



American Indian Health Commission for Washington State

“Improving Indian Health through Tribal-State Collaboration”

American Indian Health Commission receives 2018 Collaborator Award from the Immunization Action Coalition of Washington



The American Indian Health Commission ([AIHC](#)) is the recipient of the 2018 Collaborator Award from the Immunizations Action Coalition of Washington. The AIHC is one of Washington’s vital community partners in advancing immunizations and has impacted their community through collaboration to help promote, educate and increase immunization levels. The Collaborator Award was presented to AIHC by Dr. Neil Kaneshiro, Chair of the [Immunization Action Coalition of Washington](#) and a practicing pediatrician at Woodinville Pediatrics. Jan Ward Olmstead, who has lead the AIHC’s immunization work since 2012, accepted the award on behalf of the Commission.



Dr. Paul Throne, Washington State Department of Health, nominated AIHC for its passionate advocacy for tribal health and for recognizing the role that immunization plays in ensuring healthy tribal and urban Indian communities. AIHC was acknowledged as an important partner within the state in addressing disparities in tribal health through immunizations. Over the past several years, AIHC’s work has resulted in significant immunization improvements; AIHC helped in increasing provider vaccine rates in the flu vaccine and Tdap by helping to encourage nearly 600 childcare providers to complete an immunization training, which resulted in a 16% increase in those providers planning to get a flu vaccine and over 32% of providers planning to get their Tdap vaccine.

AIHC was recognized for its insight, perspective and unique approach to promoting immunizations among tribal and urban Indian health clinics, providers, employees and members: a component critical to advancing the interests of Washington state in effective community immunity. AIHC uses tribally-driven and culturally-appropriate processes to uncover the best way to promote immunization messages.



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AIHC was honored for its leadership, collaboration, innovation and advocacy in Washington. AIHC has been active in immunizations work for many years, its projects include: the [2013 Tribal Health Immunization Assessment and Report](#) based on tribal/ urban Indian healthcare worker immunization knowledge, attitudes, and practices which prompted efforts to develop model health care worker policies; its work on the state HPV project that resulted in a unique perspective that was used to inform the CDC of tribal/urban Indian health needs in WA that proved relative to the general population that teen boys needed to be a main focus of HPV education and vaccination efforts; and for convening the first [Tribal/Urban Indian Health Immunization Coalition](#).

AIHC is truly a critical link between the state and the tribes/urban Indian health programs through groundbreaking immunization work that has been shared and recognized nationally!

For additional information about the AIHC’s Immunizations work or the Tribal/Urban Indian Health Collection, contact: AIHC.General.Delivery@outlook.com

May 17, 2017