

Matthew Van Alstine Makomenaw

Formerly Matthew Jason Van Alstine

matthew.makomenaw@gmail.com

151 Curtis Drive

New Haven, CT 06515

(203-430-6387)

PURPOSE

Dedicated higher education professional with a Ph.D. in Higher, Adult, and Lifelong Education, offering expertise in student success, diversity, and program development. Seeking opportunities to contribute to student access and retention in higher education institutions.

EDUCATION

Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan 48824

Ph.D. in Higher, Adult, and Lifelong Education

Spring 2010

Dissertation: Tribal college transfer student success at four-year predominantly White Institutions

Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan 48824

Master of Arts in Higher, Adult, and Lifelong Education-Student Affairs

May 2002

Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI 48824

Bachelor of Arts in Psychology

May 1998

WORK EXPERIENCE

Assistant Dean of Yale College and Director of Native American Cultural Center

Yale University

July 2019-Present

- Decanal Duties
 - Directed, Cultural Connections, a pre-orientation program for incoming first-year students. Cultural Connections explores the diversity of student experiences on Yale's campus, with emphasis on the experiences of traditionally underrepresented students and issues related to racial identity. Supervised 32 student counselors.
 - Direct a Peer Liaison program for first-year students transition to Yale. The peer liaisons are selected upper-level students affiliated with 9 centers and departments on campus to provide invaluable mentorship to first-year students.
 - Successfully developed and direct a new orientation program, Yale Reserved, a program for quiet, shy, and reserved students. Supervised 20 student counselors.
 - Served on Compact Review Committee, review cases involving violations of campus compact related to COVID-19.
 - Serve on Admission Committees, review applications and select students for admission.
 - Advisor, University Wide Committee (UWC). Supporting students through the University-Wide Committee on Sexual Misconduct.

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- Mellon Mays & Edward A. Bouchet Fellowship Program, Associate Director, The Fellowship allows students to work on paid research projects during the academic year.
- Serve on Undergraduate Organizations Committee to develop policy for student organizations.
- Served as Health and Safety Leader for Yale College Students and Staff

- Director Duties
 - Administer a Native American Language online community education classes.
 - Responsible for overall programming and budget for Native American Cultural Center.
 - Outreach and maintain relationships with alumni and donors to Native American Cultural Center.
 - Oversee an office with one assistant director, three graduate students, and 17 student workers.

College Pathways Manager

American Indian College Fund

June 2016-July 2019

- Developed and managed comprehensive first-year experience program, a college admission coaching program for high school students, a college readiness bridge program, a tribal college transfer program, and high school completion program.
- Supervised four professional employees and oversee two multilayered grants.
- Wrote, received, and managed a \$2.5 million-dollar grant from the Mellon Foundation to continue the work of a college access and success program with reservation based high schools and tribal college and universities.
- Managed a \$350 thousand-dollar High School Completion program budget through AT&T.
- Developed a college going guidebook, career readiness magazine, online career fairs, and additional resources to create a college going and career readiness environment.
- Prepared all reports and evaluations regarding program impact and accomplishments.
- Cultivated partnerships with local communities, higher education institutions, national organizations, and foundations.

Program Officer, Faculty Fellowships

American Indian College Fund

December 2014-May 2016

- Managed all aspects of the fellowship selection process.
- Monitored and maintained program budgets and ensured program objectives were met within budget constraints.
- Created comprehensive and timely reports for donors that demonstrated outcomes and impact of grants.
- Foster relationships with all individuals and organizations related to designated grant programs.
- Secured \$500,000 renewal grant for Mellon Career Enhancement Fellowship.

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Assistant Professor-Native American Studies

Montana State University

January 2014-December 2014

- Instructor for Undergraduate Courses in Native American Studies to include Contemporary American Indian Society, American Indian Education, and Introduction to Native American Studies.
- Instructor for a Graduate Course in Native American Studies titled Minorities in Higher Education.
- Advised graduate students in the Native American Studies department.

Director of American Indian Resource Center

University of Utah

November 2010-December 2013

- Developed retention, recruitment, and outreach programs for the American Indian community at the University of Utah and surrounding communities.
- Supervise an administrative assistant, student intern, and an academic advisor. Responsible for all activities and maintenance of American Indian Resource Center building.
- Advisor of Inter-tribal Student Association and Society of Native American Graduate Students.
- Implemented Annual Powwow, American Indian Heritage month activities, cultural presentations in undergraduate and graduate classrooms, and developed monthly lunch and lecture series.
- Chair of American Indian Resource Center Advisory Committee. Chair of African American coordinator hiring committee.
- Outreach to tribal communities and initiating an American Indian High School Conference.
- Assessment coordinator for Office of Equity and Diversity. Assist staff in the Office of Equity and Diversity in conducting program assessments.

Graduate Assistant- ASHE/Lumina Fellows Program

Michigan State University

August 2006-May 2010

- Created pre-conference program.
- Maintained records, process payments, and other administrative duties.
- Responsible for marketing and communication for the fellowship program.
- Assisted in creating programs that emphasized higher education policy for fellows.

Director of Native American Programs

Central Michigan University

July 2004- August 2006

- My primary responsibility was to plan, develop, and administer programs and policies to provide educational opportunities for Native American students and surrounding native communities.

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- Committee work: Chair of Presidents Advisory Committee on Native American Educational Issues and a member of the American Indian Studies minor council.
- Student Affairs work: Advisor of North American Indian Student Organization.
- Program work: Annual Powwow, Native American Heritage month activities, North American Indigenous Summer Enrichment Camp, cultural presentations in undergraduate classrooms, and cultural/diversity workshop for new faculty/student/staff orientations.
- Recruitment work: Worked with various tribal communities and arranged visits to campus for prospective students.
- Grant work: Successfully obtained a 2006 CMU 2010 Vision Grant, which was utilized to create the North American Indigenous Summer Enrichment Camp for high school students. Amount \$21,700.
- Diversity work: Worked collaboratively with Diversity department to ensure a diverse campus at CMU.
- Supervisory Work: Supervised administrative assistant.
- Academic Advisor work-Worked under the Summer Orientation Program- Assisting and informing incoming freshman on college adjustment and course selection.

Graduate Assistant -Native American Higher Education Initiative (NAHEI)

Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan

September 2000-May 2002

- Graduate assistant to a W.K. Kellogg initiative designed to assist Tribal Colleges in developing successful academic and cultural programs.
- Research work: Literature review of Native American education, conducted focus group and individual interviews, and site visit of a tribal college.
- Co-authored two chapters in *The Renaissance of American Indian Higher Education* a book on tribal colleges.
- Presented work at professional conferences.
- Attended AIHEC Presidential meetings and other tribal college conferences.

ADJUNCT TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Lecturer- Education Studies

Course: Contemporary Native American K-12 and Postsecondary Educational Policy

Level: Undergraduate

Yale University

Spring 2020; Spring 2021; Spring 2025

Adjunct Faculty-Higher Education and Student Affairs Leadership

Course: Higher Education Assessment and Evaluation

Level: Graduate

University of Northern Colorado

Fall 2015

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Adjunct Faculty-Ethnic Studies

Course: American Indian Experience

Level: Undergraduate

University of Utah

Spring 2013; Fall 2013

Adjunct Faculty- Department of Education, Leadership and Policy

Course: Student Development Theory

Level: Master's and Doctoral students

University of Utah

Spring 2011

Adjunct Faculty

Course: Career Development and Exploration

Level: Undergraduate students

Mid Michigan Community College

Fall 2009

Adjunct Faculty

Courses: Native American Law and Policy

Level: Undergraduate students

Saginaw Chippewa Tribal College

Fall 2005

Adjunct Faculty

Courses: Student Development

Level: Undergraduate students

Saginaw Chippewa Tribal College

Fall 2003

REFEREED PUBLICATIONS

Makomenaw, M. V. (2014). Goals, family, and community: What drives tribal college transfer student success. *Journal of Student Affairs Research and Practice*, 51(4), 380–391.

Makomenaw, M.V. (2012). Welcome to a new world: Experiences of American Indian Tribal College Transfer Students at Predominantly White Institutions. *International Journal of Qualitative Studies in Education*, Volume 25, Issue 7.

BOOK CHAPTERS

Sanders, D. & **Makomenaw, M.V.** (2018) Getting Started Locally: How tribal colleges and universities are opening doors to the undergraduate experience. In *Beyond Access: Indigenizing Programs for Native American Student Success*.

Sanders, D. & **Makomenaw, M.V.** (2018) Tribal College Pathways. In *Reclaiming Indigenous Research in Higher Education*, Rutgers University Press.

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Van Alstine, M.J. (2008). From Indian to Odawa: A journey toward understanding identity. In indigenous education models for contemporary practice: In our mother's voice volume II. Routledge Publishers. New York: NY.

Van Alstine, M.J. (2008). Tribal Nation Community and Mainstream Institution Partnerships. In indigenous education models for contemporary practice: In our mother's voice volume II. Routledge Publishers. New York: NY.

Johnson, V., Benham, M.K.P., & **Van Alstine, M.J.** (2003). Native Leadership: Advocacy for transformation, culture, community, and sovereignty. In The renaissance of American Indian higher education: Capturing the dream. Lawrence Erlbaum Associates, Publishers. Mahwah: New Jersey.

Pavel, D.M., Larimore, C., & **Van Alstine, M.J.** (2003). A gift to all children: Native teacher preparation. In The renaissance of American Indian higher education: Capturing the dream. Lawrence Erlbaum Associates, Publishers. Mahwah: New Jersey.

INVITED JOURNAL PUBLICATIONS

Gupta, M. & Makomenaw, M.V. (Forthcoming). Centering Indigenous Life Within Non-Indigenous Institutions of Higher Learning. About Campus.

Van Alstine, M.J., Ramalho, E.M., & Sanchez, T. (2002). The story of Crownpoint Institute of Technology and its alternative livestock program. *Journal of American Indian Education*, 41, 48-57.

BOOKLET

Makomenaw, M.V. & Tachone, A. (2019). (Ed.s) Native Pathways a College-Going Guidebook. <https://collegefund.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Native-Pathways-Guidebook-2020-Rev.pdf>

SERVICE

American Indian College Fund-Tribal College Research Journal, Editorial Board
October 2015-June 2019

Native American Student Advocacy Institute- National Advisory Committee
February 2016- February 2018

Utah Museum of Natural History-Indian Advisory Committee
May 2011-December 2013

NASPA- Region V Indigenous Peoples Knowledge Community
April 2011-March 2013

Urban Indian Center of Salt Lake- Board of Directors
January 2012-November 2012

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State of Utah- Governors Native American Summit Committee
April 2011- August 2011

Saginaw Chippewa Tribal College, Secretary- Board of Regents
June 2007-January 2010

SCHOLARSHIPS AND FELLOWSHIPS

2009 Michigan State University Dissertation Completion Scholarship

2006 Michigan State University Deans Scholar Fellowship (Four Year Award)

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

“American Indian (AI) higher education history and contemporary challenges for AI student success”. Recruitment and Retention of Hard to Reach Populations. An ASPIRE, Inc. Sponsored Training for TRIO Professionals. October 2020.

“Combating Indigenous Erasure and Invisibility in the News and Education”, United Nations Association of Southwest Connecticut, June 2020

“Factors Affecting College Entry and Completion”, Tribal Community Perspectives on Higher Education, Center for Indian Country Development, September 2017

“Understanding American Indian/Alaskan Native Student Perceptions of the College Application Process”, National Association for College Admission Counseling, September 2017

“Digital Coaching: Helping American Indian students navigate college admissions through social media and texting”, National Forum on Dropout Prevention for Native & Tribal Communities, April 2017

“Finding the Right Fit: College Choice for American Indians/Alaskan Students”, National Indian Education Association, October 2016

“Understanding TCU transfer student pathways”, Indigenous Peoples preconference, AERA, April 2016

“TCU student pathways: Analysis of American Indian College Fund scholarship data and national clearinghouse tracking data” National Indian Education Association, October 2015.

“Choosing Your Opportunity: Native American College Choice” Association for the Study of Higher Education, November 2014.

“Understanding Tribal College Transfer Students at Four-Year Predominantly White Institutions (PWIs)” Native American Student Advocacy Institute. May, 2012.

“American Indian Higher Education: Strategies for Access, Retention, and Success” Native American Summit: Utah Division of American Indian Affairs annual conference. August, 2011.