

IHS – ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SPECIALIST OF THE YEAR AWARD 2011

BACKGROUND

Beginning in 1993, the Division of Environmental Health Services has annually recognized an outstanding Environmental Health Specialist for the year. The award criteria have been reviewed and updated periodically, but have remained essentially the same since 1995. In 2007, the criteria were revised to replace the ranking system with point values in an attempt to make this process more objective.

RECIPIENTS TO DATE

2010	Amanda M. Parris, Phoenix Area IHS	2001	Molly Patton, Tanana Chiefs Corp.
2009	Timothy Duffy, Bemidji Area IHS	2000	Shawn Sorenson, South East Alaska Regional Health Corp.
2008	Holly Billie, Phoenix Area IHS	1999	Mike Welch, Phoenix Area IHS
2007	Stephen Piontkowski, Phoenix Area IHS	1998	Diana Kuklinski, Phoenix Area IHS
2006	Troy Ritter, Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium	1997	Mark Mattson, Bemidji Area IHS
2005	Andrea Horn, Phoenix Area IHS	1996	Harold Cully, Oklahoma Area IHS
2004	Celeste Davis, Albuquerque Area IHS	1995	Keith Cook, Navajo Area IHS
2003	Casey Crump, Bemidji Area IHS	1994	Carol Rollins, Ho-Chunk Nation
2002	Pete Wallis, Tanana Chiefs Corporation	1993	John Sarisky, Navajo Area IHS

ELIGIBILITY

Each IHS Area DEHS Director is requested to nominate one Environmental Health Specialist, presently working in their respective Area, to be recognized as that Area's Environmental Health Specialist of the Year. Commissioned Corps Officers, Civil Service, and Tribal employees serving in IHS funded positions or IHS staff on detail to a Tribal organization are eligible. O-6 Commissioned Officers, GS 13 Civil Service staff, Area DEHS Directors, Area DEHS Deputy Directors, and Headquarters staff are not eligible.

AREA SELECTION PROCESS

Areas may solicit nominees for their Area Environmental Health Specialist of the Year through a process of their choosing. When the nominees are received, the Area DEHS Director will appoint a selection committee to review and score all nominees. The selection committee may consist of as many people as desired, but should contain representation from the field staff and tribes to the extent possible. The Area may use any scoring methodology of their choosing. The enclosed "IHS Environmental Health Specialist of the Year Score Sheet" may be used.

NOMINATION PROCESS

Each Area's Environmental Health Specialist of the Year nomination will consist of a narrative addressing their nominee's accomplishments for each of the selection criteria

listed below. The format of the narrative should follow the criteria. The narrative will have the following five sections: 1) introduction, 2) special accomplishments, 3) professionalism, 4) innovation, and 5) summary. The Area nominations will be forwarded to Headquarters **by January 13, 2012**. Nominations should be written to cover calendar year 2011, be no more than two pages, use 12-point font, and have margins no less than 0.5 inches. **Nominations not meeting these criteria will not be considered for the award.** The IHS DEHS Director or her designee will review the nominations to ensure they meet the criteria.

NATIONAL SELECTION PROCESS

The Area DEHS Directors will select the national IHS Environmental Health Specialist of the Year using the following methodology. Each Area DEHS Director will be provided a set of Area nominations compiled by Headquarters staff. Area DEHS Directors will score the nominees in each of the three criteria categories, using the assigned point values listed in the scoring criteria document.

Area DEHS Directors will not score the nominee from their own Area. The final completed score sheets will be sent to Headquarters **by February 10, 2012**. Headquarters staff will review the Area score sheets. The overall winner will be the nominee with the most points. In the event of a tie, each Area will score the tied nominees and the scoring process will be repeated.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Category: Special Accomplishments

Credit will be given for superior performance or special accomplishments in the field of environmental health for calendar year 2011. The following criteria are worth the corresponding point values:

1. Public Health Impact - 15 points
2. Public Health Importance – 15 points
3. Level of Involvement – 10 points

Category: Professionalism

Credit will be given for the individual's professionalism, as evidenced by professional registration, mentoring of junior staff/COSTEPs, participation in national or area wide workgroups, and professional presentations during calendar year 2011. The following criteria are worth the corresponding point values:

1. RS/REHS – 5 points
2. Advanced Degree – 7
3. Professional Development – 10
4. Professionalism/Mentoring, Leadership – 8 points

Category: Innovation

Credit will be given for developing innovative approaches that deal with technical, managerial and/or administrative issues. Particular attention should be given for developing approaches that improve tribal participation in program activities and/or build tribal or federal capacity. Credit will be given for demonstration of problem solving abilities and skill in managing multiple projects.

1. Increased Tribal or Federal Capacity – 15 points
2. Unique problem-solving Approach – 15 points

TOTAL POSSIBLE POINTS THAT CAN BE AWARDED = 100 Points

IHS ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SPECIALIST OF THE YEAR	AREA DEHS DIRECTOR SCORE SHEET	AREA:
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Area	Candidate Name	Special Accompl. Score ₁	Professionalism Score ₂	Innovation Score ₃	Over-all Score (Score ₁ + Score ₂ + Score ₃)
AB					
AK					
AQ					
BE					
BI					
CA					
NS					
NV					
OK					
PH					
PO					
TU					

SPECIAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS Credit will be given for superior performance or special accomplishments in the field of environmental health for the calendar year.

PROFESSIONALISM Credit will be given for the individual's professionalism, as evidenced by professional registration, participation in national or area wide workgroups, mentoring of junior staff, publications/papers, and professional presentations.

INNOVATION Credit will be given for developing innovative approaches that deal with technical and/or administrative issues. Special credit will be given for developing creative approaches that improve tribal participation in program activities and/or build tribal capacity. Credit will be given for demonstration of problem solving abilities and skill development in managing multiple projects.