



P. Benjamin Smith

Director of the Office of Tribal Self-Governance Indian Health Service

P. Benjamin Smith, an enrolled member of the Navajo Nation, is the Director of the Office of Tribal Self-Governance (OTSG) for the Indian Health Service (IHS). The IHS, an agency within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, is the principal federal health care provider and health advocate for American Indians and Alaska Natives.

As the Director of the OTSG, Mr. Smith oversees all aspects of the administration of the Tribal Self-Governance Program authorized by Title V of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act. This includes providing information, technical assistance, and policy coordination in support of IHS tribal self-governance activities. The OTSG advances the positions and interests of self-governance tribes and provides policy analysis and development support to tribal governments and the Director in the evolving area of self-governance and tribal/federal government relationships.

Prior to his federal service, Mr. Smith worked as a self-governance specialist for the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma performing research, advisory services, and consultation on health programs with national, state, and local health departments.

Mr. Smith has received several IHS National Director's Awards for his contributions to the IHS Strategic Plan Update and his work on the Agency Lead Negotiators Curriculum. He has also received numerous IHS Superior Support Service Awards for his involvement on IHS/tribal workgroups and special projects.

In 2003, American University conferred Mr. Smith a Lou Torres Graduate Fellowship to promote American Indian and Alaska Native involvement in international affairs. At the same time, he assisted in building, promoting, and honoring self-sustaining American Indian and Alaska Native communities through educational assistance.

Mr. Smith received his Master of Arts degree in International Peace and Conflict Resolution from American University and a Bachelor of Arts degree from Brigham Young University. He holds post-graduate certificates in Senior Executive Leadership and Business from Georgetown University and a graduate certificate in Epidemiology and Biostatistics from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. He is also one of the Navajo Nation's Chief Manuelito Scholars.