



OS



ACF



AOA

CDC

CMS

FDA



# Indian Health Service Director's Award Ceremony

November 21, 2002

## Presentation of the Luana Reyes Leadership Award

by

**Dr. Charles W. Grim, D.D.S., M.H.S.A.**

Assistant Surgeon General

Interim Director, Indian Health Service

The last award today is the Luana Reyes Leadership Award. It is different from all the previous awards, because it is not given for what the recipient has achieved – it is given because of what we believe the recipient will do in the future. Someone whom we believe can take the path that Luana Reyes did to make a positive difference for American Indian and Alaska Native people.

This is the second year that this award is presented. Luana's daughter, Kecia Reyes, is unable to be here today to participate in presenting this award. We are pleased that Luana's nephew, Marland Franco, also a member of the Colville Confederated Tribes of Nespelem, Washington, can be with us and represent Luana's family and honor Luana's legacy through this presentation. Mr. Franco has requested to speak to you of his Aunt and share with you some of their conversations.

This year's recipient, like Luana early in her career of service, has made a difference in the lives of the people she has worked with, her family and friends, and in the lives of American Indians and Alaska Natives who benefit from the work that she does with the Indian Health Service. Even now there are those who look to her as a role model and we expect that her influence will extend even further.

In her work with the agency she has demonstrated a vision for her career and has diligently pursued it. She steadily increased her value to the agency through involvement in personnel management, budget, and program planning and evaluation. And she recently advanced to a critical position that will have national significance in the collaboration between the IHS, tribal, and urban Indian health programs. She has embarked on a path that we believe has unlimited potential for benefiting the agency and Indian people.

In her interactions with professional groups, Tribes, and government and congressional staff she has demonstrated her skill in gaining consensus on goals from many different perspectives and interests. Like Luana, she has the ability to encourage others, help them realize the value of their participation and cooperation, and instill in them a confidence to take responsibility and "make a positive difference." Like Luana, this year's recipient we expect will help our next generation of leaders realize their potential.

This year's recipient is a member of the Comanche Tribe of Oklahoma and also maintains strong ties to her maternal tribe, the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians. Next month she will receive a Bachelor of Science Degree in mathematics from the University of Maryland. She has been with the Indian Health Service since 1990 and currently is the Deputy Director of Budget Formulation and Presentation in the Division of Financial Management.

We consider all that she has achieved as only a beginning, just a prelude to what is yet to come. She exemplifies those leadership skills and vision that we associate with Luana Reyes. Like Luana, generations of Indian people will benefit from the work that Elizabeth Fowler will do in future years. I ask that Elizabeth Fowler join us here on the stage to receive the Luana Reyes Leadership Award for 2002.

*The text is the basis of Dr. Grim's oral remarks at the IHS Director's Awards Ceremony in Rockville, Maryland, on Thursday, November 21, 2002. It should be used with the understanding that some material may have been added or omitted during presentation.*