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LCDR, United States Public Health Service (USPHS)

Phoenix Area Indian Health Service

Years of Service in I.H.S: 14



Why I chose to pursue Environmental Health as my major...

Growing up in Western North Carolina's timber industry, I developed a love for the outdoors and an early understanding of workplace hazards. This inspired me to pursue degrees in Environmental Health Science and Industrial Hygiene, shaping a career dedicated to protecting health in natural and built environments.

My I.H.S and previous job assignments...

I have served with the Indian Health Service (IHS) for over 14 years, beginning as a JRCOSTEP in the Albuquerque Area and starting my full-time career in Alaska. Now an Institutional Environmental Health Officer in the Phoenix Area, I provide occupational safety and health expertise to facilities across four states. My work has included aligning IHS practices with OSHA standards, leading COVID-19 response, and introducing ATP bioluminescence technology to enhance infection control. Before IHS, I gained experience with a critical infrastructure contractor in occupational safety and incident management, further shaping my dedication to public health.

Why I chose to work at I.H.S....

The IHS mission to partner with American Indian and Alaska Native communities deeply resonates with me. Growing up alongside a Native community, I built meaningful relationships, gained respect for tradition, and created lasting memories that shaped my understanding of community and resilience. Serving in the IHS as a USPHS officer has allowed me to combine this personal connection with my technical expertise to improve health outcomes in underserved communities.

My most rewarding experience in I.H.S has been...

Developing the ATP Bioluminescence Evaluation of Environmental Cleaning Initiative has been a highlight, improving infection control in tribal healthcare facilities by enhancing environmental surface disinfection practices and providing staff training. Seeing these methods adopted nationally and creating safer environments for patients and staff has been very rewarding.

What is an interesting fact about yourself to share with your I.H.S family...

Originally from Western North Carolina, I bring a Southern Appalachian twang to my role. My upbringing fostered a love for the outdoors, and I enjoy fly-fishing, mountain biking, and skiing with my wife, Ashley, and our son, Parker. Living and working in the West has allowed me to combine my dedication to public health with my passion for outdoor adventures, making every day a rewarding experience.