



Kathleen R. Annette, M.D.

Acting Deputy Director for Field Operations Indian Health Service

Kathleen R. Annette, M.D., a member of the White Earth Band of Chippewa, has served as the Indian Health Service (IHS) Acting Deputy Director for Field Operations since February 2009. In this position, Dr. Annette oversees all 12 IHS Area offices. She also provides operational and management information and expertise for the formulation of policies, goals, and operational strategies in program and resource allocations that impact on the IHS.

Dr. Annette began her career with the IHS 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 Chief Medical Officer for the Bemidji Area of the IHS.

Selected as the Director of the IHS Bemidji Area in 1990, Dr. Annette managed 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 Minnesota, Michigan, and Wisconsin. Health care is provided through direct care, contract care, or tribally operated facilities. Health facilities range from urban health clinics to fully staffed hospitals. 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 Minneapolis, Minnesota; Detroit, Michigan; Green Bay and Milwaukee, Wisconsin; and Chicago, Illinois.

Dr. Annette also served on a national strategic planning committee for the IHS, and is a frequent speaker on Indian health topics at medical schools and other institutions. She 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.

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 2000 and 2008, Dr. Annette was selected as a recipient of Presidential Rank Awards. These prestigious awards are presented annually to top federal managers for extended, exceptional performance in the Federal government. Dr. Annette's other recognitions include the U.S. Public Health Service Outstanding Service Award; the American Indian Service Awards; 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 the first woman and only the third person to be bestowed honorary membership in the Red Lake Nation.