



WINHEC Accreditation Review of
Matawa Learning Institute
Visiting Committee
Biographical Blurbs

July, 2024
Visitation date:
August 25 - 31, 2024

WINHEC Visiting Committee Team

- Dr. Makalapua Alencastre, retired, University of Hawai‘i Hilo, Hawai‘i,
Native Hawaiian
- Lisa Johnsdatter Baal, National Centre for Sámi Language in Education,
Guovdageaidnu, Norway, Sámi
- Sara Ellen Anne Eira, Sami High School and Reindeer Husbandry School,
Guovdageaidnu, Norway, Sami
- Dr. Sadie Heckenberg, University of Tasmania, Australia, Wiradjuri Nation
Aboriginal
- Dr. Cathy Kanoelani Ikeda, Visiting Committee Chair, University of Hawai‘i
West O‘ahu, Hawai‘i, Native Hawaiian

Makalapua Alencastre, Ed.D.

Makalapua has focused her life's work on the reestablishment of Hawaiian as the primary language of the home and education, as well as in cultural and recreational activities. She is the mother of three children and Tūtūmā to 15 grandchildren and 3 great grandbabies. As pioneers of Hawaiian language education, her family remains committed to the Hawaiian revitalization movement as a 'ohana 'ōlelo ola, a living language family.

Her professional and research interests, inspired by her commitment and respect for the Hawaiian language and culture, include language acquisition, immersion education-program planning and evaluation, educational resource development-teachers and curriculum, video-documentation, and educational reform. Makalapua attended the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, for undergraduate and graduate degrees earning a B.A. in Hawaiian Studies, a professional diploma in language education, a MA in ESL, and an Ed.D. in Professional Educational Practice.

As a Hawaiian educator for the over forty years, Makalapua has taught at the elementary, secondary, and university levels, and served as administrator of O'ahu's five Pūnana Leo preschools and Ke Kula 'o Kamakau, a P-12 indigenous immersion charter school on O'ahu. Recently retired as Associate Professor at Ka Haka 'Ula O Ke'elikolani College of Hawaiian Language at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo, Makalapua coordinated the graduate level education programs to prepare new P-12 Hawaiian medium/immersion teachers through a Hawaiian culture-based pre-service teacher education program as well as advancing their work as reflective and dynamic educational practitioners in masters and doctoral programs. Currently, Makalapua continues serving the community as a Public Charter School Commissioner, supporting graduate students as advisor and mentor, researching educational issues, and producing teacher recruitment videos.

Lisa Johnsdatter Baal

Lisa Baal is Sámi from Norway and grew up on Fimpa ja Lallo's family Gohteluobbalis in middle of the tundra in Guovdageaidnu. She currently resides on Hannomars in Guovdageaidnu and enjoys working with handicraft – sewing traditional sami clothes for herself, partner, brother, and nephew. Lisa prefers to sew sami hats.

Lisa is qualified as a teacher from Sami allaskuvla in Guovdageaidnu. Lisa has a master's in pedagogy from the University of Oslo, speech therapy from Høgskolen I Sør-Trøndelag and in recent years, has taken duodji/crafts at Sami allaskuvla. She is also certified as an instructor in the Somatics method (autumn 2023). She practices the method on herself, and regulates her own body and head with exercises from the Somatics method.

Since 1994, she has been involved with Sami Indigenous education, and currently serves as a senior adviser at National center for Sami language in education. She also has been a leader for the National Center for Sami language for the past 7 years. She has also been a member of the World Indigenous Nations Higher Education Consortium (WINHEC) Accrediting Board since 2016. Lisa has worked at Sami allaskuvla since 2004. Lisa has been a “desk teacher” for 30 years, working in the field of education. Lisa mostly works with reading in Sami, and Lisa has also been

involved in the development of primary school curricula from 1995 to curriculum L97 Sami. Lisa now works on developing mapping tests in reading in Sami for 1st and 3rd grade. She has developed some teaching aids, and translated books and texts for primary school. Lisa always has some voluntary and shop steward duties as Leader of the trade union Forskerforbundet at Sami allaskuvla. She is also secretary of the Kautokeino historical society and head of the selection committee of the Sami professional writer and translator association.

Sara Ellen Anne Eira

Sara Ellen Anne Eira lives with her partner and has two children. She grew up in a Sami family in Guovdageaidnu, Norway, where her family has been engaged in reindeer herding for generations. Sara is currently the Assistant Principal at the Sami High School and Reindeer Husbandry School. She has an extensive academic background with education from institutions such as the Sámi University of Applied Sciences in Guovdageaidnu and Oslo Metropolitan University, including a Master's degree in Adapted Education from Nord University. Her research focused on how AI can be used in educational design to tailor teaching. Her professional experiences include roles as a journalist and news editor at NRK Sápmi, as well as a senior advisor at Statped. Additionally, she has held numerous positions, including being the chair of the Sami Church Council in Norway for eight years, leading the Sami Journalists' Association, and being actively involved in the local sports club, both in skiing and football.

Eira has been actively involved in Sami education and culture for decades. She is a member of the examination committee for Crafts, Design, and Product Development in Finnmark County, where she has been responsible for developing and quality-assuring the Sami subjects in exams for Sami crafts. Eira is also certified as an interpreter in Northern Sami and has completed master courses and modules in professional community guidance and professional digital competence.

Eira is dedicated to promoting and preserving Sami culture and language. She has education in Sami language and duodji from the Sámi University of Applied Sciences. She is known for her commitment and dedication to Sami education, duodji, and cultural dissemination, and her efforts have contributed to strengthening Sami identity among Sami youth.

In her free time Eira enjoys spending time in nature, sewing, and being with her family. She is also passionate about Sami storytelling and joik traditions, promoting these in language teaching to inspire the younger generation.

Sara Ellen Anne Eira is proud to work at a school that has chosen to apply for membership in WINHEC. This aligns with promoting the values that are important to the Sami community.

Sadie Heckenberg, Ph.D.

Associate Professor Sadie Heckenberg is from the Wiradjuri Nation, Australia. She is honoured to always be learning from strength and wisdom of her mother and the Wiradjuri Council of Elders. She is the President of the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Higher Education

Consortium, an Indigenous organisation that works to empower and ensure self-determination of Indigenous people in Australian higher education. She is the Pro Vice Chancellor Aboriginal Leadership, and Director of the Indigenous Research Institute at the University of Tasmania. She is a United Nations 2024 OHCHR Indigenous Fellow, sits on the World Indigenous Nations Higher Education Consortium Board of Accreditation and the Australian Research Council's College of Experts.

Sadie was awarded her PhD in 2018, entitled “Nothing About Us Without Us: Protecting Indigenous knowledges through oral histories and culturally safe research practices”. Her research focuses on Indigenous methodologies, Cultural Safety, protecting Indigenous spoken knowledge and ethical research frameworks. Sadie was a Fulbright Scholar based in the Kamakakūokalani Centre for Hawaiian Studies at the University of Hawai’i Mānoa, has been a Columbia University Oral History Institute Summer Fellow, a National Library of Australia Norman McCann Summer Scholar, has held a Confucius China Studies Program Young Leaders Fellowship and was a scholar in the Columbia University International Summer Program on Indigenous Peoples' Rights and Policy.

Passionate about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander education, Sadie sits on the Editorial Board for the Journal of Australian Indigenous Issues, national education committees and has held Federal Government ministerial appointments. Dedicated to empowering Indigenous youth, Sadie sits on the boards of Ember Connect and Black Duck Group and runs a national research project: Empowering Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Girls, Changing Communities.

Sadie is devoted to protecting Indigenous knowledges and orality. She is committed to growing ethical research practices that ensure Indigenous rights, autonomy, co-ownership of outputs, tangible benefits and data sovereignty. When we place culture at the heart of what we do, strength is built from the wisdom and knowledges of Our Peoples, Elders, Ancestors.

Cathy Kanoelani Ikeda, Ed.D

Cathy has been involved with Native Hawaiian and Indigenous education for 30 plus years as an English language arts teacher who disrupted the teaching of western canonical works by offering Native Hawaiian, Indigenous and marginalized authors. She is currently a tenured associate professor of middle and secondary education at the University of Hawai'i at West O'ahu. She is working to normalize a Hawaiian culture-based lens in teacher preparation so that she can nurture teachers for her own Hawaiian grandchildren. She has also been working for the past ten years in grow-our-own teacher education pathway work from the middle schools and high schools to community colleges, the undergraduate universities, and beyond to the doctoral program. She believes that the sustainability of a teacher workforce must come from within the communities rather than from outside of the islands.

She received her Bachelor of Arts in English, a certificate in secondary education and a master's in education from the University of Hawai'i at Hilo. Her doctorate in professional educational

practice is from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. In addition to teaching at the undergraduate and graduate level, she serves her community as a dissertation chair, a commissioner for the State Public Charter School Commission, and the director of Ho'opūliko Kumu Hou (to grow new teachers) Teacher Education Pathway Project, a Title III Alaska native and Native Hawaiian federal grant.

This is Cathy's second time chairing a WINHEC accreditation team. She looks forward to embracing the hō'ailona, those spiritual signs and markers that always become evident when we all take part in this very Indigenous exchange of ceremony and visioning that is the WINHEC accreditation process.