

National Indian Health Board



**HEROES
IN HEALTH**
Awards Gala
2023

**THURSDAY
MAY 4, 2023**

**DENA'INA CONVENTION CENTER
TIKAHTNU BALLROOM**

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA





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IN HEALTH**
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Welcome!

Welcome to the National Indian Health Board the **2023 HEROES IN HEALTH AWARDS GALA!**

Tonight, we celebrate outstanding individuals, programs, and organizations across Indian Country whose dedication has made a remarkable difference in improving American Indian and Alaska Native Health. Their service and inspired work are a true testament to the power of passion and purpose.

Each year many nominations are received for contributions in the fields of health policy, health care services, health education, preventative health, health administration, public awareness, or health care policy and advocacy.

Please join us in congratulating the 2023 award recipients and enjoy an evening celebrating Native health warriors. Thank you for joining us.

EVENING *Events*

- **WELCOME**

William Smith (*Valdez Native Tribe*),
Chairperson, National Indian Health Board

- **BLESSING**

- **LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

Tia Hale (*Native Village of Eklutna*),
Health Board Chairman of the Eklutna
Community Clinic

- **DINNER**

-
- **SPECIAL PERFORMANCE — Pamyua**
Following the performance of Pamyua,
the Awards Ceremony will commence.
Valerie Davidson,
Master of Ceremonies

- **AWARDS CEREMONY &
ADVANCE APPROPRIATION
CELEBRATION**

- **CLOSING**

**HEROES
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2023

HISTORIC ACHIEVEMENT OF ADVANCE

Appropriations FOR INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE (IHS)

We recognize and celebrate the Maniilaq Association for their vision in bringing this idea to the National Indian Health Board over a decade ago. With their certainty of purpose, their insight became a national campaign. They saw that what was happening in their community must be happening elsewhere in Indian Country.

They were right! We also thank our partners at the National Congress of American Indians and the National Council on Urban Indian Health who worked passionately alongside NIHB to bring IHS advance appropriations over the finish line. After more than a decade of tireless advocacy by many on Friday, December 23, 2022, Congress passed advance appropriations for the Indian Health Service. With advance



“ This is a historic moment for Indian Country. While Indian health remains chronically underfunded, this provision will help ensure that the Indian Health Service can provide stable, uninterrupted care to our people even when there is a government shutdown. We are confident that we can build on this win and continue our work toward full and mandatory funding for the Indian Health Service, fulfilling the promises this country made to our people over two centuries ago.”

— CHAIRMAN SMITH



appropriations, American Indians and Alaska Native health care will not come to a sharp stop when Congress fails to meet appropriations deadlines. This success would not have been possible without the advocacy from Tribes, Tribal organizations, Urban Indian organizations, and our champions in Congress and the Administration.

MENU

SALAD

ORANGE AND THYME BEET SALAD

Organic Mixed Green Salad with Orange and Thyme Roasted Beets, Orange Sections, English Cucumbers, Ricotta Cheese, and Pine Nuts Served with White Balsamic Vinaigrette

MAIN COURSE

PETITE FILET MIGNON & ALASKAN HALIBUT

DESSERT

APPLE PIE & STRAWBERRY SHORTCAKE



MASTER OF *Ceremonies*



VALERIE DAVIDSON

Valerie Nurr'araluk Davidson serves as President/CEO and oversees the Consortium's governance and strategy for statewide Tribal health services that serve the Alaska Native and American Indian people living in Alaska.

Davidson previously served ANTHC as Senior Director of Legal and Intergovernmental Affairs and represented Alaska Native communities and health needs at federal, state and community levels.

Davidson, Yup'ik, is an enrolled Tribal citizen of the Orutsararmiut Traditional Native Council in Bethel. Her previous experience includes serving as Lieutenant Governor of Alaska and Commissioner of the Alaska Department of Health & Social Services.

She earned a Bachelor of Education degree with a specialty in Early Childhood Education and a minor in Bilingual Education from the University of Alaska Southeast and continued her education with a Juris Doctor degree from the University of New Mexico School of Law. She has employed her education and commitment to her Native peoples and Alaska to advance a collective and holistic approach to self-governance and well-being for all Alaskans.

PAMYUA



ENTERTAINMENT

Spotlight

PAMYUA was formed in April 1995 by brothers Phillip and Stephen Blanchett. The brothers stumbled upon a musical concept to blend Inuit drum/dance melodies with R&B vocal styling and arrangements. The duo immediately began sharing their performance around Alaska and collaborating with like-minded artists.

Later that year Ossie Kairaiuak permanently joined the group and in the spring of 1996 Karina Moeller permanently joined. Today the quartet works with world-class musicians from Alaska and Denmark and travels the world sharing their blend of cultural harmony.

Pamyua showcases Inuit culture through music and dance performances. The show is a platform to share indigenous knowledge and history. Their style derives from traditional melodies reinterpreted with contemporary vocalization and instrumentation. Often described as "Inuit Soul Music," Pamyua has discovered their own genre.

Band members are proud to represent Indigenous culture. The group believes unity is possible through music and dance. Together, each member works to interpret Inuit traditions masterfully with joy and sincerity. The response to this message is tremendous as the group is a symbol of pride for Alaska's indigenous people and to all who see them perform.

Pamyua's performances aim to honor and share indigenous traditions through ceremonies, songs, and dance.

PAST OUTSTANDING *Service Award Winners*



BUFORD ROLIN
*(Poarch Band of
Creek Indians), Jake
Whitecrow Award 2007*

MELISSA GOWER
*(Cherokee Nation),
National Impact
Award 2016*



SALLY SMITH
*(Curyung Tribal
Council), Jake Whitecrow
Award 1998*

CHESTER ANTONE
*(Tohono O'Odham
Nation), Jake Whitecrow
Award 2021*



CATHY ABRAMSON
*(Sault Ste. Marie Tribe
of Chippewa), Jake
Whitecrow Award 2016*

THE AREA/REGIONAL *Impact Award*

Honors an individual, program or organization whose work has contributed to improving American Indian/Alaska Native health care or has affected change in an Area or region.



AREA/REGIONAL IMPACT AWARD WINNERS

Alaska

CHARLES AKERS

SOUTHCENTRAL FOUNDATION

Southcentral Foundation



Charles Akers is an exemplary leader, from his governance roles to his activism within wellness initiatives for Indigenous veterans

and first responders. A veteran himself, he leads Soldier's Heart Learning Circles and training for those experiencing post-traumatic stress. He also shares personal stories during Core Concepts workshops, reinforcing the power of empathy, compassion, and relationship-building in the healthcare setting. As a Joint Operating Board member, he has been influential in the direction of Benteh Nuutah's growth to keep pace with community needs. Charles is an active member of SCF's Executive Committee as Board Treasurer, Compensation Committee and Veterans Committee, as well as an alternate on the Alaska Native Health Board.

Alaska

OPIOID OVERDOSE PREVENTION TEAM BRISTOL BAY AREA HEALTH CORPORATION

Curyung

BRISTOL BAY AREA CORPORATION



The Opioid Overdose Prevention Team at Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation has forged a path for healing in the Bristol Bay Region. The team began

with 2 individuals and has grown to include 4 ladies who have spent their lives seeking understanding for why AI/AN people are disproportionately impacted by substance use disorder, sexual assault, domestic violence, incarceration, Office of Children's services involvement, and poor health. They have taken knowledge learned and sought ways to make positive impact for people in the region. The Opioid Prevention Team has developed a series of events that hold Culture, Knowledge and Connection at the center. The team offers Monday virtual talking circles, school based native dance groups, 2 Day Community Healing Events, and an educational presentation on historical trauma specific to the region for communities, departments, and partner agencies. This group of 4 individuals is the face of healing in the region and has begun the movement toward expectation of a better existence for the next 500 generations.

AREA/REGIONAL IMPACT AWARD WINNERS

Albuquerque

BELIN MARCUS

Tewa - Ohkay Owingeh

BREATH OF MY HEART



FIRST BREATHS * OPEN HEARTS * GENTLE BIRTHS

Breath of My Heart Birthplace

Belin is the clinical director and lead midwife at a rural birth center, Breath of My Heart, which is the ONLY native-led and run birth center in the entire country, and Belin is the only Native midwife leading on the opportunities of creating health care access points in a birth center setting to serve the northern 8 pueblos, as well as urban populations such as Santa Fe and Albuquerque. Breath of My Heart is a shining example for many native communities around the country currently working on issues of greater access to maternal health care providers that are indigenous, running indigenous led clinics.

Albuquerque

TRIBAL PRAMS

Navajo

ALBUQUERQUE AREA INDIAN HEALTH BOARD



The Tribal Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS) project is a tribally driven public health surveillance system led by the Albuquerque Area Southwest Tribal

Epidemiology Center (AASTEC), in partnership with the New Mexico Department of Health and the Navajo Tribal Epidemiology Center. The overarching aim of Tribal PRAMS is to increase access to quality and representative data that can be utilized to plan, implement, monitor, and evaluate tribal and regional efforts to promote health equity for American Indian perinatal women and their infants. To date, the Tribal PRAMS team has successfully led the administration of Tribal PRAMS with over 2,000 new American Indian mothers in New Mexico, developed and disseminated several culturally centered communications products, and convened tribal, state, and federal partners at two Tribal Maternal Child Health Symposia to share data products and spur collective action to translate data into meaningful action.

AREA/REGIONAL IMPACT AWARD WINNERS

Bemidji

BRANDI MEYER

GUN LAKE TRIBE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES



Brandi has been the Community Health Nurse at Gun Lake Tribe (GLT) for over three years and during that time she has grown all

the programs and increased services for Tribal Citizens, increasing access to care and improving health outcomes. As the Special Diabetes Program for Indians project director, Brandi has more than doubled participation in diabetes programming and implemented the use of both professional personal continuous glucose monitoring. She is an advocate for her patients and staff and cares deeply about the Tribal Community and the patients that she serves.

Bemidji

ST CROIX TRIBAL HEALTH CENTER

St Croix Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin **ST CROIX TRIBAL HEALTH CLINIC**



The St Croix Tribal Health Center is a small rural health center located in Northwestern Wisconsin on the St Croix Reservation. The federally recognized tribe currently has 1,016 enrolled members. The St Croix Tribal

Health Center has been present for 20 years. During the height of the COVID pandemic the staff worked hard to continue to provide services to the community members who relied on them for their healthcare needs. The team worked with GLITEC to obtain funding to get a Mobile Health Trailer to support their ongoing COVID-19 initiatives. The team worked hard to ensure that all patients could receive the care they needed while making efforts to keep the community safe and decrease COVID-19 exposure of the patients that needed to be seen. The SCTHC strived to keep a medical home available for their patients, even though the disruption caused by the pandemic shut down communities. In addition to the Mobile Health Trailer, the team provided educational information to the community along with supplying patients with tools they needed to monitor themselves and their families at home from COVID-19. The team at the SCTHC is dedicated to their community and patients and continuously strive to bring more public health education, programs and services to the community members of the St Croix Tribe.

AREA/REGIONAL IMPACT AWARD WINNERS

Billings

DANIELLE ANTELOPE

Blackfeet

FAST BLACKFEET



Danielle Antelope is a steadfast advocate for food sovereignty and food access on the Blackfeet Reservation. She attended both Blackfeet Community College and Montana State University to study sustainable food systems. In 2017, she assisted with interviews for Ahwahsiin, a groundbreaking report interviewing Blackfeet elders on traditional food knowledge, which continues to be used in colleges across the West. In 2018, she was awarded an NIH Youth Health Policy Fellowship. Today, she serves as executive director of FAST Blackfeet. They run a food pantry, a mobile food pantry, provide nutrition education classes, and work to provide gardening classes and resources to strengthen local food systems. Danielle is a natural leader who is truly dedicated to her home community and building sustainable and local food systems by and for Blackfeet people. At just 26 years old, she is not a future tribal leader – she is a current tribal leader.

Billings

DALE FOUR BEAR

Fort Peck Tribes

SPOTTED BULL RESOURCE RECOVERY CENTER



Dale Four Bear is the Director of SBRRRC, he supports overall operations and strategic visioning for the program. Supported by many employees, elders, cultural leaders, and

prayers- SBRRRC is leading a Wellbriety movement on the Fort Peck Reservation. Evidence of forward progress is in the consistent offering and growing attendance of community members at various events, including the annual Wellbriety Symposiums, annual Creators games, summer culture camps, and various wellness activities offered throughout the year. As one person in recovery noted, "Dale and the SBRRRC team do not give up on people, they are focused on healing, they live it every day and this is what inspires me."

AREA/REGIONAL IMPACT AWARD WINNERS

California

JOHN D GREEN

Elk Valley Rancheria

UNITED INDIAN HEALTH SERVICES, INC.



United Indian Health Services, Inc.

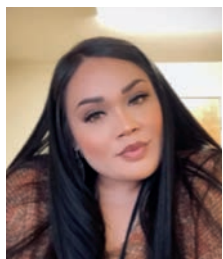
John has been a dedicated, loyal, advocate for the American Indian Community. He never

brags about his accomplishments nor expects anything other than to help his local tribes and the American Indian Community at large.

California

NATIVE TOBACCO PROJECT

UNITED INDIAN HEALTH SERVICES, INC.



The NATIVE Tobacco Project at United Indian Health Services, Inc. has been doing extraordinary work encouraging community members to live a life free of commercial tobacco. One of The NATIVE Tobacco Project's strategies is incorporating the use of stories from youth, elders, and pregnant patients that emphasizes culture. The lessons of these stories are then utilized in creating social media posts, a poster series campaign, and a providing messaging and resources on a local billboard. The digital artwork and billboard media is highly acclaimed, and this project has been invited to share their educational content with community partners and Tribes throughout California. The NATIVE Tobacco Project also develops their own educational packets and articles that resonant with the Tribal communities they serve in addition to consistently participating in community outreach.

AREA/REGIONAL IMPACT AWARD WINNERS

Nashville

HAILEY WADE

Catawba Indian Nation

CATAWBA INDIAN NATION BEHAVIORAL HEALTH



The Catawba Indian Nation Department of Behavioral Health team have been instrumental in leading the way to promote positive impact within their Tribal Nation citizens. To name a few of their many successes. In 2020, Hailey Wade and her colleagues successfully orches-

trated the 1st Annual Catawba River Ramble for Recovery, providing culturally specific outreach and advocacy to the community. This event has become an annual event in honor of National Recovery Month. In 2023, the CIN Behavioral Health team opened their first Intensive Outpatient program which incorporates all aspects of wellness. The National Mobilize Recovery bus is an initiative of the Recovery Advocacy Project and the Voices Project. Its mission is to expand policy to support substance use disorder recovery. The only Tribal Nation stop was with Catawba Indian Nation. This was beyond meaningful to the citizens of Catawba for the acknowledgement that culture is recovery. CIN BH team latest initiative is the collaboration of the Joint Multidisciplinary Taskforce. The (MSTs) are the mechanism for organizing and coordinating health-care and law enforcement services to meet the needs of individuals with complex care needs for better treatment planning and compliance.

Nashville

CEDRIC WOODS

Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina

UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS – BOSTON THE INSTITUTE FOR NEW ENGLAND NATIVE AMERICAN STUDIES



Cedric oversees the institute's purpose to connect Native New England with university research, innovation, and education. Currently, Cedric is working on projects with tribes in the areas of tribal government capacity building, Indian education, economic development,

and chronic disease prevention. Cedric has been a leader in connecting, developing, and implementing culturally responsive substance use prevention materials, focus groups and advocating for State and Federally recognized Tribes.

AREA/REGIONAL IMPACT AWARD WINNERS

Navajo

SHAWNELL DAMON

Navajo

NAVAJO AREA INDIAN HEALTH SERVICES



Shawnell Damon has been a bold and empathic leader for the Navajo Area, bringing together diverse stakeholders, using innovative approaches to come to consensus around shared missions and accountability. She contributed greatly

to strengthening relationships across all the Navajo sites and between IHS, 638 and tribal partners. She was a key leader for the covid response, started a public health team at NAIHS, and is now leading public health efforts across a variety of high-priority issues. She is not afraid of change and advocating with compassion for constant improvement for the interests of the Navajo community.

Navajo

RICK HENDY

UTAH NAVAJO HEALTH SYSTEM, INC.



Rick, and his behavioral health team, have done a phenomenal job of providing a safety net to members of the Navajo Nation. During the past three years they have developed many new programs to ensure that members of domestic violence have a safe refuge. He has hired several victims of crime advocates to work

together with residents in several communities throughout the Northern strip of the Navajo Nation. The advocates also work with law enforcement to ensure the safety and well-being of some of our most fragile patients. The Navajo Nation approached Utah Navajo Health System, Inc. to see if our organization would open a women's shelter in Blanding, UT that had been left vacant for five years. He, and the team, worked day and night to schedule a grand opening within a just few months. The shelter has been open for over a year now and has operated a near full capacity.

AREA/REGIONAL IMPACT AWARD WINNERS

Oklahoma City

ASHLEY BYFIELD

Cherokee Nation

CHEROKEE NATION



Ashley Byfield completed exhaustive work — screening for osteoporosis and high fracture risks in Native American women over age of 65. Ashley has worked on this PDSA study compiling data into graphs, process mapping the flow of patients within the clinic, and speaking with stakeholders and champions on better patient care access for this population. Ashley's work has been instrumental in this new service line's success. This study would not have occurred without her efforts. Nine other Cherokee Nation clinics are impacted by Ashley's work.

Oklahoma City

AMANDA CHISUM-PRICE

Choctaw Nation

**CHOCTAW NATION HEALTH CARE CENTER
BREAST CLINIC**



Dr. Amanda Chisum-Price is a Choctaw tribal member that serves as a General Surgeon and Breast Surgeon at Choctaw

Nation Health Services Authority. She has served diligently since 2011. She is devoted to serving indigenous people, specifically indigenous women with breast cancer. She is active in the Choctaw Nation residency program and mentors the next generation of Choctaw physicians. She has developed a cancer program, instituted a Breast Clinic, Survivorship Clinic, and High-Risk Clinic; obtained 2 Breast MRI for clinical sites, implemented genetic and genomic testing, and a new surgical procedure using Magtrace and Magseed increasing surgical services for tribal members. She has incorporated a lymphedema, behavioral health, and exercise programs into the treatment for a more holistic approach. Her clinic received the Breast Cancer Center of Excellence Certification in June of 2022. She is currently working with Community health and radiology, to educate indigenous women to detect early indications of breast cancer and provide the treatment they need.

AREA/REGIONAL IMPACT AWARD WINNERS

Phoenix

STACY BRISCOE

RENO-SPARKS TRIBAL HEALTH CENTER

Ms. Briscoe's exceptional work performance and strong work ethic has clearly demonstrated her commitment to improve the overall health of our tribal community. As, the Special Diabetes Program for Indians (SDPI), manager, Ms. Briscoe is truly dedicated and an inspiring dietitian who has earned the respect and trust of the community with her consistent course materials. In the ten years, Ms. Briscoe has provided relevant real-world examples of how diabetes education has improved medical outcomes and healthily eating habits that tied together physical exercise. Ms. Briscoe was successful in bringing the Mobile Harvest Food Bank and the University Food Bank to the tribal community with outreach to nearby tribal communities. She established a positive classroom climate and taught the skills necessary to understand our bodies as we age and how important nutrient is as we age. She has earned great respect among her colleagues and her patients as she continues to stay low key with acknowledging her staff for all her contributions.

Phoenix

SAN CARLOS APACHE HEALTHCARE CORPORATION DENTAL CLINIC

SAN CARLOS APACHE HEALTHCARE



Izee' Baa Gowah
San Carlos Apache Healthcare

What originally commenced as a small clinic with few providers and staff, San Carlos Apache Healthcare Corporation – Dental Clinic (SCAHC) is now staffed with over 50 full-time employees. Staff includes dental specialists in the fields of pediatrics, oral surgery, endodontics, and anesthesiology. The twenty-chair clinic not only provides treatment and education to members of the San Carlos Tribe, but to surrounding tribal communities as well. The staff and providers are committed to providing quality comprehensive care, as well as emergency services. In addition, outreach efforts providing education and sealant programs have been implemented in the local elementary schools. The dental team strives to lead with "Gozhoo" as it delivers smiles to all.

AREA/REGIONAL IMPACT AWARD WINNERS

Portland

MARIE NATRALL-ACKLES

Squamish Nation/Selkik First Nation

**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES
– BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADMINISTRATION**



Marie is the first fully designated Tribal liaison for the Behavioral Health Administration (BHA) of the Department of Social and Health Services. As a results of several conversations with leadership at BHA facilities, she developed and wrote BHA’s first Native American cultural competency policy (10.22). The policy focuses on three areas:

Conflicts with culture and medications, use of medicinal medicine and protection of sacred items in BHA facilities. In addition, Marie has been working to implement cultural services to bring in Native American individuals to provide services to Native American patients, such as drumming, singing, dancing, regalia making or anything culture related as BHA facilities do not currently have any cultural services for Native American patients.

Portland

ANN PENN-CHARLES

Quileute

QUILEUTE TRIBE

This individual goes above and beyond during any time of the day or night and in most during natural disasters to take care of the elderly, handicapped or ones that do not have family. She brings them generators, so they don’t stress out while there is no electricity for the breathing machines or sleep apnea machines, oxygen, medication, traditional foods medicine, food, wood for their fires, water. You name it she provides resources if she does not have it.

AREA/REGIONAL IMPACT AWARD WINNERS

Tucson

DR. FELINA CORDOVA-MARKS

Hopi Tribe

INDIGIWELLBEING



Dr. Cordova-Marks developed a list of wellness topics that originate from or incorporate aspects of Indigenous culture, while centering Indigenous voices. With this, the IndigiWellbeing program has presented a variety of programming in person and

over zoom. This programming included lectures, storytelling, spiritual wellness, fitness workshops, traditional food demonstrations, and the annual 5K Run/Walk to raise awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous People. This program has seen a total of 1,889 participants with 716 unique individuals participating in one or more of these events. Participants are diverse in background, with 60% of participants identified as Indigenous. 35% of all attendees were students (majority-grad students), 22% were faculty or staff, 39% community members in the Tucson area.

Tucson

TOHONO O'ODHAM VACCINATION CLINIC

Tohono O'odham

TOHONO O'ODHAM NATION



COVID-19 has been with us for the past 3 years and has proven to be one of our greatest health challenges. The treatment of COVID is not overly effective, the best strategy remains preventing the disease. Tohono O'odham Nation Health Care Public Health

Nursing, under the leadership of Cynthia C. Manuel, RN and Tohono O'odham Community Health Program under the Leadership of Cody Juan join forces to provide mobile vaccine PODS (COVID and Influenza) throughout the Tohono O'odham Nation. In fiscal year 2022, the vaccination team, traveled over 1300 miles, visited 46 communities in all 11 districts providing a total of 1,719 vaccinations. This high number of vaccines administered is a significant accomplishment. Without this effort, many would not have received the vaccine.

THE NATIONAL *Impact Award*

Honors an individual or organization whose work has made an impact on American Indian/ Alaska Native health care on a national level.



NATIONAL IMPACT AWARD WINNERS

Alaska

JOSHUA FRANKS

Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians COOK INLET TRIBAL COUNCIL



In addition to his duties as CITC chief of staff, Joshua Franks serves on the Alyce Spotted Bear and Walter Soboleff Commission on Native Children, an independent federal entity that conducts a comprehensive study of federal, state, local, and tribal programs and plans for federal policy to serve Native children. Joshua was with Southcentral Foundation for nearly 20 years, where he

developed the Native Men's Wellness Program, which serves Native men who are coming out of incarceration, substance use treatment programs, or other services and connects them with employment opportunities. The program takes a holistic approach by connecting participants with housing, assisting with transportation, food, and volunteer opportunities and, most importantly, providing a space where men can connect with their culture. Joshua is an alumnus of the Alaska Humanities Forum's Leadership Anchorage program, where he partnered with a local non-profit to support individuals transitioning from houselessness into permanent housing.



NATIONAL IMPACT AWARD WINNERS

Alaska

ANGELA MICHAUD

Huna Tlingit

COOK INLET TRIBAL COUNCIL



**COOK
INLET
TRIBAL
COUNCIL**

People. Partnership. Potential.

Dr. Angela Michaud has been an advocate for Alaska Native Health Care since her junior year in High School. She has advocated at

the State and National level. She is the Alternate Delegate for Alaska for the American Chiropractic Association and is on the Legislative Committee for the Alaska Chiropractic Society. She worked on a white paper on decrease of opioid use with those who have chiropractic care while she was working for Southcentral Foundation. She lobbied to pass the student loan repayment for IHS for chiropractic and acupuncture and passing of the Veterans and active-duty members to receive chiropractic care. Currently the Senior Director of Recovery Services at Cook Inlet Tribal Council, she integrates whole health and wellness and Alaska Native culture into everything she touches. She also has spoken nationally and internationally on health care and how to integrate cultural into programming.

Bemidji

KATY KOZHIMANNIL

Anishinaabe - Descendant

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA



Dr. Kozhimannil is a leader in health policy, and her experiences as an Indigenous woman drive her work from a community to a national level. Her work has influenced positive change on both state and federal levels, where she has advocated for legislation passage to include

evidence-based birthing services in state Medicaid coverage, as well as heavily informed the 2022 White House Blueprint for Addressing the Maternal Health Crisis. She serves as an interface between individuals and health policy, working towards elevating the health of historically marginalized individuals throughout the nation by listening to those most directly impacted.

NATIONAL IMPACT AWARD WINNERS

National

SHANNON ZULLO

Navajo

AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION



Dr. Shannon Zullo was born and raised on the Navajo reservation in Chinle, Arizona. Her first-hand experience with health disparities affecting her family and tribe inspired a career in medicine. Through perseverance and hard work, she became one of the few reservation-

born physicians in the country and the first Navajo dermatology resident. In her national leadership roles, Dr. Zullo advocates for underserved communities, students, and physicians. She currently serves on the American Medical Association's Governing Council of the Minority Affairs Section and on the American Academy of Dermatology's Diversity Champion Workshop task force. Her efforts to advocate for pathway programs, mentorship models, data collection, and Native representation have been recognized nationally, with her recently being named a 40 under 40 Leader in Minority Health. As a researcher, Dr. Zullo has published in peer-reviewed journals, contributed to a dermatology textbook, designed a peer support program, and presented at national conferences.

Portland

ABIGAIL ECHO-HAWK

Pawnee

SEATTLE INDIAN HEALTH BOARD



From the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, Abigail's voice was front and center nationally, ensuring the urban Native community was represented in data collection. When SIHB requested PPE to protect staff from COVID-19 they received body bags. Abigail brought that

issue into the national spotlight, highlighting inequities the Native community experienced in response to the pandemic. She has co-authored numerous articles including two for the CDC on COVID-19 among American Indian and Alaska Native people and was lead author on a report about data genocide of American Indians and Alaska Natives in COVID-19 data. Abigail has also led the way in bringing the issue of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls to the forefront, leading directly to federal, state, and local legislation working to protect Native women. She serves on the Washington State Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and People Taskforce and was instrumental in bringing it to fruition.

THE YOUTH *Leadership Award*

Commends a young American Indian/Alaska Native for their leadership and outstanding efforts to increase the quality of healthcare or awareness of health issues within their peer group or community on a local or national level.



YOUTH LEADERSHIP AWARD WINNER

California

KATHLEEN BELTRAN

Southeastern Pomo and Lake Miwok California Native of the Koi People of Lower Lake Rancheria and Lake Miwok People of Middletown Rancheria

**LAKE COUNTY TRIBAL HEALTH CONSORTIUM
SOUTHEASTERN POMO AND LAKE MIWOK
CALIFORNIA NATIVE OF THE KOI PEOPLE OF
LOWER LAKE RANCHERIA AND LAKE MIWOK
PEOPLE OF MIDDLETOWN RANCHERIA**

Kathleen Beltran is a young professional who has dedicated her talents to improve the health and well-being of her Native Community in Lake County. Kathleen's leadership role in improving the quality of care is unmatched despite being a recent college graduate. She is crucial to our Public Health Diabetes and Tobacco Program's successes by: Reorganizing the department and creating team leads to help achieve program goals and to have better accountability, Creating Logic Models to use in evaluating program goals and objectives, and providing support to staff, Creating Result Based Accountability templates to help the team work on quality improvement, Staff training on cultural awareness to help our team members better serve our Native patients, Facilitating both the Tobacco Education Coalition and the Hinth'el Wellness Coalition meetings in a way that fosters Tribal community's member's engagement.



THE JAKE WHITECROW *Award*

In memoriam of a beloved Executive Director of the National Indian Health Board, recognizes an individual with outstanding lifetime achievements in elevating health care advocacy, raising awareness or affecting positive change for American Indian and Alaska Native health care.



JAKE WHITECROW AWARD WINNER

Phoenix

ALIDA MONTIEL

Pasqua Yaqui Tribe



Ms. Alida Montiel was born January 1, 1954 and she left this earth on December 4, 2022. Alida was a loving mother and grandmother. She was an honorable citizen of the Pasqua Yaqui Tribe. She loved to teach and participate in traditional Aztec (Mexico) Dance. She was a long-time advocate for American Indian/Alaska Native rights, land, culture, and Tribal Sovereignty. She was a member of AIM, and a participant of the Wounded Knee 1973 event and Bureau of Indian Affairs takeovers. Her tireless efforts in policy advocacy contributed to numerous positive impacts in equitable health care for American Indians and Alaska Natives. Since 1990, she worked at the Inter-Tribal Council of Arizona, Inc. as the Health Policy Director and Health & Human Services Director.



PAST JAKE WHITECROW

Award Winners

-2022-

MARIA TRIPP

Yurok Tribe

-2021-

CHESTER ANTONE

Tohono O'Odham Nation

-2020-

MICHAEL MAHSETKY

Comanche Nation

-2019-

ANDREW JOSEPH JR.

Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation

-2018-

THE HONORABLE TOM COLE

Congressman from Oklahoma

-2017-

MS. MYRA MUNSON

Sonosky, Chambers, Miller & Munson LLP

-2016-

MS. CATHY ABRAMSON

Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians
NIHB Board of Directors

-2015-

MS. MIM DIXON

Tribal Self-Governance Advisory Committee,
Tribal Technical Advisory Group, & Medicare,
Medicaid and Health Reform Policy Committee

–2014–

MS. VALERIE DAVIDSON

Orutsararmut Native Council, Alaska
Native Tribal Health Consortium

–2013–

MR. MICHAEL ZACHAROF

Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association

–2012–

MR. JAMES CROUCH

California Rural Indian Health Board

–2011–

MR. JERRY FREDDIE

Navajo Nation

–2010–

MR. ROBERT D. MOORE

Rosebud Sioux Tribe of South Dakota

–2009–

THE HONORABLE LISA MURKOWSKI

Senior Senator from Alaska

–2008–

THE HONORABLE BYRON DORGAN

Senior Senator from North Dakota
and

MS. CAROLE ANNE HEART

Great Plains Tribal Chairmen's Health Board

–2007–

MS. RACHEL JOSEPH AND

MR. BUFORD ROLIN

National Co-Chairs on Reauthorization of
the Indian Health Care Improvement Act

–2006–

DR. KATHLEEN ANNETTE, MD

Indian Health Service, Bemidji Area

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Established by the Tribes to advocate as the united voice of federally recognized American Indian and Alaska Native Tribes, NIHB seeks to reinforce Tribal sovereignty, strengthen Tribal health systems, secure resources, and build capacity to achieve the highest level of health and well-being for our People.