

## 2016 Western Forum for Migrant and Community Health

*Access. Equity. Justice.*

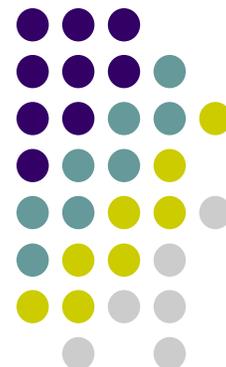
The 2016 Western Forum for Migrant and Community Health was held February 24-26 in Portland, Oregon. Over 250 migrant and community health professionals from across 18 states came together for education and training, information and resource sharing, coalition building, and policy development. The Forum featured 35 breakout sessions and two plenary sessions addressing a wide range of topics related to access to care, health equity and the social determinants of health, cultural competence, immigration policy, community partnerships and coalition building, Community Health Worker workforce development and integration, and occupational and clinical health issues affecting farmworker and immigrant populations.

Wednesday's Opening Plenary began with a welcome address from Seth Doyle, Community Health Improvement Program Manager at Northwest Regional Primary Care Association (NWRPCA), and continued with presentations from Bobbi Ryder, President and CEO of the National Center for Farmworker Health, and Tonya Bowers, Acting Associate Administrator of the Bureau of Primary Health Care (BPHC).

First, Ms. Ryder provided an overview and update on the Ag Worker Access 2020 Campaign, which has a goal to increase the number of migrant and seasonal agricultural workers served in the country's community health centers to 2 million by the year 2020. Ms. Ryder offered strategies for making the campaign successful and encouraged attendees to identify specific action steps that they can begin to implement in their communities.

Next, Ms. Bowers touched upon the growth and accomplishments of the Health Center program over the past year, and presented BPHC's key strategies for continuing to grow and strengthen the Health Center program. In particular, Ms. Bowers highlighted the crucial role that Community Health Workers, Outreach Workers, and *Promotores(as) de Salud* play in addressing the social determinants of health and increasing access to care and services for the most vulnerable populations.

The Opening Plenary concluded with a keynote address from Nanci Luna Jimenez, an internationally recognized speaker on diversity and cross cultural communication. Through a combination of academic prowess and storytelling, Nanci's presentation – "No Recipes, Just Relationships: Looking Inward to Create more Just Healthcare" – challenged attendees to wrestle with their own internalized biases while also naming and understanding systemic oppressions and their impacts.



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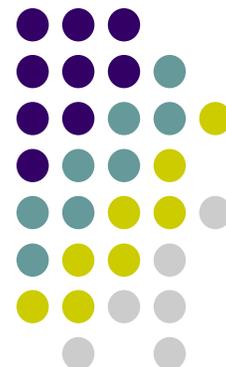
On Wednesday evening participants attended a very fun and inviting poster session and welcome reception. Several innovative posters from students, academics and health professionals were displayed highlighting best practices, programs, and research in migrant and community health.

As the evening wore on, Trio Cubay took the stage and played an eclectic mix of traditional Cuban son and boleros fused with rumba and Latin jazz that kept attendees dancing into the night.

Thursday featured a full day of robust workshops, including topics related to global migration and immigration policy, grassroots advocacy, agricultural worker identification and health insurance enrollment, community-university partnerships and research, and Community Health Worker training, financing, and systems integration.

After two rounds of breakout sessions on Friday morning, the Forum concluded with a closing lunch and presentation by Maya and ancient wisdom scholar, Roberto Dansie. Always energizing and inspirational, Roberto mixed humor and song throughout his presentation and called on attendees to embrace the 5 C's – *Comida, Cariño, Conocimiento, Convivencia, and Canción* – in their work with communities.

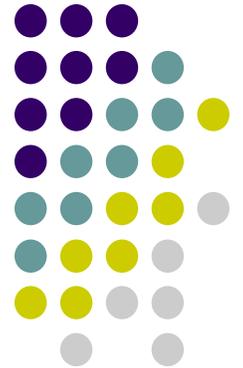
NWRPCA would like to thank all of the individuals and organizations, including our sponsors, partners, exhibitors, planning committee, presenters, and attendees, who contributed to the success of this year's Forum. We hope you will join us for next year's Western Forum for Migrant and Community Health, February 22-24, 2017, in the beautiful "City by the Bay," San Francisco, California.



## PHOTOS

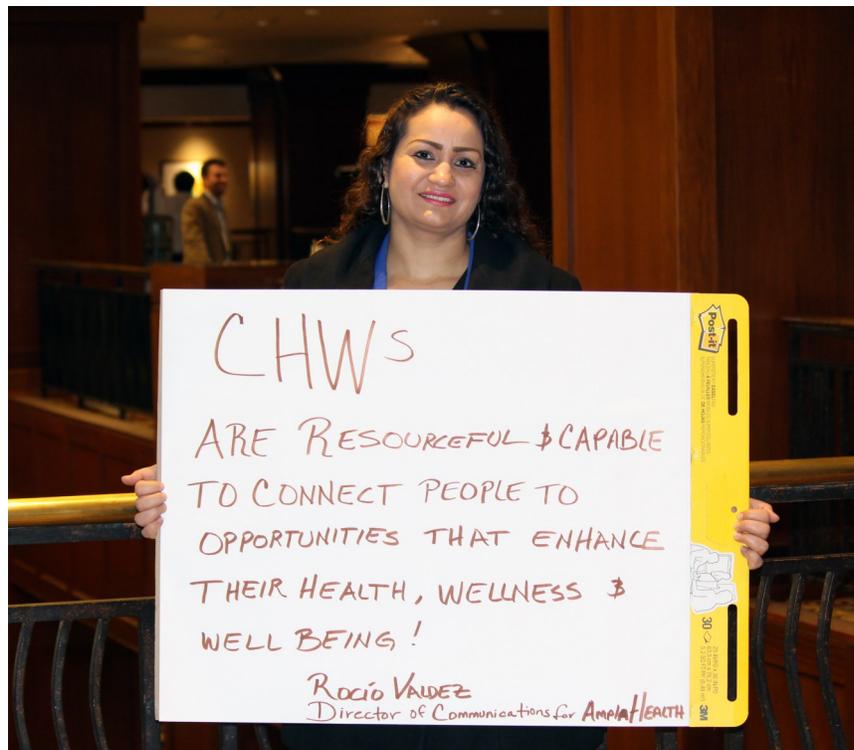
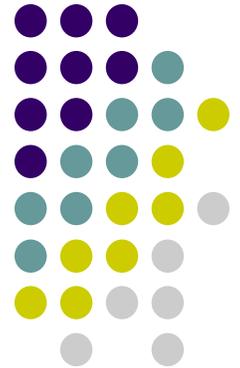
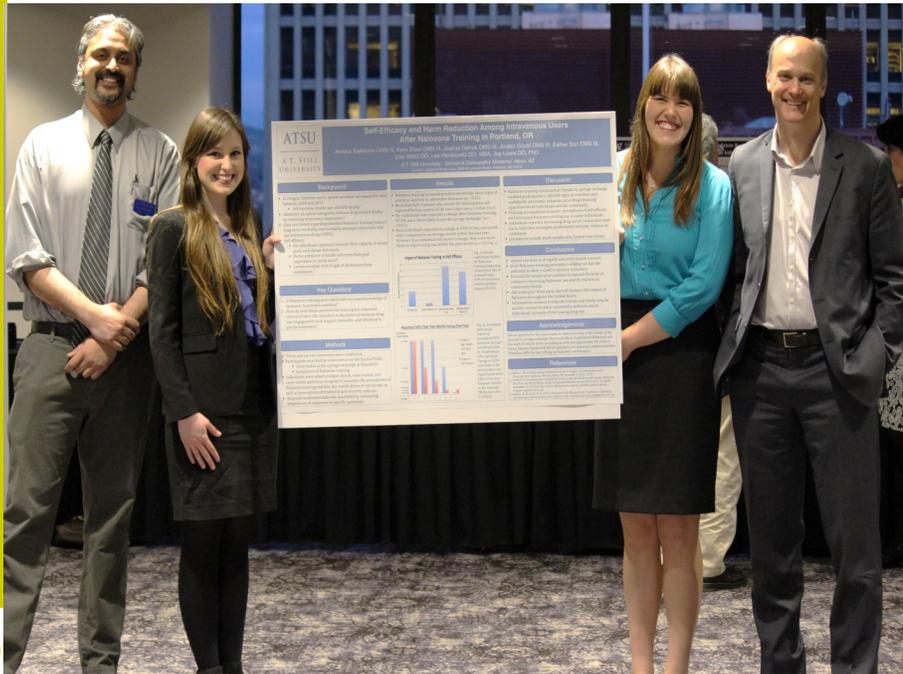


Participants meeting at the opening plenary.



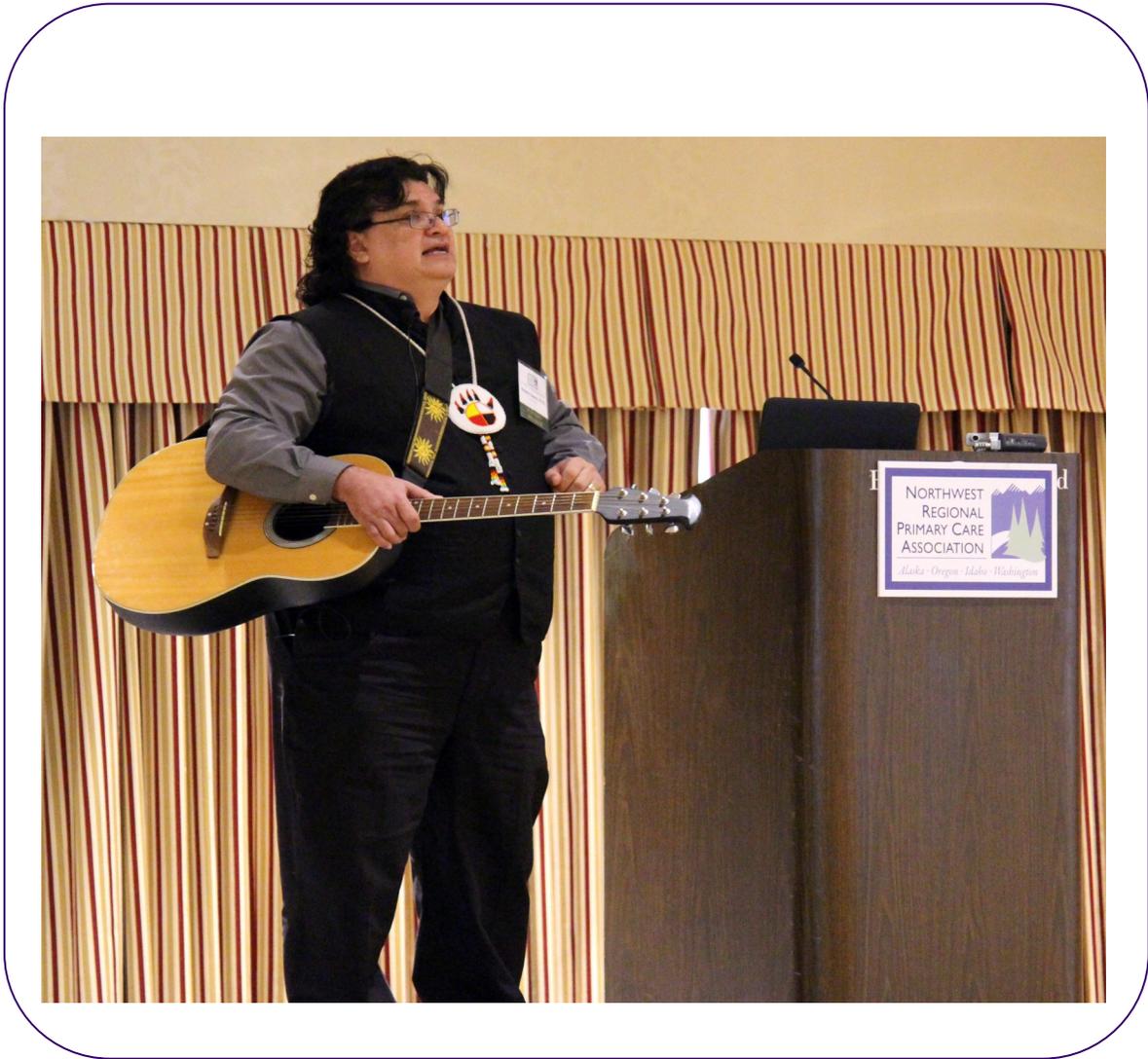
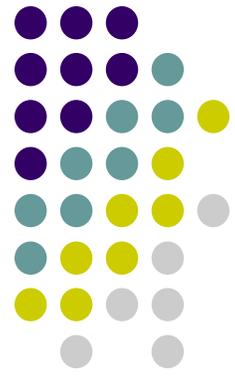
Gathering resources during an exhibitor break.

A. T. Still University medical students from NWRPCA's Portland campus share their research at the poster session.



#WeAreCHWs campaign launches at the Western Forum, inviting attendees to share what makes Community Health Workers so vital.





Roberto Dansie energizes participants during the closing lunch.