



NATIONAL INDIAN HEALTH BOARD

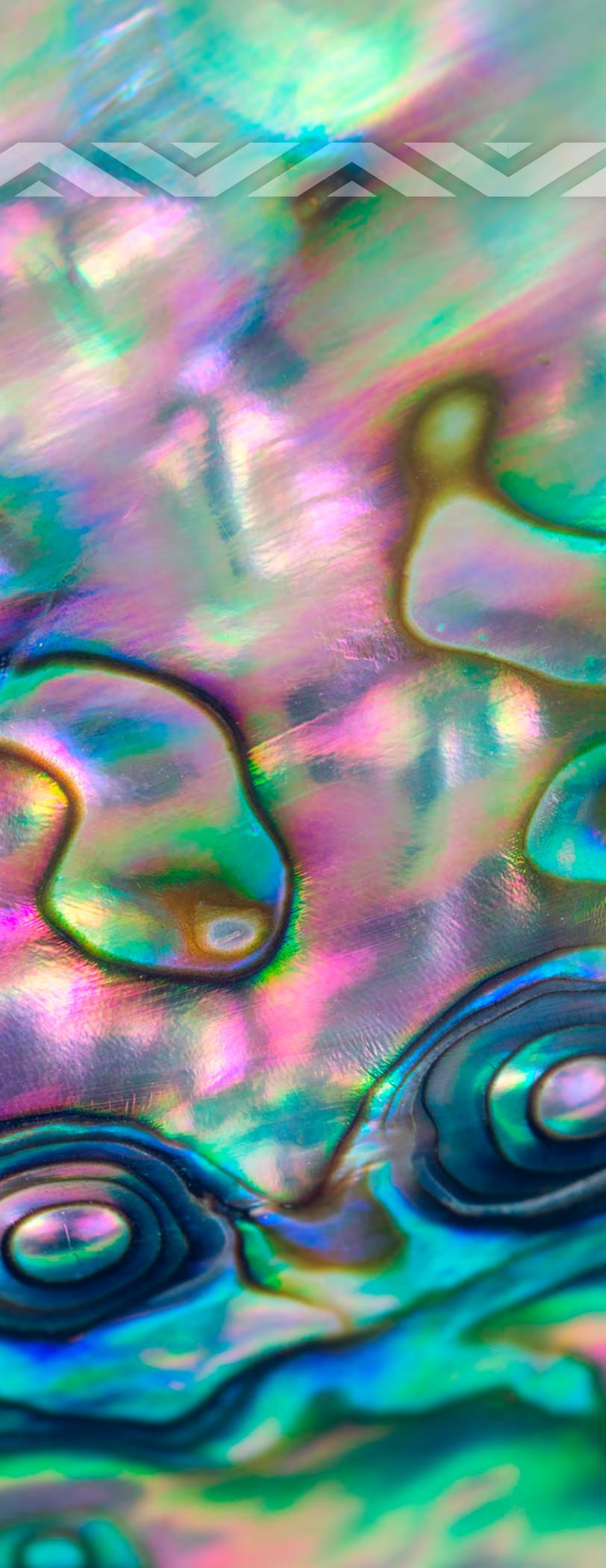
2020

Heroes In Health Awards

Gala

Recognizing Resiliency in Indian Country

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2020



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Greetings!

On Behalf of the National Indian Health Board, we are honored to welcome you to the 2020 Annual Heroes in Health Gala. Thank you for joining us virtually as we honor and recognize these outstanding individuals, programs, and organizations from across Indian Country whose service and selfless work has resulted in major contributions toward improving American Indian and Alaska Native Health. This year in the light of the impact coronavirus on Indian Country, there are so many stories of resilience. Our people often work in anonymity, yet deserve to be recognized for their sacrifice and commitment! Thank you for being a part of this event to celebrate Resiliency In Indian Country. Join us in congratulating the 2020 award recipients.

Sincerely,

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND STAFF OF THE
NATIONAL INDIAN HEALTH BOARD



Evening Agenda

Welcome and Prayer

Remarks from NIHB CEO Stacy A. Bohlen

Best Dressed Contest

Special Performance by Native Ballerina,
Than Povi Martinez (San Ildefonso Pueblo)

Honoring for Outstanding Service Award
Winners – Video Compilation

Jake Whitecrow Award Honoring

Closing

Special Performance

Than Povi Martinez

Ballerina from San
Ildefonso Pueblo

Than Povi Cheryllynn Martinez is originally from the Northern Pueblo of Poh'Woh'Geh Owingeh – San Ildefonso – and began dancing at the age of four. She is a recent Graduate of The New Mexico School for the Arts high school and trained in Ballet Chicago's pre professional ballet program. She is a recipient of the New Mexico Davis scholarship and is now attending Loyola Marymount University Los Angeles on a full ride, majoring in dance with a minor in environmental and political science. She is interested in using the art of dance as a vessel of knowledge, engaging and sharing awareness, opening people's minds and hearts to the importance of balance within the environment and our System of Justice. She is also a long time supporter and student of Moving Arts Espanola because she believes the guidance they provide is essential in building a strong foundation in our youth that is driven by the importance of community and equity.

The logo is a diamond shape with a white background and a decorative border. It features the word "Local" in a large, elegant cursive font, and "IMPACT AWARD" in a bold, black, sans-serif font below it. At the top and bottom of the diamond are small black triangles.

Local IMPACT AWARD

Heroes In Health Awards
Gala

The Local Impact Award acknowledges an individual or organization whose work has affected change or impacted health care on the local and/or Tribal level.

Alaska Area - John Washington

Alaska Area - Norton Sound Health Corporation Pharmacy Department

Albuquerque Area - Bernadette Analla

Albuquerque Area - Iris Reano

Bemidji Area - Mariah Norwood

Bemidji Area - Ho-Chunk Health Care Center Medical Services Team

California Area - Leticia Gonzales

Great Plains Area - Monique Runnels

Great Plains Area - Danelle Smith

Nashville Area - Vickie Bradley

Navajo Area - Navajo Community Health Representative Outreach Program

Navajo Area - Zoel Zohnnie

Oklahoma City Area - Amanda Wyatt

Oklahoma City Area - Choctaw Nation Health COVID -19 Response Team

Oklahoma City Area - Choctaw Nation Food and Nutrition Services Department

Phoenix Area - Gila River Indian Community COVID -19 Taskforce

Phoenix Area - Rainbow Treatment Center

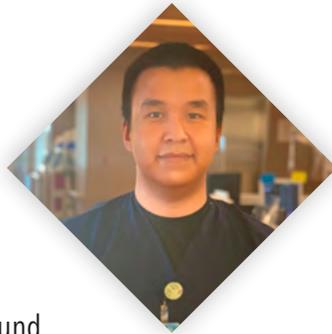
Phoenix Area - San Carlos Apache Tribe - Alternate Care Site

Portland Area - Rochelle Ferry

Portland Area - Cow Creek Health and Wellness Center

John Washington

St. Michael
Acute Care Technician
Norton Sound Health
Corporation



John Washington is a Certified Nursing Assistant and Emergency Medical Technician with Norton Sound Health Corporation. John is hard working, and is always putting his patient's need above his own. He is always there to give a helping hand, no matter the size of the work load he is given. He is a great advocate for his patients and his coworkers. Apart from working in the hospital, John also volunteers his time in the ambulance department and is committed to helping those in need.

Bernadette Analla

Laguna Pueblo
Provider File & Reimbursement
Specialist, Acting Pricing
Coordinator
BCBS of New Mexico



Bernadette has been working with Indian Health Services for over 30 years. In that time, she has worked diligently to ensure that the funds provided by the federal government for health care services to American Indians and Alaska Natives have been used appropriately by helping to implement Purchased/Referred Care (PRC) rates into the fiscal intermediary (FI) system. She has done strict program testing to establish proper payments to providers of service and provided education to ensure providers submit claims correctly and receive payment for their services promptly. She has provided various training sessions instructing peers on the proper claim submittals and changes made to the system to improve programs to process claims.

Norton Sound Health Corporation Pharmacy Department

When COVID-19 changed the face of providing healthcare to the Norton Sound Region, the Pharmacy Department at Norton Sound Health Corporation stepped up to the challenge and immediately started offering prescription delivery services in Nome. The swift action taken by the pharmacy department ensured patients continued to receive their life saving medications without a trip to the pharmacy and potential exposure to COVID-19. The pharmacy is located within the Norton Sound Regional Hospital, which is the only hospital serving the area. By the Pharmacy Department rapidly instituting delivery services to all patients, this dramatically decreased the foot traffic within the hospital and helped potentially decrease the chance of a COVID-19 outbreak within the community. While it will never be known if an outbreak would have occurred without this new service, patients, caregivers and providers were thankful for the new pharmacy service to the region during such a challenging healthcare time.



Iris Reano

Santo Domingo Pueblo
Community Health
Representative Manager
Santo Domingo Pueblo



Iris is a tireless leader, and puts her heart, brain, body and spirit into the work she does. From the start of the pandemic, Iris was very involved, and took on more and more responsibility as the pandemic unfolded. As COVID-19 cases increased, she was an invaluable partner in working with Albuquerque Area Southwest Tribal Epidemiology Center, coordinating contact tracing investigations and case management with them. She is the best resource for information on families in the village and always had her pulse on what was happening in the Pueblo. She would make deliveries to patients on a Saturday and coordinated the disinfection of homes for families coming out of quarantine and isolation. Iris did anything that needed to be done. The response could not have been as effective as it was without relying on Iris. She deserves recognition for all she has done to help the Kewa Pueblo tribe.

Mariah Norwood

**Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma
Infectious Disease American
Indian Liaison
Minnesota Department of Health**

In Mariah's time working for our community in Southwest Minnesota, so many changes have been made to advance health equity, to promote community inclusion, to improve Tribal data collection efforts – while enforcing data sovereignty, and to break down silos within the Tribe as well as between interworking agencies. She has accomplished so many things in such a short time, and the Tribe is incredibly excited for her work to transfer to a state level so that her collaborative, inclusive, and innovative thinking can lead to further improvements of Tribal and state relations across the state of Minnesota (and hopefully beyond) as she continues working towards specializing in Tribal Public Health Law.



Leticia Gonzales

**Bishop Paiute Tribe
Youth Outreach
Toiyabe Indian Health Project**

Leticia is a Youth Outreach worker for Toiyabe Indian Health Project, and a Peer Guide for United Indian Tribal Youth (UNITY's) Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention program, and an Advisor for the local Bishop Tribal Youth Council. She collaborates with the local Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and Bishop Paiute Tribe as well as the local school district to provide prevention services to the local area youth. Leticia's job requires her to provide services to youth in Coleville, Bishop, Big Pine, and Lone Pine, California. During the local COVID restrictions she was able to assist in many virtual outreach programs: weekly youth virtual talking circles, virtual youth Get Out the Vote, Virtual youth Tribal PREP, California Census virtual youth conference. She also participated in the UNITY virtual National conference.

Ho-Chunk Health Care Center Medical Services Team

The Ho-Chunk Health Care Center (HHCC) Medical Services team is extremely dedicated to their Tribal population and employees it serves. As the COVID-19 pandemic loomed large to our communities, this team kicked into a new gear by setting up drive-through testing before the orders came out to set-up this process. Collectively, this team outlined a process to continue attending to other immediate health problems for community members. They adjusted their schedules when over 1000 employees were laid off and were losing their insurance coverage. The team requested and received a separate line to schedule drive-through clinic testing. Most recently, staff distributed results from the clinic and rotating eight (8) community testing sites to contact patrons about results. As the pandemic lingers, this team is strategizing how to continue and expand health, optical and dental services in a safe manner.



Monique Rannels

**Standing Rock Sioux Tribe
Program Director
Standing Rock
Wellness Program**

Monique is a trailblazer; she has found ways to help the people of Standing Rock. Monique is the program director of the Wellness Program-Suicide Prevention. She goes out into the community and finds the people, helps the people and checks on the people of Standing Rock. Monique is a compassionate woman with lots of great ideas that focus around the people of Standing Rock; she is always looking for collaboration efforts for services. Monique is a positive role model who is always willing to lend a helping hand.



Danelle Smith

Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska
CEO
Winnebago Comprehensive
Healthcare System

As CEO of Winnebago Comprehensive Healthcare System, Ms. Smith has led the organization during a time of unknown with a global pandemic. She currently is representing the healthcare organization by serving on the Winnebago Pandemic Preparedness Task Force, which was created by the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska to help navigate the Tribe and its organizations through this time of uncertainty. The Task Force meets regularly to plan, prepare, and discuss COVID-19 disaster relief and assistance for Tribal members. The group also makes policy and regulations recommendations to the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska. Ms. Smith was also the National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development (NCAIED) "Native American 40 under 40" Award Recipient (2009), Thurston County Board of Supervisors Vice-Chairperson (2004-2008), and American Indians for Opportunity Program Alumni (Class of 1998). Additionally, Ms. Smith is experienced in advising non-profit organizations, schools, and community colleges. Ms. Smith also represents the Tribe for the Great Plains Tribal Chairman's Health Board. She currently serves on the Board of Directors for the Ho-Chunk Community Development Corporation.



Vickie Bradley

Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians
Secretary, Public Health & Human
Service Division
Eastern Band of Cherokee
Indians - Public Health & Human
Service Division

Vickie Bradley's commitment as Secretary of the Public Health & Human Service Division for the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI) has shined during this COVID-19 Pandemic. Her strong leadership during the COVID-19 pandemic response includes her use of data and ability to communicate calmly and with empathy, compassion, and transparency has led many EBCI programs, entities, and elected officials to band together and make the best decisions for the Tribe.



Navajo Community Health Representative Outreach Program

The Navajo Community Health Representative (CHR) Program are the front line heroes, they marched together to combat the COVID -19 pandemic that impacted the Navajo People and Nation. Their knowledge in incident command structure and case management made them a valuable tool to respond with Emergency Medical Services (EMS) to make sure all Navajo People were cared for during their time of need. The CHRs distributed food boxes and hygiene kits and worked closely with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to make sure that all health education was consistent across the Navajo reservation. They were able to translate all health education materials into their native language and advocated at the national level for resources and services. With their collaboration with Indian Health Service (IHS) and 638 facilities they were able to bring down numbers on the Navajo Nation regarding COVID -19.



Zoel Zohnnie

Navajo
Founder/Director
Collective Medicine – Water Warriors United

Collective Medicine is a non-profit Native American network whose purpose is to gather resources that benefit and comfort fellow Natives, with roots on the Navajo Nation. Water Warriors United began as a COVID-19 relief campaign on the Navajo Nation initiated by Collective Medicine, which committed to safely providing drinking water. It was delivered in brand new 55-gallon poly-drums or 250-gallon tanks to elderly, vulnerable & most remote Tribal members & residents in need who do not currently have running water in their homes. These homes are regularly revisited to refill these vessels, which are typically their only source of drinking water. As of August 2020, 700 barrels and 150,000 gallons of water were delivered across the Navajo Nation.



recommendations, consults, referrals for testing, coordination of care, and community services directly related to the effects of COVID-19 within the MCN and surrounding Tribal communities. The local social media platform provided updates related to COVID-19, but LCDR Wyatt recognized a need for assisting those without media access by providing real-time instruction and guidance, impacting approximately 25% of callers.

Choctaw Nation Health COVID-19 Response Team

Choctaw Nation Health Services Authority

Since the President's declaration of a National State of Emergency the Choctaw Nation Health Services Authority (CNHSA) COVID-19 Response team has been in high gear. This multidisciplinary group has been tasked with developing and implementing a tiered exposure control plan, organizing screening stations at all access points, converting the medical surgical unit into a negative airflow COVID-19 unit, transforming a nearby technology center into a 28 bed COVID-19 overflow unit, instituting a community drive thru COVID-19 testing site, providing testing onsite for a Native residential school, providing a hospitality center for patients' significant others including drinks, snacks and meals, and establishing a COVID-19 information hotline. The goals of the team are to provide safe care to Tribal members, staff, and the community while mitigating the risks of exposure to COVID-19. This program has been extended to all healthcare sites in the 10½ counties of the Choctaw Nation.



Amanda Wyatt

Muscogee (Creek) Nation
Advanced Practice Nurse, Clinical Nurse Specialist
Muscogee (Creek) Nation

LCDR Amanda Wyatt is nominated for the NIHB 2020 Outstanding Service Local Impact Award for continuous leadership and contributions with the performance of COVID-19 Emergency Response Leader duties within the Muscogee (Creek) Nation (MCN) Department of Health. This included initially serving as the sole point of contact for six outpatient facilities, two hospitals and a physical rehabilitation center for one of the largest Tribal nations. LCDR Wyatt applied critical thinking, evidence-based practice (EBP), knowledge and skills to guide decision making. She established processes that facilitated impacting approximately 2000 callers of which included triage, EBP



Food And Nutrition Services Dept.

Choctaw Nation Health Services Authority

During the COVID-19 pandemic, over 70,000 Summer Food meals were served to children ages 4-18 by the Food and Nutrition Department of the Choctaw Nation and volunteers from the 9 feeding sites. This made a huge impact to the area since many parents became recently unemployed. Also the Choctaw Nation is located in the mostly rural and mountainous region of Southeastern Oklahoma and many communities are classified as food deserts with lack of availability of grocery stores. The response to the meals was staggering this year and was 5 times the amount served in years past. One mother whose children participated in the program said the Summer Feeding Program was a huge blessing. She remarked that it really helped, especially the week when there was a power outage at her home. The Choctaw Nation Food and Nutrition Services Department cooperates in the USDA Summer Food Program and the At-Risk After School Program each year. "It was a marvelous thing to see how during trying times people can be so giving to help others," stated Debra Queen, Director of Food and Nutrition Services Department.



of COVID and created an aggressive test, trace, and treat protocol that ensured the Community did not become a COVID hotspot – even when the State of Arizona was the top hotspot in the world. To date, through the comprehensive testing plan created through the Taskforce the Community has conducted over 75,000 tests for Community members, employees and members of other Tribes. The Taskforce made sure to include an elder and youth representative since those populations are both most at risk for COVID and also most at risk to feel isolated during this pandemic.

Rainbow Treatment Center White Mountain Apache Tribe

In April of 2020, the White Mountain Apache Tribe was confronted with the highest rates of COVID-19 infection in the country. Recognizing that diagnosed Tribal Members were convalescing in their homes and infecting multiple generations of family members, Rainbow Treatment Center, the Tribe's substance abuse treatment program, volunteered to create, staff, and house "alternate care centers" to support community members in their efforts to "self-quarantine" during their recoveries. Over the next two weeks, agency leadership created policies and procedures designed to provide safe and supportive care for participants and modifications to the agency's facilities were made; thereafter, volunteers from the program's staff began caring for their ill community members. Three alternative care sites were created to house and support men, women, and children with COVID-19, two of which were located on the agency's physical premises. Ultimately, 317 Tribal Members entered the program and an unknown number of lives were saved.



Gila River Indian Community COVID-19 Taskforce

Gila River Indian Community

The Gila River Indian Community COVID-19 Taskforce's response to the pandemic has undoubtedly saved lives in the Community. The Taskforce was formed in February during the earliest days of the virus and is comprised of the critical departments that are entrusted with the health and safety of the Community members. The Taskforce quickly mobilized against the threat



San Carlos Apache Tribe — Alternate Care Site

San Carlos Apache Tribe

The San Carlos Apache Tribe Alternate Care Site (ACS) has been one of the key measures to slow the spread of COVID-19 and save lives. The isolation and quarantine of residents in a central location allows for individualized treatment plans and excellent monitoring of covid patients and direct contacts. Public Health Nursing utilizes rigorous contact tracing, and identifies who has been exposed. ACS placement of community members has allowed us to minimize the risk of exposure to others, as they have already been quarantined. Technology in use at the ACS has assisted medical providers in early identification of worsening symptoms. Prompt detection and treatment has allowed more community members to be treated on site, and improved patient health outcomes. Medical staff have also been able to treat underlying conditions, and link patients back to the healthcare system. Traditional medicines were also provided for patients who wished to incorporate that into their treatment.



brought oral health care to community locations such as daycare centers, Head Start, and provided home visits to the Tribe's elders. She has even found value in bringing these services to local mothers' groups, providing information for new and expectant mothers. The impact of Roz's service is undeniable: she works with unparalleled dedication, and her patients and community love her. Countless American Indian and Alaska Native people are healthier because of Roz.

Cow Creek Health & Wellness Center

Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Indians of Oregon

Given the growing need for mental health care and the shortage of psychiatrists in the region, Cow Creek partnered with InSight + Regroup to offer telepsychiatry services to patients. Through telepsychiatry, patients can now connect with a specialist without having to travel significant distances or wait weeks for an appointment. Initially, the telepsychiatry program matched patients with a child and adolescent psychiatrist with extensive experience treating family trauma and anger management. The program has been so successful that Cow Creek expanded its services to accommodate more patients each week and has grown to include a licensed clinical social worker to serve Cow Creek's adult population. Feedback from patients has been overwhelmingly positive and, with instant on-screen access to experienced, caring, culturally sensitive clinicians, the entire Cow Creek community is finally getting the mental health support it needs.

Rochelle Ferry

Inupiaq - Unalakleet Dental Health Aide Therapist Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe

Roz has a long history of serving her community and cares deeply about those she serves. When speaking of young children whose disease necessitated extracting their teeth, Roz is brought to tears even fifteen years later. When COVID-19 necessitated urgent-only oral health care and many clinicians worried for their safety, Roz continued to serve the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe (PGST) community as their only dental provider during months when their dentist was unable to come to the clinic. During her time at PGST, Roz has regularly



Area
AND
Regional
IMPACT AWARD

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The Area and 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 on an area or regional basis.

Alaska Area

Alaska Blanket Exercise Program

Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium



The Alaska Blanket Exercise (ABE) was developed in 2018 and rolled out in early 2019. Since then, more than 1,000 people have participated in the exercise, fostering a critical understanding of Alaska Native history, colonization, and historical trauma. Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC) intended to focus on spreading the exercise in the Alaska Tribal Health System, but the exercise grew tremendously through word of mouth and participation from community and state partners. Outside of the Tribal health system, more than half of the participants come from Tribal entities, child welfare organizations, educational institutions, and state employees. The ABE was also shared with managers from more than 25 grocery stores in rural communities with large Alaska Native populations. The ABE would not be a success without its 60+ volunteer facilitators throughout the state. ANTHC is on track to have facilitators in each of the major region hubs, allowing expansion into smaller, rural communities.

Albuquerque Area

**Albuquerque Area Southwest Tribal
Epidemiology Center (AASTEC)
Albuquerque Area Indian
Health Board**

The Albuquerque Area Southwest Tribal Epidemiology Center (AASTEC) staff has demonstrated an enormous amount of dedication and commitment to assist Tribes in the Albuquerque Area to combat COVID-19. The staff immediately offered their assistance with contact tracing for Nations, Tribes and Pueblos in the southwest. AASTEC obtained initial COVID-19 Emergency funding that was swiftly distributed to the 27 tribes in the Albuquerque Area to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. The team has also developed culturally guided COVID-19 fact sheets, posters, and materials providing Nations, Tribes, and Pueblos the most current information on COVID-19.



of research data. She presents local and regional workshops and webinars on Community Based Participatory Research (CBPR), helps to develop grants, reviews research proposals, and encourages American Indians to pursue educational opportunities. She co-authored Health Disparities Research with American Indian Communities: The Importance of Trust and Transparency.

California Area

**Wendy Schlater
Payómkawichum, La Jolla Band of
Luiseno Indians
La Jolla Band of Luiseno Indian's
Vice-Chairwoman & Avellaka
Program Director**



Wendy works towards asserting and utilizing Tribal sovereignty to bring essential services to Tribal people. As the Program Director for the Avellaka Program, her team provides 24/7 crisis services, emergency shelter, food and clothing, and safety planning for victims of domestic abuse and stalking on her Reservation; offering culturally specific community trainings, youth outreach, transportation, onsite professional counseling, off-site alcohol and substance abuse rehabilitation, transitional housing and Native LGBTQ2S supportive Intimate Partner Violence services as well. She established the Native Women's Advisory Committee for her Tribe, which has hosted an Inter-Tribal Sexual Assault Awareness Walk since 2010 and has helped spread awareness about the epidemic of violence against Native women. She sits as a member of the San Diego County Sexual Assault Response Team Committee and a Tribal Subcommittee member of the Violence Against Women Act Committee. Wendy's expertise has been instrumental in aiding sister tribes with Department of Justice (DOJ) Office of Violence Against Women (OVW) applications to fund programs that increase the safety of Native women. Her experiences have made her vital as a founding Board member of the Strong Hearted Native Women's Coalition and the National Indigenous Women's Resource Center.

Billings Area

**Emily Salois
Blackfeet Nation
Community Research Associate
Montana INBRE (IDeA
Network of Biomedical Research
Excellence)**



Emily Salois emphasizes how critically important relationships are when conducting research with Tribes. She is an expert at bringing diverse groups together to form partnerships with the shared goal of improving Tribal populations' health. A highly respected Elder, she is known across our state as someone who is trustworthy and honest and who will travel miles by car, bus, or train in all kinds of weather to offer her help and guidance. She helps establish numerous Community Advisory Boards and advises researchers in their collaborations with Tribal college faculty, students, and community members. Instrumental in helping Institutional Review Boards work effectively, she also works to assure the safety and protection

Nashville Area United South & Eastern Tribes, Inc.

Mr. Kitcki Carroll and the staff of United South & Eastern Tribes, Inc. (USET), are to be commended for their exceptional service and dedicated professionalism in assisting Indian Nations and Indian programs of the Nashville Area during the COVID-19 pandemic. Indian Country's response, in partnership with federal and state entities and others, led to many telephone conference calls. There was a great deal of competing information on the pandemic as Tribes struggled to learn about COVID-19 and what could be done to fight it. USET's gathering of data and summaries of federal departments' and inter-agency exchanges brought the most critical information about the disease and resources available to combat it to Member Tribes and programs quickly and efficiently. USET's efforts to disseminate information and resources saved lives and mitigated the spread of the disease. For their efforts the Staff of USET deserve the highest commendation.



for all Navajo Nation employees and the public residing on the Navajo Nation. Her team got to work as soon as the first community was hit by providing necessary medical attention and supplies. Dr. Jim has provided the Nation's leadership with a team to give recommendations based on data that would eventually save thousands of lives and help the Navajo Nation go from one of the country's top COVID-19 hotspot to eventually reporting 30 cases or less for more than 30 consecutive days.

Navajo Area Dr. Jill Jim Navajo Executive Director Navajo Nation Department of Health

As the Executive Director of the Navajo Nation Department of Health, Dr. Jill Jim had taken on the 2020 Pandemic head on. From the beginning she had advised leadership to take precautionary measures as COVID-19 hit the United States, Through her recommendation, the Navajo Nation issued a travel advisory which would then change to a travel restriction to a stay at home-order and implemented curfew hours



Phoenix Area JT Nashio White Mountain Apache Tribe Director White Mountain Apache Community Health Representative Program

Since 2015, Ms. Nashio has served as a founding member of the Arizona Community Health Representative (CHR) Coalition, which represents 275 CHRs employed in 19 distinct CHR Programs. As a collaborative leader she is also a critical member of the Annual CHR Policy Summit and Conference planning committee which has brought together hundreds of CHRs from more than 40 distinct CHR Programs. As a longtime CHR, she is the essence of this important workforce - trusted, connected and beloved supporters of American Indian wellbeing. When COVID-19 began to explode, Ms. Nashio was called upon to serve. She led her staff in the life saving efforts to encourage inter-generational household members in contact tracing efforts to stop the spread of COVID-19 in White Mountain Apache Tribe. Her love for her community and trusted relationships-built overtime and through her hard work, made it possible for CHRs to serve at their highest potential, when they were needed most.



2020 AREA AND REGIONAL IMPACT AWARDS

Portland Area

Toni Lodge
Turtle Mountain Chippewa
Chief Executive Officer
NATIVE Project



Toni began working on the concept of Native empowerment and leadership in Spokane thirty-three years ago when she helped create a vision of the NATIVE Project, an Urban Indian health center. In 1989, the NATIVE Project was established and became a FQHC providing, dental, mental, and physical health services. This center has a mission to “provide quality services that promote wellness and balance of mind, body and spirit for individuals, staff, families and communities.” This clinic and Toni have had a profound impact on the Native American community and has promoted leadership opportunities within the community. The reality is that for 3 generations of families, Toni has been supporting a march towards healing of physical, cultural, emotional, and spiritual distress. Many of the employees at the health center are “graduates” of a leadership camp specifically designed to give Native American youth exposure to and training in leadership.





National IMPACT AWARD

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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.

Dr. Donald Warne

Oglala Lakota Tribe
Associate Dean of Diversity,
Equity and Inclusion as well
as the Director of the Indians
Into Medicine (INMED) and
Master of Public Health Programs,
and Professor of Family and
Community Medicine
University of North Dakota Public
Health Program



Dr. Warne received his MD from Stanford University School of Medicine and his MPH from Harvard School of Public Health. His work experience includes: several years as a primary care physician with the Gila River Health Care Corporation in Arizona; Staff Clinician with the National Institutes of Health; Indian Legal Program Faculty with the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law at Arizona State University; Health Policy Research Director for Inter Tribal Council of Arizona; Executive Director of the Great Plains Tribal Chairmen's Health Board; and Chair of the Department of Public Health at North Dakota State University. Dr. Warne currently serves as the Associate Dean of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion as well as the Director of the Indians Into Medicine (INMED), Director of the Public Health Program, and Professor of Family and Community Medicine at the School of Medicine and Health Sciences at the University of North Dakota. He recently led efforts to launch the Indigenous Health PhD at UND, the first of its kind in the world with an exclusive focus on public health.

Dr. Winifred Booker

**Chief Executive Officer and Founder
Children's Oral Health Institute**

The Children's Oral Health Institute (COHI) was created to combat dental neglect in children. Its goal is to improve the behavior of children and families regarding oral health issues through early health promotion and disease prevention education. The COHI has been successful in its outreach to American Indian and Alaska Native Tribes. Its purpose is to improve preventive dental education outreach, conduct research projects and clinical studies in pediatric dentistry, serve as a national children's oral health information center, and encourage, support and evaluate innovative ideas, products and programs in oral health services delivery to children. The COHI provides a comprehensive range of outreach programs including expert speakers and radio reports on oral health issues and its links to overall health, public service announcements, free dental health education aides, materials and programs, and community events targeting good oral health practices.



and surge capacity sites, drive-up testing sites, schools, child care centers, restaurants, gaming and more. They are Emergency Management Points of Contact for many IHS Area Offices. Concurrently, they assist with the reopening of tribal and federal buildings and institutions. For their dedication, professionalism, leadership, and service to AIANs during the COVID-19 pandemic, they are recommended to receive the 2020 NIHB National Impact Award.

National Council of Urban Indian Health

The National Council of Urban Indian Health (NCUIH) has gone "above and beyond" responding to the COVID-19 pandemic to ensure that urban American Indians and Alaska Natives (AI/AN) receive care under the trust responsibility. NCUIH immediately sprang into action to ensure urban Indian concerns are heard by policy makers and held the first-ever listening sessions between Urban Indian Organization (UIO) leaders and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). NCUIH has hosted bi-weekly communities of learning so UIOs can learn from each other's responses to the pandemic. NCUIH has quickly disseminated crucial information on testing, quarantining residential treatment patients, third party billing, homelessness during the pandemic, among other critical topics. NCUIH also partnered with CDC to provide engaging, innovative and effective infection control training to more than 6 million healthcare personnel nationally. In addition, NCUIH has been working to improve AI/AN health data accuracy, address mental health impacts of COVID-19, and to remove barriers to healthcare which negatively impact UIOs ability to care for those with COVID-19.



Division of Environmental Health Services

Indian Health Service

Environmental Health (EH) professionals stepped up as an essential component of the public health solution required to prevent, respond, and recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. The Indian Health Service's (IHS) Division of Environmental Health Services (DEHS) is a community-based program offering a broad scope of environmental health and safety services. Beginning in February 2020, DEHS staff have served as safety officers, and managed personal protective equipment from procurement to supply chain to training to conducting fit tests. They conduct countless safety assessments in health care settings, alternate care/recovery



Native American Research Internship (NARI)

Department of Pediatrics,
University of Utah

Eliminating health disparities requires the identification, recruitment, education, and training of the most talented scientists in the U.S. The holistic and comprehensive Native American Summer Research Internship program (NARI) was developed in 2010, based on principles of community engagement, to support American Indian/Alaskan Native (AI/AN) students with an ultimate goal of increasing AI/AN representation and leadership in biomedical science/medicine and thus narrow the gap of significant AI/AN health disparities. Since 2010, 128 participants, representing 46 different tribal nations throughout the country, have completed the NARI program. Of the 128, 116 have received their bachelor's degree with zero dropouts, 25 have been accepted into medical school, 29 have been accepted into a graduate/professional programs, and 36 have gained employment as research assistants. Lastly, 6 have received their Doctor of Medicine degrees and are now in residency programs with the intent to return to their Tribal communities.



StrongHearts Native Helpline

StrongHearts has received 8,569 calls and chats to date. Of those calls, 5,173 were received in 2019 alone, marking a gargantuan increase from 2018! Native intimate partner violence victims reported the following needs to StrongHearts Advocates:

- 47% of callers need Peer Support
- 42% of callers need Shelter
- 27% of callers need Legal Advocacy
- 19% of callers need Transportation Options
- 18% of callers need Emergency Financial Aid



In 2019, StrongHearts advocates assisted callers by providing peer-to-peer support, safety planning, crisis intervention, referrals to Native resources and education on healthy relationships.



Youth Leadership Award

Heroes In Health Awards
Gala

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.

Emelia Pino

Zia Pueblo
NHI Healers of Tomorrow
Coordinator
Native Health Initiative



Emelia Pino is a 12th grade student who saw her community of Zia Pueblo struggling during the pandemic, hit hard in the early months. The community was on lock-down for months and she first organized a personal protective equipment (PPE) drive, collecting 1500 pieces of PPE to help protect her community. She didn't stop there – seeing that youth were confined to the home over the summer break, she orchestrated a educational supplies drive to give each of the 270 children of the Tribe age-appropriate materials. We were not sure that she would be able to do this, but in fact each and every child received a gift bag with multiple items. She is a youth leader who continues her efforts to lead, someone who cares deeply about bringing others along with her and doing her work as a team member. Finally, she is leading a program for the non-profit Native Health Initiative this year as a 12th grader! This is the same Healers Of Tomorrow program that she graduated from last school year, and she is now a full-fledged leader of the program, wanting to support other youth to become health professionals.

Jake Whitecrow AWARD

Heroes In Health Awards
Gala



The Jake Whitecrow Award, in memoriam of the founder 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.

Michael Dennis Mahsetky

Comanche Nation

(July 18, 1947 - May 30, 2020)

We lost a dear friend when Michael Mahsetky passed away on May 30, 2020. The following words from his family at the time of his death captures his heart and spirit.

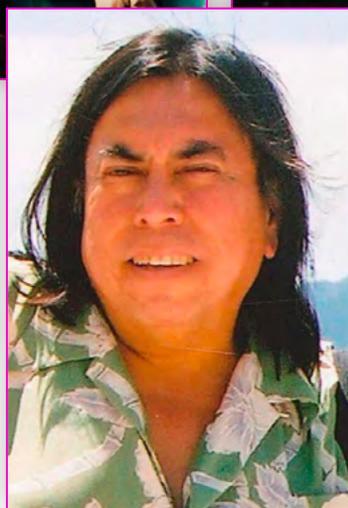
“His endless accomplishments made his family very proud and his exuberant personality drew in everyone who met him. His witty sense of humor and joyous attitude balanced his hard work as an advocate for Native rights. His passion for his work and his love of life, family and friends will mark the memories of all those that were lucky enough to have been in his presence.”

- The Lawton Constitution

Michael was born on July 18, 1947, in Lawton, Oklahoma to Mack and Annetta Mahsetky. He was a member of the Comanche Nation of Oklahoma. He graduated from Lawton High School before earning his BS degree in Business at the University of Texas at Arlington, where he met his wife of 52 years, Mary Eve Mahsetky.

Mike, as many knew him, began his career in 1969 in Dallas, TX where he worked tirelessly to advance the health needs of urban Indians in the State of Texas. He was instrumental

2020 JAKE
WHITECROW
AWARD



in establishing the Dallas Inter-Tribal Health Center and later served as its director. He served on numerous health and human rights advocacy organizations like the Greater Dallas Human Relations Commission and was recognized as an "Outstanding Citizen" by the City of Dallas for his contributions to improving the lives of Indian people.

Mike and Eve then moved to Washington, DC where he earned his Juris Doctorate Degree at Antioch School of Law. Following law school, Mike served as Staff Attorney at the Senate Select Committee on Indian Affairs where he worked on Native housing and health workforce legislation.

Following his work in Congress, Mike served as the Director of Legislative Affairs at the Indian Health Service (IHS), from 1988 to 2014. As Legislative Affairs Director, Mike spearheaded several major projects that contributed significantly to the improved delivery of health care to American Indians and Alaska Natives. Mike worked on implementing the Medicare Modernization Act of 2003 to ensure IHS, Tribal and Urban Indian pharmacies could bill for Medicare

Part D outpatient prescription drugs. Mike represented the IHS in the development of a 1996 MOA between the IHS and HCFA (now Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services), resulting in increased Medicaid reimbursements to Tribal facilities. At the direction of then IHS Director Michael Trujillo, Mike co-chaired the National Steering Committee (NSC) established to obtain tribal input in the reauthorization of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (IHCIA). The work of the NSC formed the basis for the permanent reauthorization of the IHCIA in 2010. Mike led the efforts to enact Title V of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act and co-chaired the negotiated rulemaking process with Self-Governance Tribes.

Mike was passionate about his work and his love of family and friends. He was brilliant and his quick wit and "come-backs" helped diffuse many contentious situations. Most important, his love of Native people drove his work and desire to improve the health and well-being of our people. His lifetime work will have positive impacts for Tribal communities and future generations to come.

Past Jake Whitecrow Winners

Andrew C. Joseph, Jr.

Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation (2019)

The Honorable Tom Cole

Congressman from Oklahoma (2018)

Ms. Myra Munson

Sonosky, Chambers, Miller & Munson LLP (2017)

Ms. Cathy Abramson

Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Board of Directors (2016)

Ms. Mim Dixon

Tribal Self-Governance Advisory Committee, Tribal Technical Advisory Group, & Medicare, Medicaid and Health Reform Policy Committee (2015)

Ms. Valerie Davidson

Orutsararmiut Native Council, Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (2014)

Mr. Michael Zacharof

Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association (2013)

Mr. James Crouch

California Rural Indian Health Board (2012)

Mr. Jerry Freddie

Navajo Nation (2011)

Mr. Robert D. Moore

Rosebud Sioux Tribe of South Dakota (2010)

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski

Senior Senator from Alaska (2009)

The Honorable Byron Dorgan

Senior Senator from North Dakota and

Ms. Carole Anne Heart

Great Plains Tribal Chairmen's Health Board (2008)

Ms. Rachel Joseph and Mr. Buford Rolin

National Co-Chairs on Reauthorization of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (2007)

Dr. Kathleen Annette, MD

Indian Health Service, Bemidji Area (2006)

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and commemorates all those who are devoted to improving American Indian and Alaska Native health and wellness

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CONGRATULATES
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Thank you for your great work and thank you for sharing this special night with us!

National Indian Health Board



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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.