

IHS – ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SPECIALIST OF THE YEAR AWARD 2004

BACKGROUND

Beginning in 1993, the Division of Environmental Health Services has annually recognized an outstanding Environmental Health Specialist for the year. The award criteria have been reviewed and updated periodically, but have remained essentially the same since 1995.

RECIPIENTS TO DATE

2003 - Casey Crump, Bemidji Area, IHS
2002 - Pete Wallis, Tanana Chiefs Corporation
2001 - Molly Patton, Tanana Chiefs Corporation
2000 - Shawn Sorenson, South East Alaska Regional Health Corp.
1999 - Mike Welch, Phoenix Area, IHS
1998 - Diana Kuklinski, Phoenix Area, IHS
1997 - Mark Mattson, Bemidji Area, IHS
1996 - Harold Cully, Oklahoma Area, IHS
1995 - Keith Cook, Navajo Area IHS
1994 - Carol Rollins, Tribal Sanitarian, Ho-Chunk Nation of Wisconsin
1993 - John Sarisky, Navajo Area IHS

ELIGIBILITY

Each IHS Area DEHS Director is requested to nominate one Environmental Health Specialist, presently working in their respective Area, to be recognized as that Area's Environmental Health Specialist of the Year. Commissioned Corps Officers, Civil Service, and Tribal employees serving in IHS funded positions or IHS staff on detail to a Tribal organization are eligible. O-6 Commissioned Officers, GS 13 Civil Service staff, Area DEHS Directors, Area DEHS Deputy Directors, and Headquarters staff are not eligible.

AREA SELECTION PROCESS

Areas may solicit nominees for their Area Environmental Health Specialist of the Year through a process of their choosing. When the nominees are received, the Area DEHS Director will appoint a selection committee to review and score all nominees. The selection committee may consist of as many people as desired, but should contain representation from the field staff and tribes to the extent possible. The Area may use any ranking methodology of their choosing. The enclosed "IHS Environmental Health Specialist of the Year Ranking worksheet" may be used.

NOMINATION PROCESS

Each Area's Environmental Health Specialist of the Year nomination will consist of a narrative addressing their nominee's accomplishments for each of the selection criteria listed below. The format of the narrative should follow the criteria. The narrative will

have the following five sections: 1) introduction, 2) special accomplishments, 3) innovation, 4) professionalism, and 5) summary. The Area nominations will be forwarded to Headquarters by January 31, 2005. Nominations should be written to cover calendar year 2004, be no more than two pages, use 12-point font, and have margins no less than .5 inches. **Nominations not meeting these criteria shall not be considered for the award.** IHS Headquarters Director or her designee will review the nominations to insure they meet the criteria.

NATIONAL SELECTION PROCESS

The Area DEHS Directors will select the national IHS Environmental Health Specialist of the Year using the following methodology. Each Area DEHS Director will be provided a set of Area nominations compiled by Headquarters staff. Area DEHS Directors will rank the nominees in each of the three selection criteria described below, with one being the best rank and twelve being the lowest. If only seven Areas submit nominees, a rank of "one" would be the best rank a nominee could get, and "seven" would be the lowest a nominee could get.

Area DEHS Directors will not rank the nominee from their own Area. The completed score sheets will be sent to Headquarters by February 14, 2005. Headquarters staff will review the Area score sheets. The overall winner will be the nominee with the most votes for the final rank of "one". In the event of a tie, each Area will rank the tied nominees and the scoring process will be repeated.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Special Accomplishments

Credit will be given for superior performance or special accomplishments in the field of environmental health for the calendar year.

Professionalism

Credit will be given for the individual's professionalism, as evidenced by professional registration, mentoring of junior staff/COSTEP's, participation in national or area wide workgroups, and professional presentations.

Innovativeness

Credit will be given for developing innovative approaches that deal with technical, managerial and/or administrative issues. Particular attention should be given for developing approaches that improve tribal participation in program activities and/or build tribal capacity. Credit will be given for demonstration of problem solving abilities and skill in managing multiple projects.

IHS ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SPECIALIST OF THE YEAR	AREA DEHS DIRECTOR SCORE SHEET	AREA:
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Area	Candidate Name	Special Accompl. Rank ₁	Professionalism Rank ₂	Innovativeness Rank ₃	Over-all Rank (No two individuals can have the same final rank)
AB					
AK					
AL					
BE					
BI					
CA					
NS					
NV					
OK					
PH					
PO					
TU					

SPECIAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS Credit will be given for superior performance or special accomplishments in the field of environmental health for the calendar year.

PROFESSIONALISM Credit will be given for the individual's professionalism, as evidenced by professional registration, participation in national or area wide workgroups, mentoring of junior staff, publications/papers, and professional presentations.

INNOVATIVENESS Credit will be given for developing innovative approaches that deal with technical and/or administrative issues. Special credit will be given for developing creative approaches that improve tribal participation in program activities and/or build tribal capacity. Credit will be given for demonstration of problem solving abilities and skill development in managing multiple projects.