



Leonard D. Thomas, M.D.

Acting Director Albuquerque Area **Indian Health Service**

Leonard D. Thomas, M.D., a member of the Navajo Nation, is the Acting Director of the Indian Health Service (IHS) Albuquerque Area. Dr. Thomas began his IHS medical career with an assignment in the Billings Area IHS at the Crow Service Unit, Crow Agency, Montana, where he served as a Family Practice Medical Officer, Chief Medical Officer, and Clinical Director from July 1999 to August 2002. In September 2002, Dr. Thomas accepted the position of Taos/Picuris Service Unit Clinical Director when he relocated to the IHS Albuquerque Area. Dr. Thomas has held the position of Chief Medical Officer for the Albuquerque Area Indian Health Service since July 2005.

Dr. Thomas was awarded a Bachelor of Science degree in Molecular Biology and Chemistry from Fort Lewis College, Durango, Colorado. He attended and graduated from the University of New Mexico School of Medicine in 1996 with the assistance of an IHS-sponsored PL 437 scholarship. He completed a 3-year family practice residency at Saint Joseph's Medical Center in South Bend, Indiana, before returning to his roots and IHS.

Dr. Thomas completed the Executive Leadership Development Program in September 2001 and participated in the Department of Health and Human Services Primary Health Care Policy Fellowship in 2004 as an IHS representative. He served on the 2006 Director's Executive Council representing the National Council of Chief Medical Officers and the 2007 Director's Executive Council Steering Group. He is a member of the American Academy of Family Physicians and the Association of American Indian Physicians. Dr. Thomas has participated in the Biomedical Initiative for Native Americans and Save the Children Foundation – Camp Summer Life Project Counselor. He was recognized with a Special Presidential Recognition award from Fort Lewis College and was nominated for the Luana Reyes Leadership Award in 2003.