

## IHS – ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SPECIALIST OF THE YEAR

### PURPOSE & BACKGROUND

Beginning in 1993, the Division of Environmental Health Services (DEHS) has annually recognized an outstanding Environmental Health Specialist of the Year. The award is given to the Environmental Health Specialist representing the DEHS with distinction and, through superior performance, positively impacting the health outcomes for American Indian / Alaskan Natives.

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. In 2016, the criteria were updated to adjust the scoring, refine the criteria and ultimately provide a clearer rating system.

### RECIPIENTS TO DATE

2022	Joseph Sarisky, Bemidji Area IHS	2007	Stephen Piontkowski, Phoenix Area IHS
2021	Braden Hickey, Albuquerque Area IHS	2006	Troy Ritter, Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium
2020	George Chung, Phoenix Area, IHS	2005	Andrea Horn, Phoenix Area IHS
2019	Robert Morones, Phoenix Area, IHS	2004	Celeste Davis, Albuquerque Area IHS
2018	Timothy Taylor, Bemidji Area IHS	2003	Casey Crump, Bemidji Area IHS
2017	Kate Pink, Phoenix Area IHS	2002	Pete Wallis, Tanana Chiefs Corp.
2016	Mike Reed, Great Plains Area IHS	2001	Molly Patton, Tanana Chiefs Corp.
2015	Sarah Snyder, California Area IHS	2000	Shawn Sorenson, South East Alaska Regional Health Corp.
2014	Landon Wiggins, Phoenix Area IHS	1999	Mike Welch, Phoenix Area IHS
2013	Martha Maynes, Bemidji Area IHS	1998	Diana Kuklinski, Phoenix Area IHS
2012	Lisa Nakagawa, California Area IHS	1997	Mark Mattson, Bemidji Area IHS
2011	Bryan Reed, Bristol Bay Area Health Corp.	1996	Harold Cully, Oklahoma Area IHS
2010	Amanda M. Parris, Phoenix Area IHS	1995	Keith Cook, Navajo Area IHS
2009	Timothy Duffy, Bemidji Area IHS	1994	Carol Rollins, Ho-Chunk Nation
2008	Holly Billie, Phoenix Area IHS	1993	John Sarisky, Navajo Area IHS

### ELIGIBILITY

Each IHS Area DEHS Director is requested to nominate one Environmental Health practitioner to be recognized as that Area's Environmental Health Specialist of the Year. Commissioned Corps Officers, Civil Service, 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, Tribal Environmental Health Program Managers/Directors, and Headquarters staff are not eligible.

## **AREA SELECTION PROCESS**

Areas may select the nominee for their Area Environmental Health Specialist of the Year through a process of their choosing.

## **NOMINATION PROCESS**

Each Area's Environmental Health Specialist of the Year nomination will consist of a narrative addressing their nominee's contribution to the environmental health profession and DEHS mission. The format of the narrative should include the following four sections: 1) introduction, 2) professionalism, 3) special accomplishments, and 4) summary. The Area nomination will be forwarded to Headquarters by **08 January 2024**. The nomination should be written as a Word document that is no more than two pages, 12-point font, and has margins no less than 0.5 inches. Nominations not meeting these criteria will not be considered for the award. The IHS DEHS Director or 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 nominations using the assigned points 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 22 January 2024. 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.

## **SCORING CRITERIA**

### **Category: Professionalism (30 Points)**

Credit will be given for demonstrating commitment to professional development and promoting the environmental health profession. There is no time constraint (i.e., within the last year) associated with Professional Credential, Technical Certifications, and Advanced Degree criteria.

### **Category: Special Accomplishments (70 Points)**

A single special accomplishment is encouraged for scoring purposes but additional accomplishments may be considered. The nomination should be based on work completed during the award period. However, it is recognized that special accomplishments or a significant body of work may culminate during the award year as a result of work completed (e.g. project planning/management, data collection, policy change, guideline development) prior to the award year.

**ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SPECIALIST OF THE YEAR  
SCORING CRITERIA & WORKSHEET**

<b>NOMINEE NAME</b>	<b>NOMINEE AREA</b>	<b>TOTAL SCORE</b>

<b>PROFESSIONALISM</b>	<b>(Max. Points: 30)</b>
<p>The degree to which the nominee demonstrates commitment to professional development and promoting the environmental health profession.</p>	
<b>Professional Credential</b> (10 points max.)	<b>Sub-Total</b>
<p>Nominee holds a current professional credential of RS/REHS.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">No = 0 points                      Yes = 10 points</p>	
<b>Technical Certifications</b> (5 points max.)	<b>Sub-Total</b>
<p>Nominee maintains technical competencies through completion of one or more advanced training/certification programs.</p> <p>Examples: Certified Industrial Hygienist, Certified Safety Professional, Child Passenger Safety Technician, Certified Pool Operator, Certified Pool Inspector, IHS Injury Prevention Fellowship, IHS Institutional Environmental Health Residency, Food Protection Manager Certification, and RS/REHS-in Training (indicates nominee passed RS/REHS exam and needs required work experience).</p> <p style="text-align: center;">0 to 5 points based on number and complexity of certifications.</p>	
<b>Advanced Degree</b> (5 points max.)	<b>Sub-Total</b>
<p>Nominee seeks professional development through completion of an Environmental Health/Public Health-related graduate degree.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">                     No current graduate level training                      = 0 points                      Currently enrolled and taking classes in graduate program                      = 2 points                      Completed graduate program                      = 5 points                 </p>	
<b>Mentorship &amp; Leadership</b> (5 points max.)	<b>Sub-Total</b>
<p>The degree to which the nominee has assumed mentorship and leadership roles during the award year. Considerations include but are not limited to: formal mentorship of public health professionals (interns, COSTEPs, junior staff, subordinates); completion of advanced leadership training; assumption of leadership roles of successful initiatives, teams, or professional workgroups/organizations.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">0 to 5 points based on the magnitude and scope of mentorship &amp; leadership.</p>	
<b>Scope of Service &amp; Responsibilities</b> (5 points max.)	<b>Sub-Total</b>
<p>The breadth of service and responsibilities demonstrated by the nominee in advancing and promoting the mission of the IHS EHS during the award year. Considerations include but are not limited to: professional presentations/publications; collateral duties; involvement in professional workgroups and professional associations; workload and scope of program responsibilities.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">0 to 5 points based on the magnitude and scope of service &amp; responsibilities.</p>	
<b>PROFESSIONALISM TOTAL</b>	

**SPECIAL ACCOMPLISHMENT****(Max. Points: 70)**

The nominee's contribution, through a special accomplishment, in advancing the mission of the IHS Division of Environmental Health Services.

<b>Public Health Approach</b> (15 points max.)	<b>Sub-Total</b>
<p>The nominee employed a comprehensive public health approach (e.g., 10 Essential Services) in the design and implementation of the Special Accomplishment. Considerations include the overall design of the accomplishment, complexity of the problem/need, the application of best practices, stakeholder collaboration, and the project's impact on the public health issue. Scoring will take into account those approaches using novel or innovative practices.</p> <p>Low = 0 to 5 points  Moderate = 6 to 10 points  High = 11 to 15 points</p>	
<b>Problem Identification</b> (15 points max.)	<b>Sub-Total</b>
<p>Sound public health practices were utilized to collect data (qualitative and/or quantitative) which identified the need/problem and drove the development of the Special Accomplishment. Scoring will take into account previously unknown problems.</p> <p>0 to 15 points based on data collection methods and use of data in decision making.</p>	
<b>Evaluation</b> (15 points max.)	<b>Sub-Total</b>
<p>The nominee developed an evaluation plan to monitor the progress of the Special Accomplishment. The award write-up reflects this by highlighting the evaluation planning activity.</p> <p>0 to 15 points based on the quality of the evaluation plan.</p>	
<b>Impact</b> (15 points max.)	<b>Sub-Total</b>
<p>The degree to which the Special Accomplishment is a positive influence on reducing the risk of injury/illness or improving efficiencies within the EH program. Scoring will take into account accomplishments which increased the capacity (new knowledge, skill, ability) within a tribal or federal EH program.</p> <p>No to Low Impact = 0 to 5 points  Moderate Impact = 6 to 10 points  High Impact = 11 to 15 points</p>	
<b>Adaptability</b> (10 points max.)	<b>Sub-Total</b>
<p>The degree to which the Special Accomplishment has been established as a promising/best practice and applied at other local/regional areas; or at the national level.</p> <p>Not adapted = 0 points  Adapted at ≥ 1 additional local level organization (tribe/service unit) = 1 to 3 points  Adapted at ≥ 1 additional regional level organization (IHS area, state) = 4 to 6 points  Adapted at a national level = 7 to 10 points</p>	

**SPECIAL ACCOMPLISHMENT TOTAL**

<b>IHS ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SPECIALIST OF THE YEAR AREA DEHS DIRECTOR SCORE SHEET</b>	<b>AREA:</b>
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Area	Candidate Name	Professionalism Score	Special Accomplishment Score	Total Score
AK				
AQ				
BE				
BI				
CA				
GPA				
NS				
NV				
OK				
PH				
PO				
TU				