



Thomas W. Sweeney

Director of Public Affairs

Indian Health Service

Thomas W. Sweeney, an enrolled member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation of Oklahoma, is the Director of Public Affairs for the Indian Health Service (IHS), an agency of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

As Director of IHS Public Affairs, Mr. Sweeney advises senior officials on the public affairs aspects of agency operational decisions and procedures; recommends agency public affairs policy; develops and carries out public affairs strategies; and ensures the development of public affairs plans and programs and oversees their use. He evaluates public affairs programs for their effectiveness and recommends changes when necessary.

Mr. Sweeney came to the IHS from the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian where he served as the Director of Public Affairs. He was also the founding editor-in-chief of the Museum's national magazine *American Indian*.

Mr. Sweeney served previously as the Public Affairs Director of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, U.S. Department of the Interior, from 1995 to 1998. He is a former senior editor of the National Trust for Historic Preservation and communications manager for the National Park Service cultural resources division.

His journalism career includes work as editor and staff writer of the *San Francisco Business Magazine*, senior editor of *Historic Preservation News*, and as a reporter for the *Santa Rosa Press Democrat*.

Mr. Sweeney is the recipient of the 2003 Native American Journalists Association General Excellence Award, *American Indian Magazine*; the 1990 Society of National Association Publications General Excellence Award, Newspapers; and a San Francisco Press Club Scholarship.

Mr. Sweeney earned a bachelor of science degree from the University of Oregon School of Journalism and also attended Trinity College in Dublin, Ireland. He attended the Goucher College for Historic Preservation Program in 1994 and the Poynter Institute for Media Studies in St. Petersburg, Florida, in 1992. He is a member of the Native American Journalists Association, the National Press Club, and the NBC-4 Community Advisory Board in Washington, D.C.