



Indian Health Service Press Release

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Indian Health Service Executives Receive Presidential Rank Award

Phyllis Eddy, Indian Health Service (IHS) Deputy Director of Management Operations, and Doni L. Wilder, IHS Portland Area Director, have been selected as recipients of the 2005 Presidential Rank Awards for Meritorious Executives.

Each year, the President recognizes a small group of career Senior Executives with the Presidential Rank Award for exceptional long-term accomplishments. This prestigious award is given to executives who achieve results and consistently demonstrate strength, integrity, industry, and a relentless commitment to excellence in public service.

"This award recognizes Ms. Eddy's and Ms. Wilder's exemplary management skills and leadership. Through their personal conduct and their results-oriented program management, they have established and maintained a high degree of public confidence and trust. Their high levels of creativity and initiative have helped the IHS improve health care for American Indian and Alaska Native people," said IHS Director Charles W. Grim, D.D.S., M.H.S.A. "Their achievements have been recognized as advancing the President's Management Agenda while producing results that will have a lasting positive effect on the care we provide to our patients and support for Tribal health programs. The IHS is honored to have Ms. Eddy and Ms. Wilder selected for their sustained accomplishments, which are recognized throughout the Government."

Ms. Eddy, a member of the Yankton Sioux Tribe, serves as the principal advisor to the IHS Director for the management of IHS operations. She is responsible for providing management direction to the IHS program offices, including implementing agency goals and mission; providing overall organization management to improve agency performance; developing strategic plans; and planning, directing, and evaluating the operations of the Headquarters functions, authorities, and responsibilities in support of the Director. Ms. Eddy's ability to lead change has significantly contributed to the IHS ability to delivery quality health care. For example, through Ms. Eddy's leadership, the IHS grants program has grown and developed significantly. The grants program has gone from being at a branch level to a full division, the grants offered by the IHS have increased significantly, and staff morale and productivity has increased.

Doni L. Wilder, an enrolled member of the Rosebud Sioux tribe, is the IHS Portland Area Director. The Portland Area provides health care for 91,000 American Indians, primarily members of the 43 federally recognized Tribes in Oregon, Washington, and Idaho. Ms. Wilder administers a total health program including prevention, clinical care, and public health activities. An important aspect of her position is consultation with Tribal leaders at local, state, and national levels to promote full participation in carrying out health programs that affect American Indian communities. She keeps Tribes informed of new legislation, policy changes, management actions, and available resources. Ms. Wilder also manages a large Contract Health Service program through which inpatient and specialty care are purchased. The Portland Area also provides funding to three urban health clinics located in Seattle and Spokane, WA, and in Portland, OR, and two youth residential treatment programs. Under Ms. Wilder's leadership, the Portland Area led the way for the IHS in implementing the electronic health record. The electronic health record allows health providers quicker access to an individual record and can allow a provider to see a patient's complete medical history in different facilities, which helps to improve health care for American Indians and Alaska Natives.

NOTE TO EDITORS: To schedule an interview with Ms. Eddy or Ms. Wilder, contact the IHS Public Affairs Office at 301-443-3593. Additional information about the IHS and copies of Ms. Eddy's or Ms. Wilder's biographies are available on the IHS website at <http://www.ihs.gov/PublicAffairs/Bios/Index.cfm>