



## **Kathleen R. Annette, M.D.**

### **Bemidji Area Director**

### **Indian Health Service**

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Kathleen R. Annette, M.D., a member of the White Earth Band of Chippewa and a Minnesota native, began her career with the Indian Health Service (IHS), an agency within the Department of Health and Human Services, in 1986 as a medical officer at the Leech Lake Service Unit at Cass Lake, Minnesota. She subsequently held various positions of increasing responsibility, including Clinical Director of the Leech Lake Service Unit and later as the Chief Medical Officer for the Bemidji Area of the IHS.

Selected as the Director of the IHS Bemidji Area in 1990, Dr. Annette manages a varied health care program. The Bemidji Area provides health services for more than 90,000 American Indians from the 34 federally recognized Tribes in the states of Minnesota, Michigan, and Wisconsin. Health care is provided through direct care, contract care, or tribally operated facilities. Health facilities range from Urban health clinics, community health nursing stations, and walk-in first aid centers to fully staffed hospitals and clinics with lab, pharmaceutical, and X-ray facilities. As part of a national Indian health system of Federal, Tribal, and Urban Indian health programs, the Bemidji Area also contributes to the support of five Urban health programs located in the cities of Minneapolis, Minnesota; Detroit, Michigan; Green Bay and Milwaukee, Wisconsin; and Chicago, Illinois.

Dr. Annette is involved with the development and implementation of an annual Health Care Providers conference that focuses on health issues impacting American Indians. She also serves on a national strategic planning committee for the IHS, and is a frequent speaker on Indian health topics at medical schools and other institutions. Dr. Annette is a member of the IHS Director's Executive Council, which is a decision-making body for the Agency on broad issues of policy, programs, and public health advocacy. The Council is composed of senior leadership from Headquarters, Area Offices, and the four IHS National Professional Councils. She serves on the board of the Boys and Girls Club and is also a board member of the Blue Cross Blue Shield Foundation in the State of Minnesota.

A graduate of the University of Minnesota, Dr. Annette holds a bachelor of arts degree in chemistry and a doctor of medicine. She obtained her residency training at the Duluth Family Practice Center, receiving board certification in 1986. Professional affiliations include the Association of American Indian Physicians.

In FY 2000, Dr. Annette was selected as a recipient of the Presidential Rank Award. These prestigious awards are presented annually to top federal managers for extended, exceptional performance in the Federal government. Dr. Annette's other honors, awards, and recognitions include the U.S. Public Health Service Outstanding Service Award; the American Indian Service Awards; the IHS Group Award for the National IHS Quality Management Health Professionals Workgroup on Recruitment and Retention; the Mead Johnson Award from the American College of Family Practice; the Association of American Indian Physicians Recognition Award for Endeavors in American Indian Education on AIDS; the Jake White Crow Award; induction into the Academy of Science and Engineering at the University of Minnesota (she is the first woman to be so honored); and induction into the Northwest Minnesota Women's Hall of Fame for significant contributions in her career field.

In 2005, she was bestowed honorary membership in the Red Lake Nation, an honor given three times in the past. She is the first woman to be so recognized.