



**TUSKEGEE**  
UNIVERSITY

*National Center for Bioethics  
in Research and Health Care*



**Community-Campus  
Partnerships for Health**

Transforming Communities & Higher Education



**Call #4: Beyond the University IRB: Understanding Alternative Models for Human Protection, Part I: Supplementing the IRB for Community Protection with a Community Advisory Board**  
**Monday, May 7, 2007, 12:00 – 1:30 p.m. Pacific Standard Time**

**Moderator and Speaker Biographies**

Moderator:

***Vanessa Northington Gamble, Director, Tuskegee University National Center for Bioethics in Research and Health Care, Tuskegee, Alabama***

Vanessa Northington Gamble, M.D., Ph.D., is director of the Tuskegee University National Center for Bioethics in Research and Health Care. The Center, the only bioethics center at a historically black college university, focuses on bioethics, minority health, and public health. The Center was established in 1999 as a result of President Clinton's apology for the United States Public Health Syphilis Study. Dr. Gamble chaired the committee that took the lead role in the campaign to obtain the apology. At Tuskegee, Dr. Gamble is also a professor of bioethics in the College of Veterinary Medicine, Nursing and Allied Health at Tuskegee University. A physician and medical historian, she is an internationally recognized expert on the history of race and racism in American medicine, racial and ethnic disparities in health and health care, cultural competence, diversity, and bioethics. Dr. Gamble is a member of the Institute of Medicine, National Academy of Sciences.

Speakers:

***Otsehtokon Alex M. McComber, Former Training Coordinator, Kahnawake Schools Diabetes Prevention Project, Kahnawake Mohawk Territory, Quebec, Canada***

Alex is Kanien'kehaka (Mohawk) of the bear clan from Kahnawake Territory near Montreal, Quebec, Canada. He was born in Brooklyn, New York. He was part of the original Kahnawake Schools Diabetes Prevention Project (KSDPP) team since 1994 until March 2006; he was the Interim Executive Director and Training Coordinator. He was a member of the Board of Directors of the National Aboriginal Diabetes Association from 1999 to 2006, serving as Chairperson from 2001-2005. He holds a Master's in Education Administration from McGill University (1996) and is an adjunct professor with the Faculty of Education. He has also been a substance abuse prevention program coordinator; a high school teacher and principal at the Kahnawake Survival School, baseball coach and a former volunteer firefighter. He is presently a freelance consultant in diabetes prevention, health promotion, Indigenous education and strategic planning. Alex is married with three children of the wolf clan from Kahnawake.

***Vickie Ybarra, Director of Planning & Development, Yakima Valley Farm Workers Clinic, Toppenish, WA***

Vickie Ybarra, RN, MPH, is Director of Planning and Development for the Yakima Valley Farm Workers Clinic, one of the largest community/migrant health care systems in the country, with clinics in Washington and Oregon. She has extensive experience in development, oversight, and evaluation of community programs targeting Hispanic and Spanish-speaking populations. She earned her undergraduate degree in nursing from the University of Washington School of Nursing, and in 1996 completed her Masters in Public Health at the University of Washington. In her role as a member of the Washington State Board of Health she has provided leadership for the Board's Health Disparities efforts, and in May 2001 co-authored the Board's report on Health Disparities focusing on diversifying the state healthcare workforce. Ms. Ybarra has been active in efforts to connect local communities to institutions of higher education. She has conducted research related to the presence and service needs of local undocumented women and children. She also served as a member of the Community-Campus Partnerships for Health board of directors from 1997-2000. Ms. Ybarra is active in her community in Hispanic academic achievement. She works with a local group to distribute scholarship dollars and provide community-wide recognition for academic success of local outstanding Hispanic high school graduates. She has conducted research with the local school district demonstrating the wide gap in college preparedness between Hispanic and non-Hispanic students. Ms. Ybarra is also a recently elected member of the local School Board, with a particular focus on closing the achievement gap between Hispanic and non-Hispanic students.