INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE

Director's Awards Ceremony

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE AMERICAN INDIAN

June 29, 2011

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Yvette Roubideaux, M.D., MPH
Director, Indian Health Service

Message from the Director

I am pleased to share with you the 2010 Indian Health Service (IHS) Director's Award Program. The IHS Director's Awards are an opportunity to recognize individuals who have performed extraordinary work in furthering the IHS mission to raise the health status of American Indian and Alaska Native people to the highest possible level and who have helped us make progress on our agency priorities. The IHS Director's Award Program acknowledges and highlights the many extraordinary accomplishments of our Agency's talented and dedicated workforce. All Indian Health Service (IHS), Tribal and Urban Indian health program employees use this opportunity to recognize deserving individuals. The Director's Awards offer a chance for us to reflect on what we are doing well in Indian Health Service and to honor those that are truly going above and beyond the call of duty to support our organization.

It was a pleasure and an honor to select these dedicated and deserving awardees for the IHS Director Awards. I found it incredibly uplifting to read the award nominations, and very callenging to select the award recipients. These awards represented accomplishments in the year 2010, and were awarded at a ceremony in June, 2011 in Washington, D.C.

In addition to the regular IHS Director's Awards that give national recognition for outstanding work by individuals and groups, we created the IHS Director's Special Recognition Awards to honor those who partner with us and who have demonstrated extraordinary achievements in public health leadership, Federal leadership, and organizational leadership. We have also created a very important new award - the IHS Director's Award for Customer Service. As you may know, customer service is a top agency priority and we are honoring those who have been noticed by their fellow employees and our patients for their outstanding customer service.

The Luana Reyes Leadership Award continues to be presented to an individual who reflects the values and characteristics of a future leader that were so apparent in the great leader for whom the award is named.

As we work to change and improve the IHS, we need to take time to honor individuals and groups who make outstanding contributions. They are all further proof that the IHS has the most dedicated employees in the federal government who demonstrate time and again their devotion to our mission and their determination to end health disparities and health care inequities among American Indian and Alaska Native people. I encourage you to review the accomplishments of each awardee in this Program and to begin thinking of deserving individuals and groups to nominate for the 2011 awards.

Congratulations to all the 2010 IHS Director's Award winners!

"IHS Directors Award Ceremony"

Special Recognition Awards

SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARDS

Federal Partnership

Mary K. Wakefield, Ph.D., R.N.
Administrator, Health Resources and Services Administration

"In recognition of your leadership in collaborating with IHS to help increase access to health care resources and needed healthcare professionals for American Indians and Alaska Natives served by the IHS and by HRSA-funded programs."

University/Educational Partnership

Mathuram Santosham MD, MPH
Professor and Director, Center for American Indian Health, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health

"In recognition of your leadership and three decades of research in childhood immunizations on the White Mountain Apache Reservation. The result of your work is saving hundreds of American Indian and Alaska Native children's lives each year from life-threatening diseases such as meningitis and childhood pneumonia."

Tribal Leadership/Partnership

George Howell, Former President Pawnee Nation, and Chairman, Director Service Tribes Advisory Committee

"In recognition of your outstanding leadership of the Direct Service Tribes Advisory Committee, which was established to provide leadership, advocacy and policy guidance for Indian tribes that receive primary health care directly from the Indian Health Service (IHS), and for your outstanding partnership with the IHS to meet these goals."

Tribal Leadership/Partnership

Jefferson Keel, Lieutenant Governor, Chickasaw Nation, President, National Congress of American Indians, and Chairman, Tribal Self-Governance Advisory Committee

" In recognition of your outstanding Tribal leadership, including your Chairmanship of the Tribal Self-Governance Advisory Committee, which was established to advise IHS and provide a liaison function as Tribes proceed with implementing self-governance, and for your outstanding partnership with the IHS to make self-governance work effectively as a tribal initiative. Your service on several IHS Tribal consultation workgroups and committees demonstrates your commitment to improving healthcare for American Indians and Alaska Natives."

Public Health Leadership

Ben Shelly, President, Navajo Nation

"For your outstanding and historic public health leadership in signing the Navajo Nation Commercial Free Tobacco Executive Order to take commercial tobacco out of all workplaces and indoor public places on the Navajo Nation while respecting traditional tobacco use."

National Council Leadership

National Council of Chief Executive Officers

"In recognition of the leadership of the National Council of Chief Executive Officers in embracing the IHS priorities and mobilizing a national collaboration of IHS Chief Executive Officers, Tribal Health Program Directors, and Urban Indian Health Program Directors to effectively participate in the establishment and implementation of strategies to achieve the IHS mission"

Accepting this award on behalf of the NCCEOs is Bryce Redgrave.

Public Health Leadership

Traditional Healing Clinic, Southcentral Foundation

"For outstanding public health leadership in demonstrating how tribal doctors, elders and traditional healing practices can work side-by-side with Western medicine to further incorporate Alaska Native values, beliefs and practices for the ultimate benefit of Native patients, families, and communities."

Accepting this award on behalf of the Traditional Healing Clinic is Ileen Sylvester.

Public Health Leadership

SDPI Healthy Heart Project Demonstration Project Grant Programs

"For innovative and outstanding teamwork that successfully demonstrated cardiovascular disease risk reduction in American Indian and Alaska Native Communities."

Accepting this award on behalf of the Healthy Heart Project is Rex Quaempts.

Public Health Leadership

SDPI Diabetes Prevention Program Demonstration Project Grant Programs

"For innovative and outstanding teamwork that successfully demonstrated diabetes can be prevented in American Indian and Alaska Native Communities."

Accepting this award on behalf of the Diabetes Prevention Program is Carmen Repicci.

Tribal Leadership/Partnership

Lynn Malerba, Chief, Mohegan Tribe, Co-Chair, Tribal Self-Governance Advisory Committee

"In recognition of your outstanding leadership as Co-Chair of the Tribal Self-Governance Advisory Committee, established to advise IHS and provide a liaison function as Tribes proceed with implementing self-governance, and for your outstanding partnership with the IHS to make self-governance work effectively as a tribal initiative."

2010 IHS Director's Awards Ceremony
SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARDS

Awardees unable to attend the ceremony.

University/Educational Partnership

Spero M. Manson, Ph.D., Distinquished Professor and Director SDPI Demonstration Projects Coordinating Center, Center for American Indian and Alaska Native Health, University of Colorado

"In recognition of your outstanding coordination of the successful Special Diabetes Program for Indians Diabetes Prevention and Healthy Heart Demonstration Projects. The results of this demonstration project showed that diabetes and cardiovascular disease prevention is possible in Indian communities and will enhance federal and tribal diabetes prevention and treatment services and ultimately reduce diabetes prevention and treatment services and ultimately reduce diabetes-related morbidity and morality."

Organization Leadership

Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board

"For demonstrating excellence and innovation as a tribal organization dedicated to eliminating health disparities and improving the quality of life of American Indians and Alaska Natives by supporting Northwest Tribes in their delivery of culturally appropriate, high quality healthcare."

Accepting this award on behalf of the NWPAIHB is James Roberts.

CUSTOMER SERVICE AWARDS

Lois Chapman, Aberdeen Area

For consistently upholding superior customer service standards at the Standing Rock Service Unit.

Daphne Emm, Phoenix Area

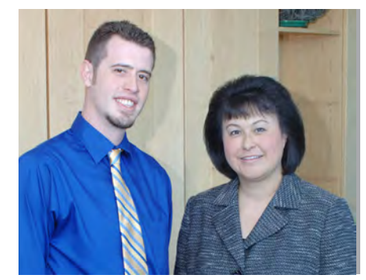
To acknowledge the threads of joy, laughter, and encouragement woven into superb services to customers, peers, and employees.

Sarah Frazier, Tucson Area

For performing excellent customer and patient care while continuing to carry out the mission of the Indian Health Service.

Daniel Garrison, Albuquerque Area

For bringing expertise and innovation to the Albuquerque IHS Dental Clinic operation and focusing on our greatest assets – our patients and employees.



Yolanda Harrison, Tucson Area

For increasing patient satisfaction and empowering the Tohono O'ohdam communities through dedication, cultural competency, and a caring attitude.

Marian One Star-Sorace, Aberdeen Area

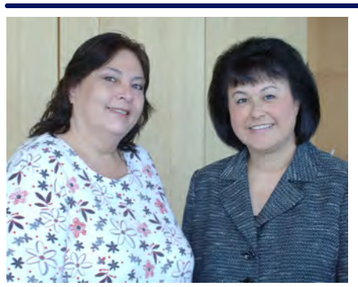
For commendable work ethic and devotion in serving quality health care to the people of the Rosebud Sioux Reservation.

Gary Russell-King, Navajo Area

For using creativity, education, and loyalty to improve customer service within Indian Health Service.

Hazel Sherman, Navajo Area

For promptly addressing customer problems and inquiries, and providing high caliber guidance for the Equal Employment Opportunity program in the Navajo Area.



Rosetta Wynecoop, Portland Area

For your willingness to perform any duty, and continually employing high quality customer service to patients, co-workers, and outside entities.

Claremore Indian Hospital Dietary Department, Oklahoma Area

For outstanding service in providing patients and staff of the Oklahoma City Area nourishing meals during the 2011 blizzard.

Rebecca Sexton accepted this award on behalf of the team.

First Impressions Team, Nashville Area

For welcoming new employees, and cultivating the Agency mission, priorities, goals, core values, policies and procedures into an orientation process.

Gina Blackfox accepted this award on behalf of the team.

Northeastern Tribal Health System Lab/Ward Clerk Staff, Oklahoma Area

For eminent performance and an ongoing effort to provide laboratory services to patients.

Cara Nichols accepted this award on behalf of the team.

Oklahoma City Area Customer Service Training Initiative, Oklahoma Area

For developing Customer Service Training Modules to improve the delivery of customer service within the Oklahoma City Area IHS.

Charles Cross accepted this award on behalf of the team.

Red Lake Customer Service Task Force, Bemidji Area

For demonstrating outstanding leadership, commitment, and creativity in the application of a Customer Service Program.

Charmaine Branchaud accepted this award on behalf of the team.

Rapid City (Sioux San) Dental Clinic, Aberdeen Area

For implementing additional measures to enhance customer service performance in the Sioux San Dental Clinic.

Michael Crutcher accepted this award on behalf of the team.

CUSTOMER SERVICE AWARDS

Whiteriver Customer Service Team, Phoenix Area

For creating a formal program to strengthen the customer service process and positively impact the overall patient-care experience.

Barbara Dazen accepted this award on behalf of the team.

Awardees unable to attend the ceremony.

Tomassina Hernandez, Oklahoma Area
For demonstrating exceptional customer service through compassionate and helpful interactions with patients, employees, and the community.

Marlene McGlashan, Alaska Area
For outstanding work in the Alaska Area Indian Health Service.

Ernest Sandoval, Navajo Area
For exemplary performance, unselfish dedication, and customer service provided to patients and staff at the Dzilth-Na-O-Dith-Hle Health Center.

USPHS Commissioned Officer Awards

USPHS COMMISSIONED OFFICER AWARDS

RADM Richie Grinnell, Nashville Area
Meritorious Service Medal
In recognition of outstanding service, initiative, and leadership as the Area Director of the Nashville Area Indian Health Service.

CAPT Carmen C. Clelland
Outstanding Service Medal
In recognition of outstanding leadership of the Division of Health Professionals and Scholarships.

CAPT Richard E. Turner
Outstanding Service Medal
For the development and implementation of a comprehensive security program that complies with the Homeland Security Presidential Directive/HSPD-12.

Awardees unable to attend the ceremony.

CDR Vincen Barnes, Aberdeen Area
Outstanding Service Medal

CAPT George Ceremuga, Aberdeen Area
Outstanding Service Medal

CAPT Michael Clairmont, Bemidji Area
Outstanding Service Medal

CAPT Mark Dardis, Phoenix Area
Outstanding Service Medal

CAPT Michael Forman, Aberdeen Area
Outstanding Service Medal

LCDR Heather Huentelman, Phoenix
Outstanding Service Medal

CDR Kenneth Hull, Billings
Outstanding Service Medal

CAPT Ronald W. Johnson, Tucson Area
Outstanding Service Medal

CDR Rachel Locker, Portland Area
Outstanding Service Medal

CDR Andrew Meltzer, Alaska Area
Outstanding Service Medal

CAPT Kelton Oliver, Alaska Area
Outstanding Service Medal

CAPT John Redd, Albuquerque Area
Outstanding Service Medal

CDR Ha Tang, Navajo Area
Outstanding Service Medal

CAPT Michael Toedt, Nashville Area
Outstanding Service Medal

CAPT Thomas Troshynski, Portland Area
Outstanding Service Medal

CAPT Marc Traeger, Phoenix Area
Outstanding Service Medal

LENGTH OF SERVICE RECOGNITION

Lahoma Tahchawwickah
45 years of service.

Ivaleen Adams
40 years of service.

Grace Begay
40 years of service.

Ella Gamble
40 years of service.

Priscilla Juan
40 years of service.

Lancelot Lewis
40 years of service.

Marilyn Lomakema
40 years of service.

Wesley Malone
40 years of service.

Audrey Roy
40 years of service.

Anita Shirleson
40 years of service.

Charlotte Yazza-Bain
40 years of service.

Awardees unable to attend the ceremony.

Gay Griffin, Albuquerque Area
45 years of service

Genieva Becenti, Navajo Area
40 years of service

Stanley Begay, Navajo Area
40 years of service

Teddy Blake, Navajo Area
40 years of service

Charles Boulais, Aberdeen Area
40 years of service

Shirley Bradley, Navajo Area
40 years of service

Dianne Campbell, Alaska Area
40 years of service

Irving Cayedito, Navajo Area
40 Years of Service

Jake Charlie, Navajo Area
40 years of service

John Cooke, Aberdeen Area
40 years of service

Verlie Dust, Billings Area
40 years of service

Mavis Failing, Billings Area
40 years of service

Daniel Gunshows, Billings Area
40 years of service

Matilda Jones, Phoenix Area
40 years of service

Michael Joseph, Phoenix Area
40 years of service

Garfield Littlelight, Billings Area
40 years of service

Ray Lucero, Albuquerque Area
40 years of service

Stephen Maurer, Phoenix Area
40 years of service

Shirley Nez, Navajo Area
40 years of service

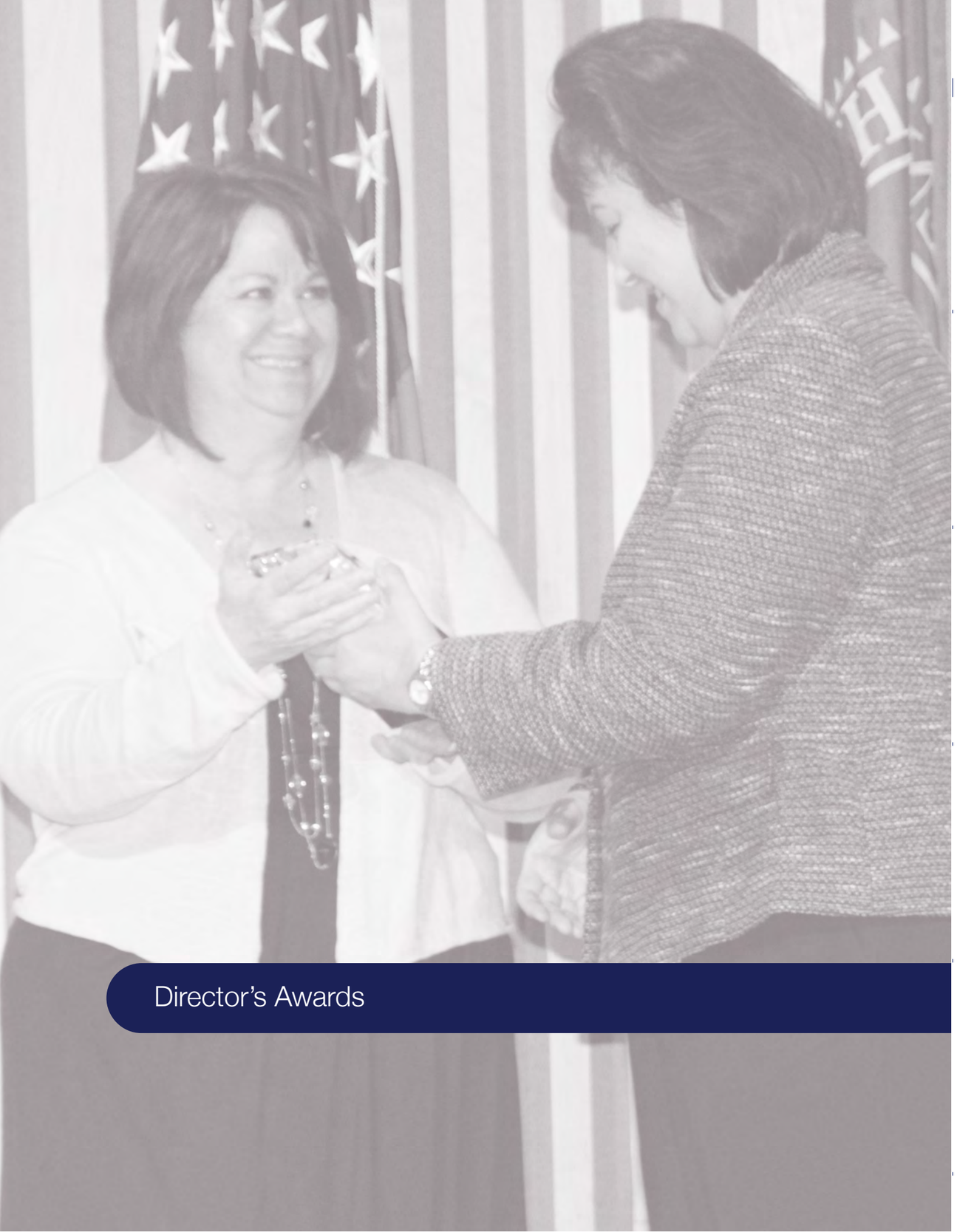
Jo Ann Randall, Phoenix Area
40 years of service

Danny Sage, Phoenix Area
40 years of service

Lois Smith, Phoenix Area
40 years of service

Felicitas Veltha, Tucson Area
40 years of service

Cordelia White Clay, Phoenix Area
40 years of service



Director's Awards

Joe Bryant, Oklahoma Area

For excellence in promoting and enhancing the pharmaceutical procurement strategies for the Indian Health Service National Supply Service Center in Oklahoma City.

Tony Buckanaga, Bemidji Area

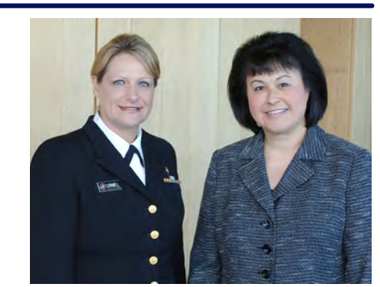
For significant efforts in the recruitment and hiring of 35 critical positions in the Bemidji Area Service Units.

Travis Coleman, California Area

For renewing and strengthening partnership with tribes in the California Area by assisting the Area Director with numerous tribal consultations.

Tonya Cornwell, Nashville Area

For exemplary service as the Acting Chief Executive Officer for the Catawba Service Unit in Rock Hill, South Carolina.



Caroline Cruz, Portland Area

In recognition of commendable leadership and ongoing efforts to improve the quality and access of patient care, while strengthening partnership with local tribes.

Elizabeth Fowler, Headquarters

In recognition of outstanding leadership and management of the IHS Budget and Financial Management Systems in support of Health Care Services to American Indians and Alaska Natives.

Geri Fox, Aberdeen Area

For outstanding leadership and ability to successfully lead people, business acumen and innovative approach to Human Resources.

Randall Gardner, Headquarters

In recognition of exemplary leadership in coordinating the effective and timely utilization of the 2009 IHS American Recovery and Reinvestment Funds.

Randy Grinnell, Headquarters

For outstanding leadership and management in support of the Indian Health Service mission.

Jenny Jenkins, Bemidji

In recognition of outstanding leadership as Acting Director, Bemidji Area IHS, and significant management contributions to improving Tribal partnerships.

Donna Keeler, Aberdeen Area

In recognition of commendable leadership, notable accomplishments, and demonstrated commitment to executing the mission of South Dakota Urban Indian Health.

Martha Ketcher, Nashville

In recognition of outstanding leadership as Acting Director, Nashville Area IHS, and significant management contributions to improving Tribal partnerships.

Carol Lincoln, Headquarters

For administrative excellence and operational leadership of the IHS Headquarters acquisition function, that resulted in substantial cost savings and improved customer service.

Dawn Oleyte, Billings Area

For quality leadership and selfless dedication to the Agency mission at many Indian Health Service facilities in the Billings Area.

Amy Patterson, California Area

For distinguished leadership in Urban program GPRA data collection, analysis, and reporting.

Gayle Riddles, Headquarters

In recognition of invaluable support to the Office of the Director in federal accountability, transparency and performance management improvement.

Amy Rubin, Oklahoma Area

For an instrumental role in implementing the Electronic Health Record for the Oklahoma City Area office, resulting in strengthened tribal and urban partnerships.

Robert Rutherford, California Area

For planning and designing the largest American Recovery and Reinvestment Act project in Indian country, and displaying exemplary skills in serving the Tule River Indian Reservation.

Lillian Solis, Albuquerque Area

For providing the highest quality care to Santa Ana community members, and coordinating multiple programs benefiting women's health.

Ronald Speakman, Tucson Area

For outstanding leadership in the implementation of Improving Patient Care concepts to the San Xavier Heath Center.

Roselyn Tso, Headquarters

In recognition of outstanding leadership as Acting Director, Office of Direct Service and Contracting Tribes, and significant management contributions to improving Tribal partnerships.

Michael Weahkee, Headquarters

For outstanding leadership and service during a Congressional investigation, and a commitment to excellence over an extended period of time.

Rose Weahkee, Headquarters

In recognition of exemplary leadership and outstanding quality management of IHS Behavioral Health Programs and Initiatives.

Cassandra West, Aberdeen

To recognize the superior environmental health, injury prevention, and emergency response services for 2010.

Cliff Wiggins, Headquarters

In recognition of invaluable technical and analytical support to the IHS Office of the Director in accomplishing the IHS mission.

Phyllis Wolfe, Headquarters

In recognition of exceptional leadership, organizational skills and contributions to improving the health and access to care for Urban Indians.

ARRA Coordination Team, Headquarters

In recognition of outstanding cross-functional teamwork and coordination to implement all program and administrative requirements of the IHS FY 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds of $590 million.

Randall Gardner accepted this award on behalf of the team.

Chickasaw Nation Project Management Team, Oklahoma Area

For dedication to the planning and project management of the Chickasaw Nation Medical center.

Chris Tharp accepted this award on behalf of the team.

Chinle Improving Patient Care Collaborative, Navajo Area

For teamwork and commitment resulting in the development of Medical Homes and improvement in patient care in Chinle Service Unit.

Kevin Rand accepted this award on behalf of the team.

IHS Headquarters ACA/IHCIA Negotiation Review Team, Headquarters

In recognition of outstanding leadership, teamwork and customer service to IHS/Tribal Negotiation Teams on the implementation of the 2010 Affordable Care Act and the Reauthorization of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act.

Hankie Ortiz accepted this award on behalf of the team.

Indian Health Board of Nevada Youth Advisory Council, Phoenix Area

For an outstanding example of youth leadership and self-determination.

Celina Gonzales accepted this award on behalf of the team.

Lawton Service Unit Dental Department, Oklahoma Area

For demonstrating a high level of professionalism and commitment to patients in advancing the oral health of Native Americans.

Marilyn Weeden accepted this award on behalf of the team.

Meaningful Use and EHR Certification Team, Headquarters

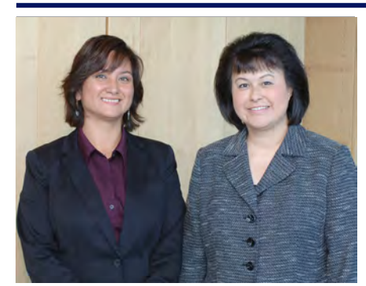
For the analysis of highly complex requirements that ensure the necessary functionality of enabling eligible providers and hospitals to achieve meaningful use.

Chris Lamer accepted this award on behalf of the team.

Phoenix Indian Medical Center Revenue Management Team, Phoenix Area

For exceptional leadership and management performance of the revenue cycle resulting in a significant increase in collections.

Rinda Hathcoat accepted this award on behalf of the team.



Pine Ridge Environmental Health Services, Aberdeen Area

For providing a comprehensive environmental health and injury prevention program, and assisting the Pine Ridge Reservation in securing critical cooperative agreements.

Dawn Holguin accepted this award on behalf of the team.

Rosebud Services Unit Sexual Assault Medical Response Providers, Aberdeen Area

For a benevolent commitment to serving the victims of sexual assault on the Rosebud Sioux Indian Reservation.

Karen Reiser accepted this award on behalf of the team.

San Carlos Motor Vehicle Injury Prevention Program, Phoenix Area

For exemplary performance in elevating the health status of the San Carlos Apache by reducing the impact of motor vehicle crash injuries/fatalities.

Alejandro Benally accepted this award on behalf of the team.

Sells Hospital Facilities Branch, Tucson Area

In recognition of the continued dedication to stabilizing utilities, and the ability to support program expansion, patient comfort, and staff work environment.

Delrey Pearson accepted this award on behalf of the team.

Thoreau Crisis Response Incident Command Team, Navajo Area

For noteworthy commitment to developing a holistic-based, family-focused, and patient-centered treatment program for the Navajo Nation.

Cecelia Belone accepted this award on behalf of the team.

Project TRANSAM Team, Nashville Area

For collaborating with Depart of Defense to distribute over $300 million in assets to more than 100 tribes across the country.

Allen Bollinger accepted this award on behalf of the team.

Sells Hospital Unified Database Team, Tucson Area

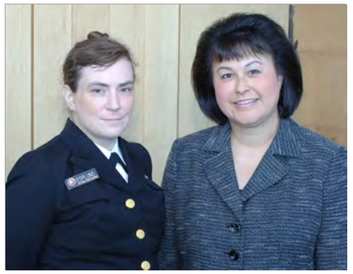
For exemplary dedication and professionalism in successfully implementing the Sells Hospital Unified Database in support of the IHS Missions.

Jason Lockwood accepted this award on behalf of the team.

Wagner Service Unit, Aberdeen Area

For dedication and excellence in managing a multilateral response to the largest outbreak of tuberculosis currently in the United States.

Gretchen Esplund accepted this award on behalf of the team.



Yakama Indian Health Center Saturday Clinic Team, Portland Area

For collaboration and commitment in conducting school physical examinations, immunizations, and health fair activities during Saturday clinics.

Dar Buena-Suerte accepted this award on behalf of the team.

Awardees unable to attend.

Robin Bartlett, Nashville Area
For outstanding sustained performance in her first fifteen months as the Nashville Area Clinical Applications Coordinator and Chief Pharmacy Officer.

LouElla Bitanny, Navajo Area
For outstanding professionalism and job performance in providing vital clerical support services to the Dzilth-Na-O-Dith-Hle Health Center.

Holly Elliott, Phoenix Area
For excellent leadership and management performance.

Steve Glover, Navajo Area
For outstanding dedication and commitment to the mission of IHS/NAIHS/CPSU Division of Clinical Services, as Acting Clinical Director.

Britta Guerrero, California Area
For exemplary leadership of a new Urban Indian Health Center and significant progress towards a best-practices model utilizing modern management and technology.

Sharon Hoppman, Headquarters
For consistent outstanding service and exceptional dedication to duty in support of the IHS Director.

Thomas Hurst, Navajo Area
For exceptional leadership and clinical outcomes that have significant impact at the Dzilth-Na-O-Dith-Hle Health Center.

John Kokesh, Alaska Area
For an invaluable contributition and oustanding commitment as a Chief Physician in the Alaska Area Indian Health Service.

Roberta Marsolek, Bemidji Area
In recognition of exemplary support to the Bemidji Area.

Kevin Quinn, Headquarters
For improving customer service and systems through technology advances.

Theresa Rodgers, Alaska Area
In recognition of outstanding efforts as a Registered Nurse in the Alaska Area.

John Shumack, Albuquerque Area
For outstanding efforts to implement and improve the Electronic Health Record at Jicarilla Service Unit.

Luana Reyes Leadership Award

Rose L. Weahkee, PhD.

The Luana Reyes Leadership Award is presented to an individual whose professional and/or community involvement demonstrates the kind of leadership that Ms. Luana Reyes exemplified. Her humility, drive and ability to empower others made her the kind of leader people followed, this award acknowledges that legacy and highlights the recipient's potential to make a positive difference in the lives of American Indian and Alaska Native people.