



Director's Awards



CDR D. Joel Beckstead, Phoenix Area

For outstanding leadership and clinical expertise in improving the mental health care of Native American adolescents and adults.

Michelle Blackowl, California Area

For exceptional dedication and superior performance in serving Native American homes with sanitation facilities.



Sharon Brokeshoulder, Navajo Area

In recognition of your outstanding achievements and exceptional service as the Acting Administrative Officer for the Gallup Service Unit.

Jacqueline Candelaria, Albuquerque Area

For exemplary performance in Electronic Health Records, Meaningful Use, Government Performance and Results Act, and International Classification of Diseases-10.



Colleen Chimoni, Albuquerque Area

For outstanding service as the Acting Albuquerque Area Business Office Coordinator while maintaining your duties as the Zuni Service Unit Business Office Manager.



Mark Clippinger, Portland Area

For leadership in improving quality of services received in the Yakama Urgent Care Clinic.

LT Jessica Damon, Oklahoma City Area

For outstanding leadership efforts in improving the coding and business operations within the Clinton Service Unit.



Bernard DeAsis, Tucson Area

For outstanding services and significant contributions to promoting Indian health.

Dorothy Dupree, Phoenix Area

For leadership as the Phoenix Area Director and in leading the IHS National Hospital Consortium.



Michelle Eagle Hawk, Tucson Area

For exceptional initiative and leadership to improve program operations and patient care at Sells Service Unit and Tucson Area.



Jenelle Elza, Bemidji Area

For commitment to improving the quality of care and health outcomes for the Red Cliff Community.

Shirleen Ford, Navajo Area

For dedication and commitment to IHS priorities and to patient care through innovative thinking and outstanding performance at the Northern Navajo Medical Center.



Marilyn Freeman, California Area

In recognition of your outstanding performance in the implementation of VistA Imaging and assisting Area healthcare programs to achieve Meaningful Use incentives.

Theresa Friend, Great Plains Area

For commitment to educate and promote wellness and safety to women's health.



Pauline Grooms, Bemidji Area

For outstanding leadership and tireless efforts in supporting the Red Cliff Indian Health Center.



John Jeng, California Area

For commitment to the Taylor Ranch project providing water and sanitation facilities to the Tribes.

Irvin Lee, Oklahoma City Area

For exceptional leadership to the medical staff at Lawton Service Unit.



CAPT Lynn Lowry, Great Plains Area

In recognition of your contributions and commitment for the highest quality of care to the Winnebago Community.

Christopher Mandregan Jr., Alaska Area

For outstanding leadership as the Alaska Area Director.



Jackie Mazeikas, Alaska Area

For exceptional initiative, leadership, and compassion to address domestic violence in multiple tribal communities.



Paula Poncho, Alaska Area

For providing superior customer service for the transfer of land to the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium and Maniilaq Association.

Anathea Powell, Phoenix Area

For creating and implementing the Peri-Operative Surgical Home at Phoenix Indian Medical Center, greatly improving quality and access to care for IHS patients.



CAPT Deborah Price, Phoenix Area

For exceptional clinical leadership dedication to national, field, and disaster services.

Ronald Redwing, Great Plains Area

For outstanding performance in completing information technology system upgrades for the Great Plains Area Health Care Facilities.



Mary Louise Reiner, Great Plains Area

For invaluable contributions in research ethics and unwavering service to improving the health and well-being of Northern Plains American Indians.

Accepting this award posthumously on behalf of Ms. Renier is her husband, Monty Reiner.



Reynese Ridley-Ball, Portland Area

For exceptional service and dedication to direct patient care and mentoring new employees.

Michael Ryan, Great Plains Area

For superb leadership and encouragement of health promoting activities.



Jeanne Smith, California Area

For exceptional leadership, guidance, and process improvement in IHS administrative programs.

Debbie Stumblingbear, Tucson Area

For dedication and commitment to improve food safety and quality food production, while enhancing customer service and satisfaction.



CAPT Brandon Taylor, Oklahoma City Area

For exceptional leadership and vision in increasing access to care.



Alaska Environmental Team, Alaska Area

For superior performance in strengthening the historic review and consultation process through the creation of a collaborate partnership between the Alaska Area Native Health Service/Indian Health Service, Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium, State Historic Preservation Office, and Alaska Native communities.

Paula Poncho accepted this award on behalf of the team.

Alaska Land Transfer Team, Alaska Area

For outstanding service in transferring land to the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium and Maniilaq Association.

Paula Poncho accepted this award on behalf of the team.



Anadarko Indian Health Center Pharmacy Department, Oklahoma City Area

For superior customer service and a better, more efficient clinical experience.

LT Phoung Vu accepted this award on behalf of the team.

Blackfeet Service Unit – Business Office Staff, Billings Area

For significant contributions to increase quality and access to Indian Health Service patients.

Alva Parsons accepted this award on behalf of the team.



Cherokee Indian Hospital Bar-Coded Medication Administration Implementation Team, Nashville Area

For outstanding commitment to achieving the Baby-Friendly Hospital designation.

Georgia Morin accepted this award on behalf of the team.



Contract Health Services Purchased/Referred Care Curriculum Workgroup, Headquarters

For developing a training curriculum providing a standard method for orientation and training on Purchased/Referred Care/Contract Health Services' rules, regulations, policies, and procedures.

Terri Schmidt accepted this award on behalf of the team.

Digital Radiology Implementation Team, Phoenix Area

For exceptional leadership and outstanding teamwork implementing digital radiology technology and for providing improved quality and access to care for IHS patients and staff.

Michael Buenafe accepted this award on behalf of the team.



EI Reno Indian Health Center Tornado Recovery Team, Oklahoma City Area

For significant contributions in the facility recovery efforts.

LCDR Kelly Factor accepted this award on behalf of the team.

Emergency Department Flow Team, Nashville Area

For your outstanding efforts in improving the quality and access to care.

CAPT Michael Toedt accepted this award on behalf of the team.



Gallup Indian Medical Center HIV-Hepatitis C Clinic Team, Navajo Area

For expanding service for Navajo Area HIV and Hepatitis C patients and improved the fiscal status of their service unit.

Sharalyn Tsosie accepted this award on behalf of the team.



Gallup Indian Medical Center Trauma Program, Navajo Area

For exemplary performance in attaining a Level III Designation through planning and implementing a comprehensive trauma system to provide optimal care to patients.

Esperanza Sanchez accepted this award on behalf of the team.

Great Plains Area Homeland Security Presidential Directive 12 and Suitability Program Office, Great Plains Area

For the development of new procedures, demonstrating leadership, and collaborating with many programs to streamline Homeland Security Presidential Directive 12 functions.

Brenda Kleinknecht accepted this award on behalf of the team.



Health Homes-Area Improvement Support Initiative, Great Plains Area

For being instrumental in the development of the Great Plains Area IHS and South Dakota Department of Health partnership and the implementation of the "Health Home" concepts.

Nancy Haugen accepted this award on behalf of the team.

IHS Native American Cardiology Program, Navajo Area

For exemplary service and dedication to the cardiovascular care of Native American patients and communities across northern Arizona.

CDR Dena Wilson accepted this award on behalf of the team.



Lawton Service Unit Public Health Nurses, Oklahoma City Area

For ensuring access to care through their community outreach efforts, partnerships with the Tribes and being active in tribal events.

Kendall Washburn accepted this award on behalf of the team.



Lawton Service Unit Radiology Department, Oklahoma City Area

In recognition of expanding hours and the services available to meet the needs of patients and medical staff.

Laquita Cormany accepted this award on behalf of the team.

Methamphetamine and Suicide Prevention Initiative Team, Phoenix Area

For the effective development, implementation, and evaluation of evidence-based practice changes to address suicide prevention in our most vulnerable populations.

CAPT Deborah Price accepted this award on behalf of the team.



Northeastern Tribal Health System Project Management Team, Oklahoma City Area

For collaborating with the Northeastern Tribal Health System to provide a community Health Education Center in Miami, Oklahoma in 2013.

Kimberlee Chuculate accepted this award on behalf of the team.

Office of Information Technology and Office of Clinical and Preventive Services – Continuity of Operations Program and Site Development, Headquarters

In recognition of exemplary oversight, preparation, and budgetary control of our COOP program and site development.

CDR Mark Rives accepted this award on behalf of the team.



Pawhuska Indian Health Center Million Hearts 2013 Hypertension Control Champion, Oklahoma City Area

For exceptional leadership that led to the Pawhuska Indian Health Center being selected as a Million Hearts 2013 Hypertension Control Champion.

April Gothard accepted this award on behalf of the team.



Pawnee Radiology Team, Oklahoma City Area

For expanding radiology services resulting in increased access, optimized care, and accreditation from the FDA and the Joint Commission for Mammograms and Advanced Diagnostic Imaging.

Sharla Van Winkle accepted this award on behalf of the team.

Pawnee Revenue Enhancement Team, Oklahoma City Area

For providing exceptional customer service which helped retain patients and improve the new patient experience.

CAPT Pearl Dry accepted this award on behalf of the team.



Portland Area Division of Sanitation Facilities Construction Scattered Site Management Team, Portland Area

For demonstrating significant accomplishments in building health communities through the provision of on-site sanitation facilities.

Terra Holliday accepted this award on behalf of the team.

San Carlos Apache Tribe Community Health Representatives, Phoenix Area

For outstanding leadership in developing and sustaining a child passenger safety seat program on the San Carlos Apache Reservation.

Patsy Sneezy accepted this award on behalf of the team.



White Earth Health Information Management Team, Bemidji Area

In recognition of your successful teamwork benefiting the staff and patients of White Earth Health Center.

LeeAnn McDougall accepted this award on behalf of the team.

**The Director would like to acknowledge those awardees
who were unable to attend this year's ceremony.**

The IHS Director's Award

Individual Awardees

Ray Alstrom, Ret., Alaska Area
 Michelle Barsness, Billings Area
 Brian Campbell, Phoenix Area
 Darlene Chee, Navajo Area
 Diana De Leon, Tucson Area
 Victoria Dickens, Portland Area
 Kenneth Egan, Oklahoma City Area
 James Gemelas, Portland Area
 Denise Grenier, Headquarters
 Darlene Hall, Ret., Oklahoma City Area
 Carol Hunt, Great Plains Area
 Greg Ketcher, Oklahoma City Area
 Sean Meade, Navajo Area
 Tracie Patten, Oklahoma City Area
 Raelyn Pecos, Albuquerque Area
 Steven Poitra, Portland Area
 James Powers, Tucson Area
 Rachel Pulverman, California Area
 Leslie Risse, Great Plains Area
 Jimmy Williams, Ret., Phoenix Area
 Bennie Yazzie, Navajo Area
 Peter Ziegler, Tucson Area

Team Awardees

Cheyenne River Sioux Tribal Health Community Health Representative Rapid
 Testing Team, Great Plains Area
 Chinle Comprehensive Healthcare Facility-Obstetric Care Unit, Navajo Area
 Chinle Service Unit Community Health Councils IP3, Navajo Area
 Office of Information Technology Electronic Prescribing Team, Headquarters
 Public Health Field Health Clinic Diabetes Team, Great Plains Area
 Rapid City Service Unit Dental Clinic, Great Plains Area
 Redding Area Scattered Site Team, California Area