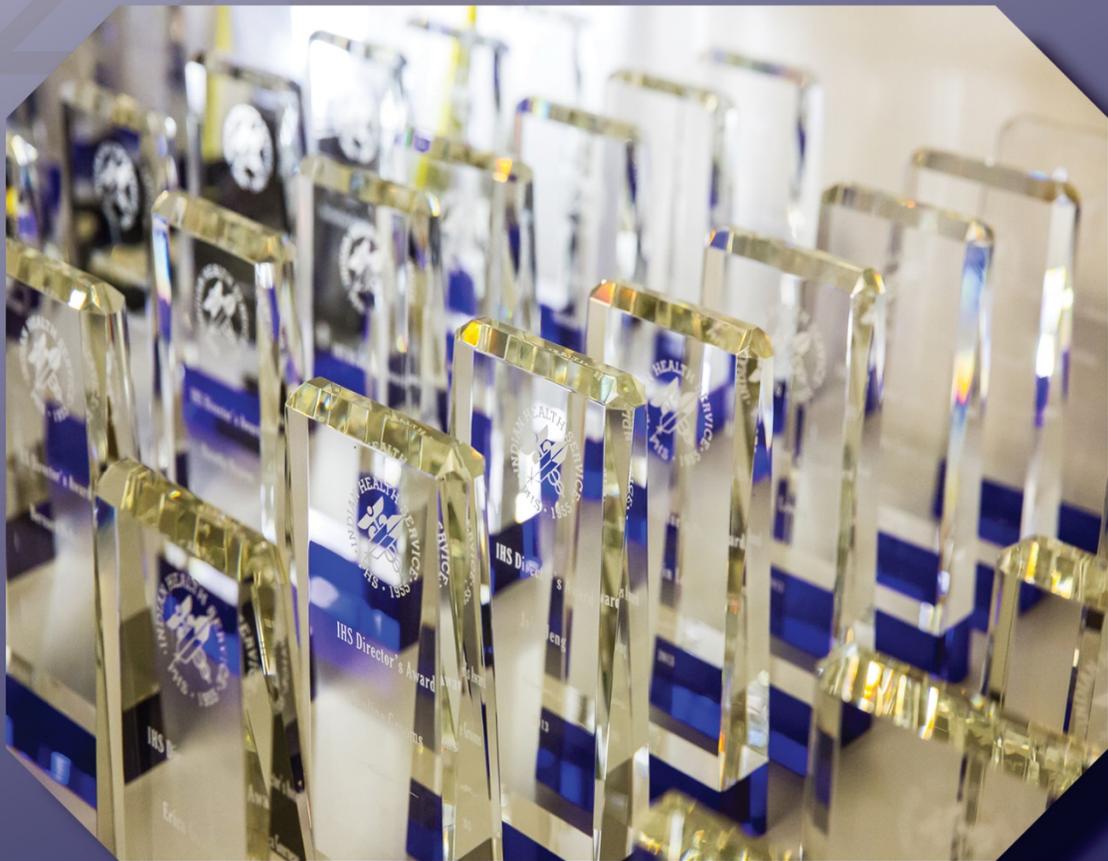


# Indian Health Service Director's Awards Ceremony

May 29, 2015



National Institutes of Health Main Campus  
Natcher Conference Center  
Building 45, Ruth L. Kirschstein Auditorium  
Bethesda, Maryland 20892



## Opening Ceremony

Emcee: Ben Smith, Director, Office of Tribal Self-Governance  
Color Guard: CAPT John Longstaff, CDR Tammy White, CDR Steven Miller, CDR Kimmie Hudson, LCDR Naomi Aspaas  
IHS Principal Deputy Director: Mr. Robert McSwain

## Special Recognition: Federal Partnership Award

Cynthia Gillaspie (Billings Area), Technical Director, Consortium for Medicaid and Children's Health Operations

"In special recognition of your consistent exceptional support to IHS, Tribal, and Urban Indian health programs to increase access to health care through implementation of the Affordable Care Act."

## Special Recognition: National Council Leadership Award

National Council of Pharmacy

"In special recognition of their continuous excellent work leading the National Combined Councils, their meticulous work within the NCC Prescription Drug Abuse Work Group, their ongoing work on the IHS Pharmacy Resource Requirement Methodology Staffing Model, and for their progressive development of an IHS Antibiotic Stewardship Program."

## Special Recognition: Tribal Partnership Award

Andy Joseph, Jr. (Portland Area), Chair, Human Services Committee, Colville Business Council

"In special recognition of your leadership and partnership in improving the IHS budget formulation process through co-chairing the Tribal Budget Formulation Workgroup."

## Special Recognition: Urban Leadership/Partnership Award

Ralph Forquera, Executive Director, Seattle Indian Health Board

"In special recognition of decades of leadership and partnership in support of Urban Indian Health."

## Special Recognition: Public Health Leadership Award

CAPT Timothy Ricks (Nashville Area), Director, Office of Public Health

"Public Health is about promoting and protecting the health of our children and communities where they live, learn and play. Dr. Timothy Ricks is recognized for his *leadership* of the IHS public health cause in affordable quality dental care of our pediatric patients through the work of the IHS Early Childhood Caries Collaborative or the ECC. His outstanding foresight, leadership and perseverance with this collaborative deserves special recognition and is greatly appreciated."

## Special Recognition: Ebola Response Team

LT Jeremy Peacock, LTJrG Timothy Schmidt (Albuquerque)

LCDR Michael Termont (Bemidji Area)

CDR Sara Allen, LCDR Phil Jaquith (Great Plains Area)

LT Bi Kakou Marc Eric Djassa, LCDR Susan Wolffe (Navajo Area)

LCDR Julie Erb-Alvarez, CDR Tracy Farrill, CDR Dana Hayworth (Oklahoma City Area)

LCDR Kimberly Andrews, LCDR Tami Bonebrake, LCDR Jose Burgos, CAPT Daniel Diggins, Jr.  
(Phoenix Area)

LCDR Lorenzo Dominguez, LCDR Manuel Pablo Jr., LCDR Marilyn Sale, LCDR Yvette Shumard  
(Phoenix Area)

LT Crystal McBride, CDR Martin Smith, CAPT John Whitesides (Tucson Area)

“Awardees were recognized for their outstanding dedication and service in supporting the government-wide response to public health Ebola activities during Operation United Assistance. This National security response enhanced Public Health Infrastructure domestically and abroad while protecting the American people from the spread of Ebola and saving lives worldwide.”

## IHS Director's Customer Service Individual and Team Awards

“This award recognizes individuals and groups that provide exceptional service to our customers.”

Mavis Torivio (Alaska Area)

**Alaska Area Native Health Service Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act Payment Processing Team, Alaska Area**

“For outstanding customer service ensuring exceptional payment processing to ISDEAA contractors and compactors.”

Grace Baca (Albuquerque Area)

“For sustained superior customer service and consistent high achievement beyond the scope of her regular duties.”

Theresa Alonzo (Albuquerque Area)

**Jicarilla Service Unit Laboratory Team, Albuquerque Area**

“For outstanding customer service by the laboratory staff and their ongoing effort to improve patient care.”

Esther Talks Different (Billings Area)

“For her dedication, kindness, and superior customer service to the dental patients at the Ft. Belknap Service Unit.”

Bradley Moran (Billings Area)

**Fort Peck Service Unit Pharmacy Department, Billings Area**

“For the diligent work and quality pharmacy services provided by the pharmacy staff.”

## **IHS Director's Customer Service Individual and Team Awards (cont.)**

Matthew Washburn (Billings Area)

**Wind River Service Unit Pharmacy Team, Billings Area**

“For exceeding quality improvement standards, being responsive to patient care, and surpassing clinic expectations.”

Dayle Knutson (Great Plains Area)

“For her ongoing efforts ensuring the success and continual improvements with the Health Home Initiative.”

Craig Notebom (Great Plains Area)

“For excellence in customer service through delivery of diabetes education services.”

Mark Bramblett (Great Plains Area)

**Pine Ridge Hospital Surgical Services, Great Plains Area**

“For outstanding effort to increase the number of surgical patients that are cared for.”

Nicole Gray (Great Plains Area)

**Wagner IHS Healthy Heart Team, Great Plains Area**

“For excellence in the provision of cardiovascular risk reduction services to persons living with diabetes.”

Tina Laurence (Navajo Area)

“For outstanding customer service in demonstrating leadership with a positive attitude to the IHS Community.”

Susan Swanz (Navajo Area)

“For exemplary performance in assisting the medical and dental staff in credentialing and privileging.”

Adriann Begay (Navajo Area)

**Gallup Indian Medical Center Urgent Care Clinic, Navajo Area**

“For embodying compassion, dedication, excellence, and teamwork in the delivery of daily patient care services.”

Sunny Graham (Oklahoma City Area)

“For exemplary customer service provided to travelers in the Oklahoma City Area.”

Tiffany Koronis (Oklahoma City Area)

“For demonstrating an exceptional level of customer service to patients and their families that far exceeds the standard level of care.”

Grant McElwee (Oklahoma City Area)

**Pawnee Vaccine for Children Program, Oklahoma City Area**

“For providing exceptional customer service and achieving a 97% immunization rate from September 10, 2014 thru December 10, 2014.”

## **IHS Director's Customer Service Individual and Team Awards (cont.)**

Pearl Dry (Oklahoma City Area)

**Pawnee Veterans Outreach Program, Oklahoma City Area**

“For partnering with the Veterans Administration and adding services for local veterans.”

Felicia Aspaas (Phoenix Area)

**Phoenix Area Community Health Representative Training Team, Phoenix Area**

“For outstanding customer service in responding to the training needs of the Tribal CHR Programs in the Phoenix Area.”

Jamie Kniffin (Phoenix Area)

**San Carlos Bylas Dental Department, Phoenix Area**

“For providing excellent customer service, professionalism, and devotion to their duties.”

CAPT Cornelias Dial (Portland Area)

“For improving the Portland Area's Tribal, Federal, and Urban clinics' patient care and contributing to meeting the GPRA and MU performance measures.”

Heidi Hulsey (Portland Area)

“For exemplary customer service in support of the IHS mission.”

Adolph Benavidez (Tucson Area)

“For outstanding customer service in the Medical Records Department and your contributions to the Revenue Enhancement Branch.”

LT Crystal McBride (Tucson Area)

“For exceptional service to at-risk newborns, ensuring continuity of care and swift provision of health services.”

Jennifer Frye (Headquarters)

“For exceptional customer service in providing IHS management with the knowledge and tools available to effectively compensate medical professionals to aid in recruitment and retention efforts.”

Lisa Gyorda (Headquarters)

“For providing exceptional customer service to the IHS Senior Leadership and to IHS employees across the U.S.”

Janelle Langland (Headquarters)

**IHS Division of Human Resources, HR Systems and Analytics Branch, Headquarters**

“For the diligent work and quality pharmacy services provided by the pharmacy staff.”

## **Outstanding Service Medal**

CAPT Richard Wermers (California Area)

LCDR Jose Burgos (Phoenix Area)

Not Photographed:

CAPT Candace Jones, Albuquerque Area

CAPT Mary Dahl, Bemidji Area

CAPT Glen Revere, Billings Area

LT Long Thien Pham, Navajo Area

CDR Matthew Baker, Oklahoma City Area

CAPT Greg Ketcher, Oklahoma City Area

CDR David Beckstead, Phoenix Area

LCDR Jose Burgos, Phoenix Area

LCDR Khang Duy Ngo, Portland Area

LCDR Kelly Stewart, Tucson Area

CAPT John Hayes, Headquarters

CAPT Richard Wermers, Headquarters

## **Commissioned Corps Meritorious Service Medal**

CAPT Max Tahsuda (Oklahoma City Area)

Not Photographed: CAPT Charles Watson, Headquarters

## **Length of Service Award**

“In special recognition of their dedication and commitment to the IHS, the Director would like to recognize the following individual for their extraordinary Length of Service.”

Rosie Daugomah (Navajo Area) – “For 45 years of service.”

Betty Gurule (Oklahoma City Area) – “For 45 years of service.”

Paulla Damon Henderson (Phoenix Area) – “For 45 years of service.”

Pearl Dashee (Phoenix Area) – “For 45 years of service.”

Not Photographed:

Irene Benallie (Navajo Area) – “For 45 years of service.”

Daisy Gooday (Phoenix Area) – “For 45 years of service.”

Ella Morales (Phoenix Area) – “For 45 years of service.”

## HHS Green Champion Award Winners from IHS

“These awards recognize and promote the excellence and creativity of HHS employees for Fiscal Year 2014 sustainability efforts.”

### Water Use Efficiency and Management Category

Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium’s Rural Energy Initiative (Alaska Area)

### Sustainable Design and Facilities Category

Michael Young, Headquarters

## IHS Director's Award

Lilly Sommer (Alaska Area)

“For thinking outside the box and going the extra mile to create a new sustainable program that ensures accountability and inclusion of the beneficiaries in remote Interior Alaska.”

Mary Williard (Alaska Area)

### **Dental Health Aide Therapist Educational Program, Alaska Area**

“For innovation, perseverance, and leadership in improving access to safe and culturally competent dental care, and addressing the significant oral health disparities across the Indian Health Service Areas.”

Romee McAdams (Alaska Area)

### **Southeast Alaska Regional Health Consortium After-Hours Nurse Triage Program, Alaska Area**

“For outstanding performance and innovation in the development of the After-Hours Nurse Triage Program providing consistent, quality triage care to remote clinics in Southeast Alaska.”

Marvin Duran (Albuquerque Area)

“For consistent demonstration of exceptional leadership and technological skills, and enthusiastic support of the Albuquerque Area.”

Eric Tsosie (Albuquerque Area)

### **IHS TeleBehavioral Health Center of Excellence, Albuquerque Area**

“For the use of technology to increase access to care and improve the quality of care across the IHS system.”

Cecilia Chao (Albuquerque Area)

### **Jicarilla Service Unit Outpatient IPC Team, Albuquerque Area**

“For outstanding implementation of the Improving Patient Care model that led to the Jicarilla Service Unit's recognition by patients as their Patient Center Medical Home.”

Martin "Deano" Yarlott (Billings Area)

### **Crow Northern Cheyenne Hospital Facilities Management Department, Billings Area**

“For an outstanding display of expertise, teamwork, and professionalism in the service of increasing access for the care of the Crow Nation community.”

## IHS Director's Award (cont.)

Tracie Kimmel (Billings Area)

**Northern Cheyenne Pediatric Group, Billings Area**

“For outreach efforts to meet the needs of the Northern Cheyenne adolescent population at risk.”

Lynelle Hunt (Great Plains Area)

“For outstanding nursing leadership, dedication, and commitment to the Great Plains Area.”

Tricia Morrison (Great Plains Area)

“For superb performance and dedication in mammography and providing the upmost compassion for patient care.”

Terry Friend (Great Plains Area)

**Four Directions Clinic, Great Plains Area**

“For expanding sexual assault services focused on building infrastructure with Tribal, Federal, and regional partners in the development of services for pediatrics, adolescents and adults.”

Charles Mack (Great Plains Area)

**Great Plains Area Shigella Response Team, Great Plains Area**

“For efforts in combating the 2014 Great Plains Area Shigella outbreak through community outreach, health education, timely and appropriate medical therapy, and follow-up services.”

Donna Keeler (Great Plains Area)

**South Dakota Urban Indian Health – Sioux Falls Circle of Life Centering Program, Great Plains Area**

“For efforts to decrease infant mortality by providing culturally appropriate and easily adaptable prenatal care and education to Native American families.”

Ron Cornelius (Great Plains Area)

“For outstanding leadership as the Great Plains Area Director.”

Lorraine Reels (Nashville Area)

“For improving the quality and access to care for his IHS patients at the Catawba Service Unit by increasing daily appointment availability and by offering new medical services.”

Ashley Metcalf (Nashville Area)

**Contract Support Cost Team, Nashville Area**

“For significant contributions resulting in achieving 100% CSC transfers to Tribal programs which was accomplished by streamlining and achieving efficiency and consistency through the development of analytical tools adopted IHS-wide.”

George Brasinikas (Navajo Area)

“For tireless dedication to excellent patient care and best practices thereby improving patient outcomes.”

## **IHS Director's Award (cont.)**

Sharalynn Tsosie (Navajo Area)

“For a positive attitude, commitment to public service, and demonstrating leadership through excellent customer service.”

Nicole Chitwood (Navajo Area)

**GIMC Business Office – Accounts Receivable Team, Navajo Area**

“For exemplary teamwork, customer service, and revenue generation that has contributed to meeting the GSU mission and goals for FY-14.”

Sharlene Todicheeney (Navajo Area)

**GIMC Diabetes Program, Navajo Area**

“For overall excellence in providing support and education to diabetes patients.”

Renee Raney-Cravens (Oklahoma City Area)

“For significant contributions advocating for patients and improving patient care.”

Thomas Riordan (Oklahoma City Area)

“For improving patient care, safety, and continuity of care to the inpatient pharmacy and surgical unit.”

Leslie Panana (Oklahoma City Area)

**Clinton Service Unit – Purchased Referred Care Department, Oklahoma City Area**

“For outstanding efforts in reforming and advancing the PRC program.”

Scott Robison (Oklahoma City Area)

**Wewoka Indian Health Center Community Health Department, Oklahoma City Area**

“For continuing to provide programs for the community and schools with positive outcomes and maintaining partnerships with tribal agencies.”

Arlinda Lee (Phoenix Area)

“For exceptional service in advancing and supporting the mission of the IHS.”

Dr. Charles Ty Reidhead (Phoenix Area)

“For outstanding work leading to the Hospital Consortium and selflessly taking on the Acting CMO position in the Billings Area in 2014.”

Jennifer Childs (Phoenix Area)

**Hopi Health Care Center Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner Program, Phoenix Area**

“For outstanding contributions to the development of the Hopi Health Care Center SANE program.”

Kay Culbertson (Phoenix Area)

**Holly Elliott and Kay Culbertson, Phoenix Area**

“For improving access and culturally appropriate residential substance abuse treatment for American Indian youths.”

## IHS Director's Award (cont.)

Donald Asay (Portland Area)

“For exceptional leadership in implementing inter-facility peer review for optometrists.”

Sharon Stanphill (Portland Area)

**Cow Creek Health and Wellness Center, Portland Area**

“For outstanding dedication to quality improvement and patient care in IPC-5.”

Kristen Bitsuie (Tucson Area)

“For meritorious service and exceptional achievements in support of the IHS mission and goals.”

Michael Alshuk (Tucson Area)

**Emergency Water Connection for San Xavier, Tohono O’odham Nation, Tucson Area**

“For the tireless work to address water quality issues in drinking water supplies on the Tohono O'odham Nation.”

Debi Nalwood (Tucson Area)

**Sells Service Unit Strategic Plan Facilitators, Tucson Area**

“For the outstanding demonstration of leadership, creative thinking, coalition building, and effective communication skills to meet the mission of the Indian Health Service.”

CDR Mark Rives (Headquarters)

“For leadership of the Office of Information Technology during Meaningful Use 2 Certification and planning for implementation, and for his *teamwork* in ICD-10 development and preparation of the program to launch this year.”

Denise Turk (Headquarters)

“For outstanding performance in support of the IHS Director.”

Melissa Jamison (Headquarters)

**IHS Contract Support Costs Settlement Team, Headquarters**

“For their critical participation in the resolution of Contract Support Cost claims.”

Susan Anderson (Headquarters)

**Improving Patient Care Program, Headquarters**

“For exemplary service and professionalism in delivering Improving Patient Care Program training and support while overcoming significant staffing and logistical challenges during the IPC-5 Collaborative.”

Ted Hall (Headquarters)

**National Combined Councils Prescription Drug Abuse Workgroup, Headquarters**

“For outstanding work in developing an action plan for improving prescription drug abuse quality work in 2014.”

Darryl Drapeaux (Headquarters)

“For excellence in leadership as the IHS Liaison to the Government Accountability Office.”

## **IHS Director's Award (cont.)**

Don Lobeda (Headquarters)

**Ethics Branch Staff, Headquarters**

“For exceptional performance in improving the ethics program at IHS.”

Stephen Yuter (Headquarters)

**IHS Conference Management Team, Headquarters**

“For your leadership in developing and implementing an effective and efficient conference approval process in support of the IHS mission.”

Ben Smith (Headquarters)

“For exceptional leadership in advancing the IHS Tribal Self-Governance Program agency-wide.”

Not Photographed:

**Charles Clement, Alaska Area**

“For leadership and efforts exemplifying the IHS values in serving Alaska Natives.”

**Adams Solola, Tucson Area**

“For superior leadership and service to the Sells Service Unit.”

**Yakama Service Unit Tuberculosis Response Team, Portland Area**

“For compassionate care and protection of the public safety of the community.”

- Accepting this award on behalf of the team will be **Elsie Howard**.

## **Luana Reyes Leadership Award**

Ashley Metcalf (Nashville Area)

“In January 2014, Ashley Metcalf, Public Health Advisor, was temporarily detailed to IHS Headquarters to assist with the Contract Support Costs (CSC), Contract Disputes Act claims of more than 1400 claims that span more than 20 years. The claims are from Tribes that contract or compact with the Indian Health Service and had been paid less than their 100% CSC due. Ashley’s unique expertise was necessary and invaluable with addressing the backlog. In her role, she assumed a leadership role for the Agency by developing uniform business practices to streamline the process to address CSC in a fair and consistent manner, and in accordance with IHS policy. In addition to working closely with the IHS CSC Team, Ashley developed training material, provided training for IHS staff on site or in a group setting. Ashley also serves as the lead negotiator on CSC for the Agency and has been instrumental in resolving long-standing CSC matters. Ashley’s leadership skills have been received positively by both Tribes and IHS staff. Through all of her work in FY 2014, she has demonstrated exceptional customer services and professionalism.”