Indian Health Service
PRESS RELEASE

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Employees Honored at
National IHS Director's Awards Ceremony

On November 6, the annual Indian Health Service (IHS) National Director's Awards Ceremony was held in Rockville, Maryland. Individually and as members of teams, 1,391 IHS employees were recognized for their contributions to the improved health and well-being of American Indians and Alaska Natives.

"Each of the people who receive an award today serve as models not only to those of us whose fortune it is to know and work alongside them, but also to the next generation that is considering committing their time and energy to public service," said Dr. Charles Grim, Director of the IHS. "It is through the excellent work of individuals and teams that the Indian Health Service gets its strength and becomes the best that it can be."

It was a full day of recognition and honoring events. That morning the Surgeon General, Dr. Richard Carmona, visited IHS Headquarters and presented to Dr. Grim the Meritorious Service Medal for his leadership and achievements as Director of the IHS Oklahoma City Area from 1999 to 2002.

The keynote speaker at the formal afternoon ceremony was Dr. Emery Johnson, the 4th Director of the IHS. Evelyn White, Principle Deputy Assistant Secretary in the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Administration and Management, represented the Department of Health and Human Services.

The Luana L. Reyes Leadership Award was also presented at the ceremony to Shirl Eastep, a program analyst with the IHS Oklahoma City Area office, who, through her exceptional work with the agency, has exemplified those leadership skills and vision that are associated with the departed Luana L. Reyes, former Director of Headquarters Operation, IHS, and renowned Indian leader.

(A copy of the Awards Program listing the recipients and providing information about their awards is available from the Press Release index page.)