



## **Donald W. Lee, M.S. Aberdeen Area Director Indian Health Service**

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Donald W. Lee, M.S., a member of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe and a native of Eagle Butte, South Dakota, began serving as the Area Director for the Aberdeen Area of the Indian Health Service (IHS), an agency in the Department of Health and Human Services, in December 2003. He began his career with the IHS in 1980 with the Human Resources Program in the IHS Aberdeen Area Office. After serving as the Personnel Director, Mr. Lee has held various positions in the Aberdeen Area, including Chief Executive Officer for the Fort Thompson Comprehensive Healthcare Facility, Fort Thompson, S.D.; the Lower Brule Ambulatory Care Facility in Lower Brule, S.D.; and the IHS Omaha/Winnebago Hospital in Winnebago, Neb.; and the IHS Eagle Butte Hospital in Eagle Butte, S.D. His successful management skills were recognized by Aberdeen Area leadership and over a two-year period he was detailed to manage programs until new Chief Executive Officers were recruited.

As Area Director for the Aberdeen Area, Mr. Lee has administrative responsibility for eight hospitals, seven health centers, and several health stations and clinics over a four-state area. He manages a varied health program for more than 113,000 American Indian people eligible for IHS services. The Aberdeen Area IHS serves 17 Tribes and supports two urban Indian health programs; one located in Pierre, S.D., and the other in Omaha, Neb. The Aberdeen Area employs more than 1,500 employees and has an annual operating budget of more than \$200 million.

Mr. Lee oversees a unique Indian health system composed of direct health services provided by the IHS or the Tribes that have assumed partial or full responsibility for their own health care programs through contractual arrangements with the IHS Aberdeen Area.

Mr. Lee earned a bachelors of science degree in business administration from the Northern State College, Aberdeen, S.D., and a masters degree in selected studies from the University of South Dakota, Vermillion, S.D. Mr. Lee received Excellent and Outstanding Work Performance ratings throughout his IHS career and was selected Chief Executive Officer of the Year for 1999.