This month Dr. Lisa Hardy from the NAU Department of Anthropology served as co-lead of training on Second Mesa with Joe Seidenberg from Red Feather Development Group on a partnership project between NAU, Red Feather Development Group, and Hopi Department of Community Health Services. The project, a New Investigator project through the Center for American Indian Resilience (CAIR) called Healthy Home Assessments launched a collaborative pilot program to work with 20 families to assess their home health and receive a Healthy Home Kit an informational packet that includes do-it-yourself green cleaning recipes and tips for self-remediation techniques for issues like dust, moisture, mold, and pests. These common issues not only affect household environment and structure but also cause many preventable health problems. The training allowed participants to think through ideas and solutions for people living on Hopi tribal lands to maintain healthy indoor spaces in their meaningful homes.

Two Community health representatives, several NAU undergraduate health students, one NAU anthropology MA student, and others attended the training where they learned how to assess structural damage, air quality, and other conditions of common types of local houses. They also learned how to install fire alarms and use fire extinguishers from Hopi firefighters and Mansel Nelson of NAUs Tribal Environmental Education Outreach Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals (ITEP). Dr. Hardy provided training on the community-based process of developing and implementing locally-appropriate data collection techniques during home assessments.

Community members spoke about cultural meanings and values of home. They also shared personal histories of health and resilience, while preserving the wellbeing of their own homes. Through this initial training Hopi CHRs, Red Feather personnel, and CAIR wove together different approaches, perspectives, and practical experiences. Together they developed inspection lists, occupant questionnaires, data gathering instruments, and strategies to effectively and supportively recognize remediation techniques in place and empower homeowners to creatively work towards healthier homes.