

IDAHO RURAL HEALTH HEROES



P.O. Box 2012
Eagle Idaho 83616
www.idahorha.org
idahorha@gmail.com



CROSS-CULTURAL AWAKENINGS

**Event & Awards Reception
November 16, 2023**



AGENDA - 5:30-9:30 PM

- 5:30 – 6:00 - Check-in, Mingle, and Chat**
- 6:00 - 6:05 - Traditional Blessing - Roland Marshall**
- 6:05 - 6:30 - Dinner and Conversation**
- 6:30 - 6:40 - Idaho Rural Health Association Welcome -**
Dr. Melody Weaver, Current Past President IRHA, ISU School of Nursing
- 6:40 - 6:50 - Shoshone Bannock Tribes Welcome – Donna Thompson - Vice Chairwoman, Fort Hall Business Council**
- 6:50 - 6:55 - Commitment Statement - Dr. Keith Davis,**
President, Idaho Rural Health Association
- 7:00 - 7:30 - Keynote Address - Joseph Chacon, BA, MPH**
Candidate, Idaho AHEC, and Shoshone Bannock Tribal Member
- 7:30 - 8:15 - Dancing and Drumming – Kara Tsosie, the ShoBan Dance Troupe & Ghost Canyon Drummers**
- 8:15 - 8:25 - Introduction to Awards – Dr. Laticia Herkshan,**
Indigenous STEM Research and Education Scholar, Outreach and Advising Support, Department of Geosciences, Idaho State University
- 8:25 - 9:05 - Rural Health Hero Awards**
Dr. Melody Weaver and Joseph Chacon
- 9:05 - 9:15 - Closing**

Thank you!

The Idaho Rural Health Association sincerely appreciates the support of our Sponsors in making this event possible and honoring our 2023 Idaho rural health heroes!



**Idaho State
University**

**College of Health
Kasiska Division of Health Sciences
School of Nursing
Department of Community and Public Health
Community Health Worker Program**



IDAHO STATE UNIVERSITY'S
LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT



Acknowledging Native lands is an important way to honor and respect Indigenous peoples and their traditional territories. The land on which Idaho State University's Pocatello campus sits is within the original Fort Hall Reservation boundaries and is the traditional and ancestral home of the Shoshone and Bannock peoples. We acknowledge the Fort Hall Shoshone and Bannock peoples, their elders past and present, their future generations, and all Indigenous peoples, including those upon whose land the University is located. We offer gratitude for the land itself and the original caretakers of it.

SHIRLEY ALVAREZ
Social Justice and Health Equity



◆———— Nominee ———◆

Ms. Alvarez is a Shoshone-Bannock Tribal citizen and serves as the CEO of the Not-tsoo Gah-nee Indian Health Service unit in Fort Hall, Idaho.

She works tirelessly within the community to ensure that there is equitable distribution of health services for citizens of federally recognized Tribes and Alaska Natives. She approaches her job with compassion, kindness, and great love for her peoples and community. On top of this, she is an active community member who engages regularly in traditional, ceremonial, and social events.

JOHN HATZENBUEHLER
Social Justice and Health Equity



◆————— Nominee —————◆

A graduate of Idaho WWAMI Medical Education, Dr. Hatzenbuehler is a site director for Idaho WWAMI's TRUST and WRITE programs in Hailey, Idaho. These programs pair students with a rural or underserved community for early exposure to rural family medicine.

Because students trained in rural areas are almost twice as likely to practice in rural environments, TRUST and WRITE are critical to addressing the shortage of rural practitioners in Idaho. Outside of the hospital, Dr. Hatzenbuehler is very involved in the community and volunteers as the team physician for Wood River High School.

HAILEY MARTINEZ
ONE Health - Interconnectedness



◆————— Nominee —————◆

Dr. Martinez is a powerful contributor to the health and well-being of people from rural Idaho. Her dedication to ONE Health is truly remarkable. She provides equine (horse) therapy through guided therapeutic interactions with horses to people of all ages and backgrounds.

She challenges individuals and groups to connect with each other and themselves via the outdoors. Her nature-based eco-therapy examines the relationship between people and their environments.

COLDEN BAXTER
ONE Health - Interconnectedness



◆————— Nominee —————◆

Dr. Baxter is a Professor of Biology at ISU specializing in the science and health of our freshwater streams and rivers - their food webs, water quality, and ecosystem health.

He has diligently and cheerfully led many investigations of stream science in Idaho with our young people including many tribal members. His work with the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes exemplifies a partnership of mutual learning and respect. It contributes to a foundation of knowledge that allows people to develop their spiritual and physical connection to nature on their journey toward well-being.

ELAINE HIGGINSON
Social Justice and Health Equity



◆————— Nominee —————◆

Ms. Higginson is the Materials Manager at Lost Rivers Medical Center (LRMC) in Arco, Idaho. She represents one of the many behind-the-scenes jobs in healthcare that are rarely recognized.

In early 2022 there was a 100% gap in both Butte and Custer counties for daycare services and many of LRMC employees have struggled to find reliable help to watch their children when they went to work. Ms. Higginson obtained a grant to fund the development of a LRMC employee daycare. Over the last year and a half, LRMC has engaged in construction of a brand new daycare building set to open in November of 2023 thanks to the funding she secured.

CARMEN HOUSE
Social Justice and Health Equity



◆————— Nominee —————◆

Ms. House is a clinical assistant professor at Idaho State University's Speech Language Pathology program. She is also the clinical director at the Meridian Health Science Center.

On top of being an extremely approachable faculty member, she spends time on the weekends providing support for the elderly in remote communities who have suffered strokes or have memory issues. She goes out of her way to make sure people in remote areas receive care, and that they also have a consistent friend during their struggles.

JESSICA MATSAW
Outreach to Tribal Nations



◆————— Nominee —————◆

Through her studies analyzing violence and intergenerational trauma, Ms. Matsaw has found her calling to work with tribal youth, assisting and guiding in physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual health and well-being. Educational systems are presently and historically been spaces of violence towards Indigenous peoples.

Jessica combats educational systems of exclusion and cultural erasures by focusing on culturally centered, equitable learning spaces of engagement. Jessica's ambitions as an educator are to celebrate Indigenous ingenuity, intellect and inquiry.

ROLAND MARSHALL
Outreach to Tribal Nations



◆———— Nominee ————◆

Mr. Marshall, Shoshone-Bannock tribal member, is a volunteer Zumba Fitness instructor in Fort Hall, Idaho. He offers weekly classes for FREE to all community members at the Timbee Hall Gymnasium. Roland is a Veteran who served in the United States Marine Corp and is a past Fort Hall Business Council member.

He uses traditional medicines (peyote meetings, sweat lodges and sundances) and modern medicines. He enjoys singing with the Ghost Canyon Drum Group and attending powwows with his family. He is an impressive athlete, leader, and practices traditional ways of life.

AARON HOUSTON
Social Justice and Health Equity



◆———— Nominee ————◆

Aaron Houston is the CEO of Family Health Services, which operates multiple clinics in rural areas of south-central Idaho. Mr. Houston is responsible for the successful expansion of many of these clinics, which shows his remarkable dedication to social justice and health equity. He advocates for culturally competent and patient-centered healthcare, and his efforts have left an indelible mark.

Whether one lives in Bellevue, Buhl, Kimberly, Fairfield, Jerome or Rupert, Shoshone, some of the smallest communities in this area, one can find a clinic. Mr. Houston embodies what it means to promote universal healthcare access.

HOLLY KARTCHNER
Social Justice and Health Equity



◆————— Nominee —————◆

Ms. Kartchner's unwavering dedication and exceptional contributions to rural health equity through her role as Director of Outreach and Retention at Idaho State University College of Arts and Letters is truly commendable.

One of the most remarkable accomplishments under Ms. Kartchner's leadership is her work with the INCLUDE Project. This initiative has been instrumental in creating opportunities and positive outcomes for rural Idaho high school students, particularly in the areas of higher education and telemental health services. The INCLUDE Program is currently operational in 28 rural Idaho high schools

REX FORCE
Outreach to Tribal Nations



◆————— Nominee —————◆

Dr. Force has been with Idaho State University since 1993. During his time serving ISU he has risen through the ranks supporting programs that serve the communities near all ISU campuses.

Of importance to this nomination is his role in developing a Memorandum of Agreement as a member of the Tribal University Advisory Board, serving initially on the board as Co-Chair. Rex continues to serve on this board, TUAB, working to ensure the university's relationship with the Shosone-Bannock Tribes is one of respect and equity.

R. KIM HARTWIG

Cross-Cultural Health and Healing Outreach to Tribal Nations



◆————— Nominee —————◆

Dr. Hartwig is an Idaho WWAMI alumni who is serving the community that raised her as Medical Director of Nimiipuu Health in Lapwai, Idaho. A graduate of Lapwai High School, she is recognized as the Nez Perce Tribe's first female physician. She knew she wanted to be a doctor by the age of 13, and she chose family medicine so that she could someday return to take care of the Nimiipuu people.

She made good on that promise and since 2019 has been responsible for medical policy, medical leadership in improving performance, direct patient care, and treatments, and services for Nimiipuu Health's Native patient population.

HEATHER KEMP

Social Justice and Health Equity



◆————— Nominee —————◆

Ms. Kemp has been a contributor to social justice and health equity in southeastern Idaho since 1997. Her journey started with directing family support services at the YWCA (now known as Family Services Alliance of Southeast Idaho).

She has cared for the well-being of children and adults in some of the most remote places of the state through her Program Directorship of the Family Resource Center at Bannock Youth Foundation. She held this position for more than 21 years. There, she ensured the health and safety of children and their families by promoting nurturing parenting education and the Baby Steps program.

JOSEPH KRAKKER
Social Justice and Health Equity



◆————— Nominee —————◆

Since 2017, Dr. Krakker has proven to be a valuable preceptor for the Idaho WWAMI Medical Education's Rural and Underserved Opportunities Program in remote Salmon, Idaho.

Steele Memorial Health Center is the most rural critical access hospital in the lower 48 states, so the opportunity for Idaho WWAMI medical students to gain skills in this demanding setting is invaluable to their education and future careers as physicians. Not only is he a full spectrum rural family medicine physician, but he doubles as an enthusiastic, compassionate and talented teacher for to students.

LARRY MURILLO
Cross-Cultural Health and Healing



◆————— Nominee —————◆

Dr. Murillo has spent 30 years working in Native American communities with medically trained health professionals and those that provide cultural health practices for various communities.

He recently founded Tribal Illumine, LLC, an organization focused on "understanding American Indian cultural health practices and how they relate to the modern health care system. What can these practices teach the mainstream about the spiritual, internal and natural approaches to health care."

ISU COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER TRAINING ACADEMY
Cross-Cultural Health and Healing



◆————— Nominee —————◆

The Idaho State University Community Health Worker (CHW) Training Academy is partnered with the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board (NPAIHB) to offer core training to those interested in becoming a Community Health Representative. The CHW/CHR Core Course training offers culturally specific pathways and various education settings specially designed for Indigenous students.

CHWs mentor and empower citizens, communities, and healthcare systems to achieve positive outcomes and to reach optimal levels of wellness for everyone.

MARY NIES
Social Justice and Health Equity



◆————— Nominee —————◆

For the past 29 years, Dr. Nies has researched health equity for underrepresented populations. In recent years, her research focused on refugee populations, but she has also researched Latino, African-American, and European-American women, seniors, children, and veterans, all in rural communities.

Her research topics include cardiovascular health, physical fitness, nutrition, sleep, aging, health promotion, and health literacy. For her entire nursing career, Dr. Nies has focused on promoting healthy living. Throughout these years, her research goal has remained to achieve health equity for all individuals.

MICHAEL PACKER
Social Justice and Health Equity



◆————— Nominee —————◆

Dr. Packer is a true “cradle to grave” physician who practices in Rexburg, Idaho - his hometown, where he has worked since the early 1990s. He is a graduate of the Idaho WWAMI Medical Education program.

He continues to welcome 1st-year Idaho WWAMI medical students into his clinic and provides them with hands-on family medicine training through a month-long program, known as the Rural and Underserved Opportunities Program (RUOP, “roo-op”). It was this same program that Dr. Packer participated in as a medical student himself that influenced his decision to go into family medicine.

HELEN CATHLEEN TARP
Social Justice and Health Equity



◆————— Nominee —————◆

Dr. Tarp has worked tirelessly throughout her career to improve health access to underserved communities. She was a founding member of the Idaho State University Physician Assistant humanitarian mission to the Dominican Republic in 2014.

She founded the first undergraduate degree in the country in Spanish for the Health Professions and a graduate certificate in Spanish for the Health Professions. She tirelessly mentors first-generation students who are pursuing credentials in medical Spanish, so they can give back to their communities. She is the workhorse behind many great projects that have improved access to care for rural Idahoans.