
Short Bio – Harold G. Begay, Ph.D.

Dr. Begay, a true pioneer in cross-cultural gifted education, has been deeply immersed in this field guided by the esteemed Dr. C. June Maker, Professor Emerita at the University of Arizona DISCOVER program. His transformative journey has left an indelible mark on numerous students' lives. As a visiting scholar at UC Berkeley, he successfully bridged the gap for historically underserved students from his school district through the Berkeley Academic Talent Development Program summer school. He expanded his influence by incorporating the Stanford Educational Program for Gifted Youth (EPGY) into schools, significantly enhancing the educational landscape for underrepresented students. Dr. Begay's initiatives, in collaboration with Stanford Precollegiate Studies-X and the Stanford Center on Poverty and Inequality, have profoundly impacted student achievement. In collaboration with the Stanford Pre-Collegiate Studies-X, Stanford Pre-Collegiate International Institutes, and the Stanford Program in Cross-cultural Education (SPICE), he has opened doors for his students from the most disenfranchised education landscape to an engaging and transformative e-transnational educational experience. With scholarship and Foundation support from Stanford, these students have attended enriched summer education programs on campus ([Stanford Pre-Collegiate International Institutes Welcomes Tuba City Students | Stanford Pre-Collegiate Studies](#)), leading to unprecedented exceptional math achievement scores that rival those of the highest per pupil wealth school district.

Dr. Begay's collaborative efforts have been a cornerstone of his work, transcending across diverse institutions and cultures and yielding significant positive change. As a co-PI for an NSF grant with the University of Arizona, BIO5, he has contributed to research on cultivating diverse talent in STEM ([Maker Identifying Exceptional Talent 2020.pdf \(arizona.edu\)](#)). Collaborating with esteemed institutions like Stanford University SPICE, he has delivered e-presentations to high school students in Japan. His consulting work at Stanford has included e-presentations to graduate and doctoral students at the University of Tokyo, Graduate School of Education, Japan ("Experiences with Ethnic Studies." | Harold Begay - Academia.edu), further extending his influence in cross-cultural, transnational education.

He is currently engaged in Stanford e-transnational education with the Indigenous peoples of Japan and Hawaii, the traditional peoples of Ecuador through UCLA, the Indigenous peoples of Peru, and the Inuit peoples of the polar region of Alaska through Harvard, indicative of the need for unwavering dedication to the field of cross-cultural gifted education. His ongoing research published book chapters, ([When Geniuses Fail: Na-Dene' \(Navajo\) Conception of Giftedness in the \(taylorfrancis.com\)](#) (Re-Wiring Brain Functioning ASU-CIE Handbook - [Publications of the Center for Indian Education | Center for Indian Education \(asu.edu\)](#)) covers a wide range of topics from neuroscience to education, quantum theory and Indigenous knowledge system, demonstrating his deep respect for diverse cultures and dedication to

preserving Indigenous values, knowledge, and wisdom. By foregrounding our Native philosophical constructs through a lens untainted by external interpretations, he has explored the symbiosis of our heritage with contemporary scientific quantum theory paradigms. This synthesis not only affirms the validity of our ancestral knowledge but also enhances its relevance in today's world.

He continues to give substance to Native Indigenous peoples rich in earth-based values and wisdom who can take the lead in taking education as a tool in restorative justice for the rights of the fragile eco-system, the oceanic marine eco-system, and the vastness of our interplanetary network system, the cosmoses that are of profound sacredness to our Native Indigenous peoples. He is focused on refining a beacon precollegiate digital prototype, aiming to provide all persistent talent underclass schools and students from low-resource schools with the tools they need to access the best universities and colleges, both at home and abroad. He recently served as an Academic Associate in the Gifted Education Graduate Program at Arizona State University. He was on the faculty at the University of Arizona, COE, for four years before moving out to the most disenfranchised schools in the Navajo Nation. He has collaborated with gifted education and exceptional leadership staff from UC Berkeley, Stanford, the University of Arizona, Harvard, Northern Arizona University, Arizona State University, the College Board, and the International Baccalaureate organization schools for twenty years. He received the Gifted Administrator of the Year award from the Arizona Association for Gifted and Talented Education.

His professional background is in school finance and education administration (Ph.D.) from the University of Arizona, his master's in counseling and secondary education from NAU, and his bachelor's in psychology from NAU. He is currently completing three books titled "The Ontology and Epistemology of Traditional Dine' (Navajo) Philosophy: Two Great Systems-T'aa Dine' Bo'ohoo'a' Bindii'a, and Quantum Theory", "Postmodernism in American Indian Education: A Critical Analysis," and "In Search of American Indian Education".

Dr. Begay's work exemplifies a profound commitment to bridging Indigenous wisdom with contemporary educational paradigms, creating an intersection where tradition and innovation thrive. His vision resonates in his efforts to develop equitable educational frameworks that honor the identities of underserved communities while fostering excellence and transformative growth. By engaging in cross-disciplinary research and cultivating collaborations across global institutions, Dr. Begay continues to advocate for inclusivity and sustainability, recognizing the intricate connections between education, scientific paradigms, cultural preservation, and environmental stewardship. His endeavors are a testament to the potential of education to not only empower individuals but also to serve as a vehicle for global restorative justice, ensuring the dignity of communities and the integrity of the natural world.

Dr. Begay is a USMC veteran and a traditional Dine' (Navajo) Blessing Way, Protection Way, and Kinaalda, spiritual practitioner. He is of Tachiini Naalani, Todich'iini, Lok'aa Dine'ii, and Nakai Dine'ii clans. Dr. Begay can be contacted at hgbeg2010@yahoo.com / 928.707.2557.