

NEWS RELEASE

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Native Community Health Leaders Chosen for For Year-Long Fellowship Program

Healthy Native Communities Fellowship

SHIPROCK, NM (December, 2011) – Ten community teams, representing twenty-seven individuals, were selected to participate in the 2012 Healthy Native Communities Fellowship. The Fellowship is a program of the Healthy Native Communities Partnership in collaboration with Indian Health Service National Health Promotion/Disease Prevention. Selected through a competitive application process, the Fellows represents a cross-section of community life including health care and wellness specialists, substance abuse and social service professionals, Tribal leaders, educators and community volunteers. The Fellows, represent unique partnerships between health systems, local organizations and community members committed to improving the health and well-being of their Native communities. (*See attached list of Fellows*).

The Healthy Native Communities Fellowship provides a community leadership development experience with a specially designed curriculum with a community action learning process. The Fellowship is hands-on, collaborative, and grounded in Native cultural, social, spiritual and intellectual perspectives, offered through week-long retreats and on-line learning opportunities. After each retreat, fellows apply what they learned through the community action learning process. They work collaboratively with community members to listen, dialogue, take action and reflect/evaluate on community-identified issues. Together with their community, the

teams take on the challenge to try new tools, practice new skills and nurture new leadership actions at multiple levels.

A unique aspect of the Fellowship that strengthens the depth of dialogue and learning is the diversity among the teams. A sampling of the teams this year represent: an California team made up of a Education Director, Medical Assistant and Community Health Manger, a team from Montana with a Transportation Director and Tobacco Prevention Specialist ; an Alaska team with a Adult Education Research Specialist and a Environmental Program Associate; and an New Mexico team made of a Diabetes Liaison, a Health Ed. Specialist and a Health Advocate. The sharing of life experiences and a willingness to seek understanding creates an optimum opportunity for learning and growth as we move towards healthy Native communities. Congratulations to the 2012 Fellows!

About The Healthy Native Communities Partnership and The Indian Health Service (IHS) National Health Promotion Initiative

Healthy Native Communities Partnership, Inc., (HNCP) is a non-profit organization that supports capacity building, leadership development, partnership and networking so that Native Communities realize their own vision of wellness. HNCP, in collaboration with the Indian Health Service National Health Promotion/Disease Prevention implements the Healthy Native Communities Fellowship. Together these organizations provide Native communities and health care programs with tools needed to strengthen efforts towards building healthy Native communities. The HNCP website is www.hncpartners.org. The Indian Health Service Web site is <http://www.ihs.gov/hpdp>.

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