



NAVAJO HEAD START

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 8, 2015

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Singer Elected to National Indian Head Start Directors Association

Singer making national impact

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. — Sharon H. Singer, the assistant superintendent of the Navajo Division of Diné Education, was elected to the National Indian Head Start Directors Association (NIHSDA) where she will play a pivotal role in preserving the identity of American Indian and Alaska Native (AIAN) children and families.

Singer, who runs Navajo Head Start (NHS), was elected as the alternate for Region 6, which is the Arizona region, and serves as the primary substitute for Region 6 representative Bill Rosenberg.

The association serves as the nation's leading voice for AIAN programs. Founded in 1979, the association has made strides in providing quality services to all AIAN children and their families.

NIHSDA is predominantly motivated to provide advocacy, leadership, development and professional growth opportunities to AIAN children and families, while preserving and respecting tribal identity.

Along with joining the NIHSDA, Singer leads fundamental roles in both head start and early head start programs. Singer also serves on the national work group for child advocacy. Singer will use her past experience from NHS to help make improvements and be a key contributor during her time with NIHSDA.

The election of Singer to the NIHSDA is well deserved.

In her time with NHS, Singer played a very important role in rehabilitating the Head Start program and helping it get to where it currently is. Much of the recent success of NHS is due to the hard work of Singer, who fought hard to keep the head start program for the Navajo Nation in strict compliance to the mandates of a 2014 federal review and to regain funding to make further improvements.

Through involvement with other organizations dedicated to improving the lives of children, Singer gained the experience needed to make real changes for programs providing services to families.

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She plans to meet with the Institutional Review Board (IRB) of North Colorado to do studies to improve early childhood services in Indian Country. This will help Singer bring more improvements to NHS to benefit the children that learn from the programs offered by head start.

Singer's involvement in multiple organizations devoted to the early development of children shows her determination and dedication to help children who are in the most need of the various services provided by these organizations.

NIHSDA has recently revised their mission and values, as well as created a strategic plan to move forward into the next 24 months of operation. Singer's involvement with the NIHSDA benefits NHS, the two organizations share similar goals and values.

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Navajo Head Start is the largest federally-funded grant program in the country. Head Start and Early Head Start services are provided within the geographical area of the Navajo Nation, an area approximately the size of West Virginia that spans more than 27,000-square-miles across the states of Arizona, New Mexico and Utah. The Central Administration offices are located in Window Rock, AZ, capital of the Navajo Nation.