

Karen Kopera-Frye, Ph.D., MPA received her degrees in lifespan developmental psychology and clinical psychology with a specialization in aging through Wayne State University, Detroit, Michigan. She then completed a CDC postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Washington, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences. In 2020, she graduated from New Mexico State University with a second master's degree in public administration and a graduate minor in Native American studies. She is currently a professor in the Public Health Sciences Department at New Mexico State University, where she also coordinates the Bachelor of Public Health degree and coordinates and teaches in the gerontology graduate certificate and minor programs, as well as cultural foundation courses in public health. Dr. Kopera-Frye researches health promotion issues, e.g., obesity and health education, among culturally diverse groups, particularly indigenous/Native American and Latinx families. She has been researching health issues within an interdisciplinary context with diverse communities for over 25 years and is especially interested in health literacy among older adults, health disparities among diverse groups, and mental health. She is a fellow of the Gerontological Society of America, Behavioral and Social Sciences Division, Academy for Gerontology in Higher Education, and the American Psychological Association, Division 20: Later Adult Development and Aging. Dr. Kopera-Frye has served in various higher education academic leadership roles for over 18 years, including associate dean for academics, associate dean for research, department head, endowed chair, program director, reviewer and editor for gerontological and psychology journals, and federal grant reviewer, and has been involved in grantsmanship for over 30 years.