academic institutions to identify research priorities that reflect the real needs of Native people.

"My goal is to bridge clinical research and Tribal community priorities in a way that drives sustainable, system-wide change," Godfrey said. "My dream is a research infrastructure that is Indigenous-led and Indigenous-informed, because that is the only effective path to genuine health equity."

About Tribal Health

Tribal Health is the leading provider of healthcare solutions in Indigenous and rural healthcare. Founded in 2015, Tribal Health connects underserved communities to medical expertise and advanced, culturally integrated healthcare models. The company supports IHS, Tribal, 638, and rural facilities nationwide through a comprehensive suite of services, including practice management, consulting, end-to-end staffing, permanent placement, and clinical services. Tribal Health has been recognized as a Best Place to Work and recipient of the DHHS Sub Prime Contractor of the Year, and awards from Modern Healthcare, IHS, SIA, EY, and Women in Healthcare, among others. To learn more, visit www.tribalhealth.com.

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