

# Impacting Indigenous Nursing Student Success by Embracing & Implementing Indigenous Values to Provide Holistic Support



Misty L. Wilkie, PhD, RN, FAAN  
Associate Professor/Niganawenimaanaanig Program Director

Matt Hanson  
Niganawenimaanaanig Student Mentor  
Bemidji State University

# Increasing Indigenous Nursing Students

- Bemidji State University (Minnesota, USA) received a HRSA Nursing Workforce Diversity grant in 2017
- \$2 million, 4-year project to recruit, retain, graduate, and license baccalaureate-prepared indigenous nurses
- Niganawenimaanaanig (Ojibwe word meaning “we take care of them”) established



# Key Components of Niganawenimaanaanig

- Cultural Support
- Academic Support
- Social Support
- Financial Support



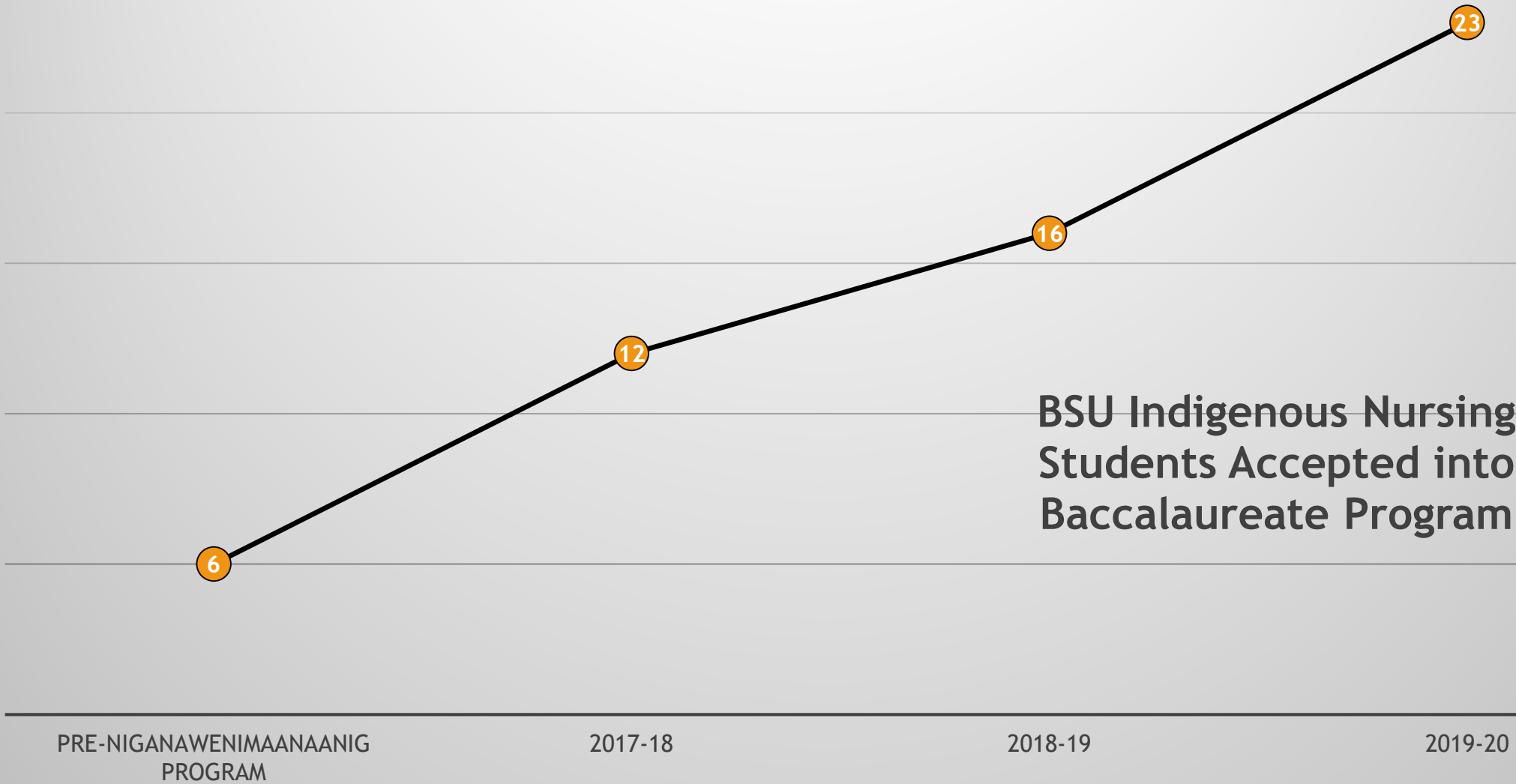


# Retention and Attrition

- 100% freshmen retention
- 92% retention rate overall with all students enrolled in Niganawenimaanaanig



**BSU Indigenous Nursing  
Students Accepted into  
Baccalaureate Program**



# Recommendations for Success

- Connect immediately with indigenous students and get them connected to campus
- Communicate frequently
- Provide holistic support
- Hire indigenous faculty & staff



# Contact Information

- Dr. Misty Wilkie  
[Misty.wilkie@bemidjistate.edu](mailto:Misty.wilkie@bemidjistate.edu)

