National Indian Health Board

Annual Heroes in Health Awards Gala
Expanding the Horizon of Indian Health

Wednesday
September 19, 2018
Devon Energy Building
Vast, 50th Floor
333 West Sheridan Avenue
Oklahoma City, OK
Greetings!

On Behalf of the National Indian Health Board, we are honored to welcome you to the 2018 Heroes in Health Gala. Thank you for joining us 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. 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 Expanding the Horizon of Indian Health. Join us in congratulating the 2018 award recipients and enjoy your evening.

Sincerely,

The Board of Directors and Staff of the National Indian Health Board
### Evening Events

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Featured Menu from
Native Chef Jason Champagne, MPH

Creamy Chicken & Wild Rice Soup
Assorted Breads
Slow Roasted Bison Roast
Generously Donated by the InterTribal Buffalo Council
Wild Rice Pilaf with Blueberries
Steamed Haricots Verts with Cranberries & Almonds
Assorted Desserts by V2 Catering
Native Chef Jason Champagne, MPH

I am originally from the small town of Baldwin, Kansas. I am a member of the Red Lake Band of Chippewa, and a recent graduate of the University of Minnesota (U of M) School Public Health completing a degree in Public Health Nutrition. I have long been interested in food and nutrition. After high school, I started working in construction and saved enough to go to Le Cordon Bleu @ Brown College in Mendota Heights, MN. Upon graduation from culinary school, I had the privilege of working as a chef for Walt Disney World (WDW) in Orlando, Florida.

I spent 3 years working for WDW, and enjoyed every minute of it. I truly felt that I have a job for life there, and I was determined to work my way up the ranks...to become one of their top chefs. But one night, after a successful 2,000-person steak and lobster dinner, I realized I’d had enough with this type of professional food service work. My work was focused on quantity and production, and I realized I’d lost sight of why I’d entered a culinary career—to cook and connect with people. This is when I made an important decision, to finish my education and work in a field where I could do both. I then began applying for scholarships to pursue and complete higher education.

I was fortunate enough to be awarded a scholarship to the University of North Dakota, and graduated with a degree in Community Nutrition and Native American studies. I began a Master’s degree in public health (MPH) at the U of M. Upon completion of my course work at the U of M, I accepted a Community Wellness Chef position with the SMSC community.

By spending time developing nutrition programming for this community, I found my passion. To help other Native Americans understand the basics of culinary arts, incorporate basic strategies to improve the overall nutrient content of foods, and incorporate traditional foods into contemporary food styles.
1. Camilla Barajas  
Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska  
Diabetes Program Clinical Supervisor Winnebago Tribal Diabetes Program  
Camilla acts as the Diabetes Program’s Clinical Supervisor and is also the Lead Educator for both the Diabetes Prevention Program and accredited Diabetes Self-Management Program. She organizes a weekly Diabetes Clinic and curriculum for the Diabetes Prevention Program and Diabetes Self-Management Education Program. Somehow, she still finds time to be active in community events such as support groups and health fairs.

2. Randy Blome, MD  
Grand Ronde Health & Wellness Center  
Dr Blome is passionate about access to care issues. Blome is currently implementing one of the first Hepatitis C elimination programs in Indian Country. In addition, Blome is advocating on a state level to provide everyone with the Hepatitis C medications, and not just the sickest patients. He actively volunteers with the Hepatitis C Care program and fights for patients everyday to get the care they deserve.

3. Kristie Brooks  
Choctaw Nation Behavioral Health Director  
Choctaw Nation Health Services  
Kristie Brooks has had many accomplishments in her career. The biggest and most recent accomplishment has been her tireless work in establishing a Zero Suicide Team and Program for Choctaw Nation Health Services. The Zero Suicide team sought to improve all aspects of suicide prevention, knowledge, and assessment and treatment. Through this work, behavioral health providers and the medical providers are now working as a team to ensure the best treatment plan for the patient.
4. Misty Cook
Stockbridge-Munsee Band of Mohicans
Health Board, Traditional Medicine
Stockbridge-Munsee Health and Wellness Center
Misty, a member of the Wolf Clan medicine people studied the Natural Medicines that were passed down through oral traditions in her family. She documented the oral history and published a book “Medicine Generations” in 2013. Misty’s book and hands on teachings are dedicated to our ancestors. This knowledge will help guide our people to heal physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually.”

5. Valencia Edgewater
Navajo Nation
Enrichment Program Coordinator
Designs for Learning
In the heart of the Southwest is the rural Dzil’ Yijin Region. The remote location and poor infrastructure creates many challenges, including a lack of electricity, running water and paved roads. Designs for Learning, an Education Consulting Company which hires local staff, has partnered with agencies to assist with programing and evaluation services over the last 6 years. It supports the community with over 250 youth, family and community programs each year and an attendance of over 5,000.

6. Cyrus Harris
Native Village of Kotzebue
Natural Resource Advocate
Manilaq Association
Cyrus Harris founded the Hunter Support Program in Kotzebue in 1993. Cyrus formed partnerships to design a plan for a processing facility that could evaluate and approve traditional meats. The Sigluaq (Inupiaq for ice cellar/cold storage), opened in July 2015 to process shiitake, moose, caribou, musk ox and ptarmigan for the long term care residents. This program has been viewed as a “beautiful example of person-centered care.”
7. Haudenosaunee Behavioral Health Providers Coalition
Connie Thompson & Melerena Back, St. Regis Mohawk Health Services
Dawn Wyatt-Smith & Kara Kaplan, Onondaga Nation Health Center
Pamela Evering, Oneida Health Services
Brian Murphy & Justin Peglowski, Seneca Nation Health System
The Coalition works together to advance the quality of care for tribal members. It successfully changed a New York state regulation which required substance use services to be certified and monitored. This allows for increased tribal sovereignty and eliminates the ability of insurance companies to refuse to recognize substance abuse treatment services. Recognition of services provided increases our health services ability to seek reimbursement for the care we provide. This will continue to assist with maintaining and increasing our ability to provide needed care in our communities.

8. Robert Heinrichs
Native Village of Eyak Health Expert
Mr. Heinrichs served on the Native Village of Eyak Tribal Council as its president for over 20 years. He started the annual Sobriety Celebration and Memorial Potlatch which changed tribal views on living a sober life. He negotiated to bring Indian Health Service funds from the local hospital into the Tribe. He successfully submitted a Health Resources and Services Administration primary care grant to hire doctors and behavioral health providers. He currently sits on the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium and continues to advocate for increased collaboration between Tribal and City health in Cordova.

9. Stormy Howell
Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe Treatment Program Manager
Klallam Counseling Services
Stormy is a huge asset to the Health Department, tribal people, and members of the surrounding community. She has integrated health and wellness with chemical dependency treatment in a way that reaches those in active addiction and recovery. She’s nurtured relationships with neighboring agencies, has credibility within the court system, and most importantly, connected with the recovery community in a way that changes lives.
10. Carmaleta Monteith
Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians
Chairman, Board of Directors
Cherokee Indian Hospital Authority
Ms. Monteith is the founding and current Board Chair, serving since 2002. She has grown health system and 3rd party revenue and staff, built a new hospital and residential treatment facility and added multiple service lines including; Optometry, Endoscopy, Complimentary Medicine, Integrated Primary Care and enhanced Behavioral Health Services for Children. She pours herself into volunteer service and sits on many boards and national committees such as North American Indian Women’s Association.

11. Ernesto Padilla
Lake Pomo
CEO, Lake County Tribal Health Consortium
Mr. Padilla started at Lake County Tribal Health Consortium in 2011 as the Executive Director and is now the CEO. He brought the tribe to Self-Governance via stability and strong financial audits. He increased net assets and improved the delivery of medical, dental and special services to the population. He proposed and received approval for a new clinic and wellness center. All these efforts are made to sustain and preserve the health of the Pomo people. He is an awe inspiring compassionate intellectual visionary.

12. Pit River Health Service
Pit River Tribe
In June 2018, Pit River Health Service (PRHS) achieved full accreditation from the Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care (AAAHC). Accreditation distinguishes this Native health clinic from many other outpatient facilities. Status as an accredited organization means that PRHS has met nationally recognized standards for the provision of quality health care set by AAAHC. The accreditation covers PRHS clinics in both Burney and Alturas, CA. This accomplishment has been a long standing goal of the organization and represents a clear and significant step for improved health care for the Pit River Tribe of northern California.
13. San Carlos Apache Health Care Corporation Rehabilitation Services
San Carlos Apache Healthcare Corporation Rehabilitation Services team serves the San Carlos Apache Tribe with full-time physical therapy, occupational therapy, and speech language pathology. The services are delivered in outpatient, inpatient, primary care, and emergency department settings. Community outreach, education, and prevention are also major focuses. They are also involved in education and training. It has improved services for the local pediatric population, providing services in school settings.

14. All Health Board Members
Santo Domingo Pueblo
Kewa Pueblo Health Corporation
Since establishing the Kewa Pueblo Health Corporation as a Self-Determination program in 2011, the Health Board has developed and implemented governance policies yielding notable accomplishments including achieving Government Performance and Results Act goals for three years, increases in clinical services growth and 3rd party collections and movement towards full program accreditation with The Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care. They secured the resources to plan, build and expand our services into a new 37,000 square foot health services facility and wellness center.

15. Leonard Shirley, Jr.
Navajo Mental Health Specialist
Tsehootsooi Medical Center
Mr. Shirley works directly with patients on a daily basis providing direct services. He has experience in supervisory roles as Interim Director of Mental Health and most recently, Supervisory Social Worker with Tsehootsooi Medical Center. Mr. Shirley works with patients afflicted with variety of diagnoses including mood disorders, anxiety disorders and substance disorders and in 2006, helped with passage of the Navajo Nation Health Commitment Act. Mr. Shirley works with local court systems in safeguarding patients to ensure accessibility to appropriate care.
16. Savannah Smith
Navajo
Professional Research Assistant
Centers for American Indian & Alaska Native Health
Savannah Smith orchestrated a successful health, wellness, and disease prevention initiative for the Denver American Indian community, the 3rd Annual Run for the Stronghold: One-Hour Individual Fitness Challenge & Hypertension Symposium. The event raised over $2,500. Savannah strategically linked the event with a community health survey focusing on high blood pressure, risk factors & management of hypertension.

17. David Sullivan
Kiowa Tribe
Special Programs Director
Anadarko Public Schools, Indian Education Program
David Sullivan advocates for better health and wellbeing for his Native community and students. Through his partnership with Southern Plains Tribal Health Board, he helps to implement a peer-to-peer suicide prevention program in 3 schools, referring 10 students for help. He participates in the Caddo County Interagency Coalition and collaborates with other organizations to bring innovative and effective programs to his community.

18. Tucson Modular Bathroom Team
Tohono O’odham Utility Authority,
USDA Rural Development Program,
Indian Health Service Sanitation Facilities Construction Program
The mission of the Tucson Area Modular Bathroom Team is to address the lack of basic sanitation among homes on the Tohono O’odham Nation. The team collaborates to provide a flush toilet, kitchen sink, lavatory sink, and indoor shower to homes that lack these basic facilities. The project partners include the Tribal utility, United States Department of Agriculture, Indian Health Service, local governments, contractors, and homeowners.
19. Washoe Tribal Health Center
Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California

The staff of the Washoe Tribal Health Center have been instrumental in transforming the entire clinic program into a viable health delivery system. They implemented effective case management, health education and advocacy activities. Washoe Tribal Health provides services in 4 counties and 2 states that successfully benefit and contribute to the advancement of health care for American Indian and Alaskan Native people. Just over a year ago, the clinic was on the verge of shutting down. Due new leadership and buy-in from staff, the clinic has become one of the leading tribal health clinics in the State.

20. Susan Waukau
Menominee Tribe of Wisconsin
Director, Menominee Aging and Long Term Care Services

Susan Waukau became Director of the Menominee Aging and Long Term Care Services for the Menominee Tribe of Wisconsin two years ago. She oversees nutritional support programs, dementia specialist services, benefit specialists and a residential facility. Her interaction with the Wisconsin Department of Human Services, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and managed care organizations is a model for others. She is a true example of a servant leader, has endless energy, a heart of deep compassion for the elders and true grit.

21. Yankton Sioux Tribe

On March 29, 2016, the Yankton Sioux Tribe fulfilled a goal of providing local dialysis services by opening a state-of-the-art dialysis Center located on tribal lands in Wagner, South Dakota. In partnership with the Indian Health Services and the Shakopee Mdewakanton Dakota Community, the tribe raised funds to repurpose a tribally owned facility for the Yankton Sioux Tribe New Hope Dialysis Center. The accomplishment is an example of strong leadership, tribal self-determination, and public/private partnerships in health. Since opening in March 2016, the Center has served both tribal and non-tribal dialysis patients and has met a great need in the area.
Past Outstanding Service Award Winners

Buford Rolin

National Indian Health Board

Cathy Abramson

Sally Smith

Melanie Fourkiller

Alberta Unok
1. Building Communities of Hope Team
Navajo Nation
Division of Behavioral and Mental Health Services
Since 2015, Building Communities of Hope has presented at 76 locations on and off the Navajo Nation to youth, communities, and families. Among the locations, Building Communities of Hope has been to three universities, twenty-six communities and events, eight locations where Navajo Nation Employees attended, and thirty-nine Middle Schools or High Schools. Overall, approximately 11,000 people attended the presentations.

2. Collaborative Research Center for American Indian Health
The Collaborative Research Center for American Indian Health Tribal Partners address social determinants of health through building tribal research infrastructure. They strengthen tribal governance through leading the regulation of research, data management policies, and collection of research that is tribally-driven and ultimately benefits Native people. Examples include establishment of tribal research codes and development of review policies. They have made amazing progress in growing their research infrastructure, and a positive outcome has been the peer-to-peer guidance and support the partners give each another.

3. Dorothy Dupree
Fort Peck Tribes
Area Director for Billings Area Indian Health Service
Dorothy A. Dupree has spent a lifetime working to improve the healthcare for American Indians. She became the Director of the Billings Area following an assignment to Indian Health Service Headquarters, where she ensured quality services are delivered at each service unit with an emphasis on Indian Health Service hospitals. Earlier in her career she served at the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and as the Phoenix Area Director. Dorothy is a true pioneer, always putting quality in the delivery of services to Indian Health Service beneficiaries first.
2018 Area Impact Award Winners

4. Amy Foote
Area Executive Chef
NANA Management Services

Executive Chef Amy Foote’s passion for traditional foods and offering them to patients and Elders is unsurpassed. Amy works with partners around Alaska to build the traditional foods program at Alaska Native Medical Center, including the Alaska Professional Hunters Association. She doubled traditional offerings which are nourishing, improve quality of life, and are home to our People, especially when our patients are already far from home. Amy regularly attends cultural gatherings and spends time with Elders, key to the success of the program.

5. Cynthia Gomez
Tule River Yokut Tribe Judge

Judge Gomez has more than 30 years advocating on behalf of Tribal people and other sensitive populations. Judge Cynthia Gomez served as Governor Jerry Brown’s Tribal Advisor and Native American Heritage Commission Executive Secretary. Prior her appointment within the Governor’s Office, Judge Gomez served as Chief Justice of the Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians’ Tribal Court since 2010. Ms. Gomez is a member of the Tribal and State Court Forum for the California Administrative Office of the Courts.

6. Dr. Charles Grim
Cherokee Nation Director, Cherokee Nation’s Hepatitis C Elimination Program

Cherokee Nation’s Hepatitis C Elimination Program started in 2015. More than 40,000 Cherokee Nation Health Services patients have now been screened. Approximately 1,320 patients tested positive, while 750 have started or completed treatment. The program, which has a 90 percent cure rate, is changing lives. The initiative is the first Hepatitis C elimination program in the United States and utilizes aggressive screening and treatment to cure the disease. The goal is to cure the Native population in northeast Oklahoma of Hepatitis C by 2030.
2018 Area Impact Award Winners

7. Cynthia Guzman, PhD
Behavioral Health Program Director
Kewa Pueblo Health Corporation
As Director, Dr. Guzman increased the staff from 1 to 5 full-time therapists, a contracted psychiatrist and psychologist. She co-developed the first tribal specific CareLink New Mexico program. It provides sustainable case management program growth while decreasing healthcare costs and improving health outcomes for participants. Through the Tribal Technical Advisory Group, she created a reimbursement template to assess behavioral health payment structures. The initiative has been funded by the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services and supported by a collaboration with NIHB.

8. Andrew Joseph, Jr.
Chairman, Confederated Tribes of Colville and Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board
Chairman Joseph comes from the blood of many Chiefs and has been mentored by his Father who served on the Tribal Council for 17 years. He serves on committees at the national level. The Chairman always emphasizes the principles of the government-to-government relationship, the treaties, and the federal trust responsibility. He fights for all tribal people for resources and policies to emphasize the true healthcare needs of tribal members, highlighting the need for culturally based behavioral health practices to support the tribal members who are suffering.

9. David Larson
Continuum of Care Director
Oneida Nation (WI)
David Larson was instrumental in the creation of the first phase of the Tribal Family Care Option in Wisconsin which will allow for Indian Health Care Providers in Wisconsin to provide services to Tribal members who are enrolled with a Managed Care Organization in the Family Care Program. This was a project that took nearly ten years to complete, and it would not have been done without David’s knowledge, leadership, relationship building with the State of Wisconsin and the Managed Care Organizations.
10. Cynthia Manuel, RN
Tohono O'odham, Navajo
Director of Public Health Nursing
Tricia Logan, RN
Infection Preventionist
Tohono O'odham Nation Health Care

Cynthia Manuel, RN and Tricia Logan, RN, work at Tohono O'odham Nation Health Care. In 2017, they implemented the Medical Electronic Disease Surveillance Intelligence System, an electronic tool for confidential reporting of communicable diseases. Their dedication and team-minded leadership has revolutionized surveillance and helped focus prevention measures for the community, in the State, Nationally, and internationally.

11. Dr. Victoria Stevens
San Carlos Apache Tribe
Orthopedic Surgeon
Eastern Arizona Orthopedic Center

Dr. Victoria M. Stevens practices orthopedic surgery in Globe, Arizona, in the same town where she was born. As a woman physician and a member of the San Carlos Apache tribe, she is a role model for young women interested in following in her footsteps. To help raise awareness of the success of women physicians from all sorts of backgrounds, she was among several women surgeons featured in the 2002 National Institutes of Health video Women are Scientists.

12. United South and Eastern Tribes' Tribal Epidemiology Center

The United South and Eastern Tribes (USET) Tribal Epidemiology Center monitors and reports on the health status of member Tribal Nations in an effort to reduce disease and improve wellness. The Tribal Epidemiology Center strives to improve quality of life by evaluating Tribal health data, monitoring health trends, providing technical assistance about data collection, analyzing population health data, and supporting initiatives that promote health. USET’s Tribal Epidemiology Center is one of twelve centers established by Indian Health Service. As a designated Public Health Authority, the Tribal Epidemiology Center supports USET member Tribal Nations in improving the health of Tribal citizens.
2018 National Impact Award Winners

Chester Antone
Tohono O'Odham
Tohono O'Odham Legislative Council

Mr. Antone currently serves on the Tohono O'Odham Nation Legislative Council and as the Chair of the Centers for Disease Control Tribal Advisory Committee, on the National Institutes of Health Tribal Advisory Committee and as Chair of the Health and Human Services Tribal Advisory Committee. From 2010 to present, Mr. Antone has advocated for the Urban Indian Health Program Budget Formulation Increase Request of 20 million dollars and provided a forum for National Council for Urban Indian Health and Urban Indian Health Programs to present at the National US Health and Human Services Consultation Meetings in Washington, DC and to present at Region Six Consultation Meetings. Mr. Antone recognizes and champions the need for Indian Nations/Tribes to work closely together to elevate the health status of American Indians. Furthermore, we must reclaim the vestiges of traditional healing, self-sufficiency and sovereignty.

Ursula Bauer, PhD, MPH
Director of National Center for Chronic Disease
Centers for Disease Control

Dr. Ursula Bauer is the Senior Advisor to Surgeon General Jerome Adams. She was previously the Director of the National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. She spearheaded the creation of the Good Health & Wellness in Indian Country Program, Tribal Epidemiology Center Public Health Infrastructure Program and Tribal Practices for Wellness in Indian Country. These initiatives led to the dissemination of tens of millions of dollars to Indian Country with a focus on health promotion and disease prevention. Dr. Bauer dedicated herself to visiting tribal communities, building relationships, and most important, listening to the needs and wishes of tribal leaders. Further, she was committed to translating words into action, and kept her promises by mobilizing resources throughout Indian Country to build a robust foundation of resources that will undoubtedly strengthen tribal public health infrastructure locally, regionally, and nationally.
2018 National Impact Award Winners

Dr. Shannon Dial
Executive Officer of Integrated Services Division
Department of Family Services
Chickasaw Nation Medical Center

Dr. Shannon Dial has not only helped lead Chickasaw Nation Department of Health with implementation of Zero Suicide but has also given guidance to other Oklahoma tribes. Dr. Dial has been recognized by the Suicide Prevention Resource Center and has been asked to help guide and encourage other states (New Mexico, Arizona, Wisconsin, and Montana) to do the same. Her tireless dedication to help improve the Chickasaw Nation Community and anyone else who approaches her with a desire to learn from her, merits recognition. Dr. Dial is a champion in suicide prevention and in advocating to others the importance to take action.

Chief Marilyn Malerba
Mohegan Tribe of Connecticut

Chief Malerba is Chair of the Tribal Self-Governance Advisory Committee of the Indian Health Service, a member of the Justice Department’s Tribal Nations Leadership Council, a member of the Tribal Advisory Committee for the National Institute of Health, a member of the Treasury Tribal Advisory Committee and a technical expert on the Commission for Environmental Cooperation. She serves as the United South and Eastern Tribes Board of Directors Secretary, and is also a member of the board of directors for the Ms. Foundation for Women. Chief Malerba is a tireless advocate for Indian health, and successfully advocates with federal agencies and Congress for favorable policy as well as for appropriations and resources. Tremendous and successful advocacy efforts are conducted through her Intertribal leadership.
2018 National Impact Award Winners

John Stephens
Swinomish Indian Tribal Community
Programs Administrator and Executive Director

John Stephens has always been a leader in health policy at the local, state, and national level for tribes. He has been influential to expanding the Dental Health Aide Therapy initiative to the lower 48 states. John is the Executive Director of the Didgwa1ič Wellness Center, which is the only treatment facility that integrates addiction, mental health, and primary medical care. John works to help patients get the care they need without falling through the cracks. The center is an evolutionary health care model focused on the whole person. The mission is to improve outcomes with quality health care solutions by removing barriers to treatment. The center alleviates burdens on emergency medical services, public hospitals and law enforcement, serving both Native and Non-native patients. John leads the Center to improve the health and wellness of all individuals suffering from substance use disorders and provide the best tools to lead a healthy productive lifestyle.

Angie Wilson
Pit River Tribe
Tribal Health Administrator
Washoe Tribe of California and Nevada

Angie has worked with many Tribes from Nevada, Arizona, Utah, California, Oregon, and South Dakota. She has contributed to the health and wellness of the tribes on many issues at the regional and state level. But the thing most people do not know is how much of her life is dedicated toward advancing health care for elders, youth and community members on an individual basis. She goes to bat every time anyone needs her. She has changed State processes for tribes in Nevada and California and every other time we meet it always feels like she reached another "first" for the tribes. Her time and dedication toward our Indian people is commendable, she never turns her back or says she's too busy, she just keeps pushing forward. Her hard work does not go unnoticed. We hope she is recognized for all of her work in tribal health across the nation.
For the past four years, Cante has volunteered as a youth mentor at traditional Lakota youth healing camps in her tribal community of Pine Ridge, South Dakota. She recognized that she had an opportunity to help her young female young relatives. Because of the lack of funding for these youth camps, she came up with a t-shirt design and sold over 750 shirts via social media and raised over $10,000 for these healing camps. She has learned the traditional arts of beading and sewing and shares that talent with the camp participants. She leads talking circles with them to understand where they've been and where they want to go and encourages the participants to join the camp in the following year as camp mentors. Many return because they have built trust in her and she helps them hone their leadership skills. Cante has been invited to share her experiences as a youth mentor and sexual abuse survivor to mental health conferences like the NIHB and the Oregon State Suicide Prevention Conference.
2018 Jake White Crow Award Winner
The Honorable Tom Cole
Chickasaw Nation
Currently serving his eighth term in Congress, Tom Cole was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 2002. In 2017, Cole was inducted into the Oklahoma Hall of Fame. He is considered the foremost expert in the House on issues dealing with Native Americans and Tribal governments. In 2015, the National Indian Health Board awarded Cole the National Impact Award. The National Congress of the American Indians has cited Cole for distinguished service on three different occasions (2007, 2011 and 2017).

The Congressman, one of only two American Indians in Congress, has been a champion for Indian Country throughout his career. He is a visionary leader in the U.S. Congress when it comes to ensuring that the federal government meets its trust responsibility to American Indians and Alaska Natives (AI/ANs). As a senior member of the House Appropriations Committee, Cole has been instrumental in securing funding for all of Indian Country by constantly advocating on behalf of the Tribes and educating his colleagues about the federal trust responsibility to Tribes. He chairs the subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies. In this role, he has worked to ensure that the Indian health system receives equitable funding across the Department of Health and Human Services. He also serves on the Appropriations subcommittee for Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations where he has been a strong advocate for increased Indian Health Service funding. In the time that Congressman Cole has served on that Subcommittee, IHS funding has increased by $2 billion. Outside of the Appropriations Committee he serves as the Co-Chair of the Congressional Native American Caucus and in that role he works to ensure that the federal government honors its promises to American Indians and Alaska Natives in all legislation considered by Congress.

Tom Cole has a significant background of service to his home state of Oklahoma, serving various roles within the Republican Party as a state senator and as Oklahoma Secretary of State. A former college instructor in history and politics, Cole holds a B.A. from Grinnell College, a M.A. from Yale University and a Ph.D. from the University of Oklahoma.

Tom Cole is a fifth generation Oklahoman and an enrolled member of the Chickasaw Nation. He was inducted into the Chickasaw Hall of Fame in 2004. He was inducted into the Oklahoma Hall of Fame in 2017. Tom and his wife, Ellen, have one son, Mason, and reside in Moore, Oklahoma.
Past Jake White Crow Award Winners

Ms. Myra Munson
Sonosky, Chambers, Miller & Munson LLP (2017)

Ms. Cathy Abramson

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

Ms. Valerie Davidson

Mr. Michael Zcharaf
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)
Thank you to our sponsor...

For their generosity and commitment to improving Indian health!
The National Indian Health Board congratulates all of the 2018 Heroes in Health Award Winners.

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.