

LaDonna Jessie BlueEye is the daughter of the late Virginia Jessie, the granddaughter of Ida Maytubbi and the great-granddaughter of Nancy BlueEye, all full blood enrolled members of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. She received her B.A. from the University of Central Oklahoma and her M.P.H. from the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center. Her honors include the State of Oklahoma Excellence in Public Health Award, Outstanding Graduate Award, Outstanding Student Leadership Award, the Oklahoma City Police Department Citizen Award for providing aid to an officer in imminent danger, as well as military honors while a paratrooper with the U.S. Army 82nd Airborne Division.

Ms. BlueEye began the Dr.PH program at the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health and transferred to the Ph.D. program in the School of Public Health at Indiana University Bloomington where she is now an Assistant Professor. Her dissertation is titled, “Native American Locus of Understanding Cultural Issues Related to Diabetes Management through Use of Grounded Theory” with expected graduation in Spring 2014.

Professor BlueEye has a strong interest in qualitative methodology in health behavior, grounded theory and her research focus is on health theory, health disparities, culturally-appropriate health interventions and tobacco cessation. She has presented her work and findings on the local, state, national and international levels. LaDonna collaborates with both non-Native and Native American communities throughout the United States. Her publications include Use of Native American Imagery to Sell Tobacco; Beat of the Drum in *Blood and Thunder*, a collection of poems; Native American Action Plan-Addressing Tobacco Abuse among Pregnant and Postpartum Women.

She is a co-founder of the Indiana Two-Spirit Society which meets in her home every month. When she is not working to complete her dissertation, she can be found hiking with her dog, two-oar sculling on a community team, snowboarding in the mountains of North Carolina, beading, drawing, or creating other forms or art.

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