

## **DINAP PARTNERSHIP AWARDS – PROGRAM YEAR 2017**

This is a special time for the DINAP and our team of Federal Project Officers (FPO). It's an opportunity for us to recognize the accomplishments of grantees. Although technology is a great tool, it will never replace the face-to-face interaction of those we work with. There was a time in the history of our program that we were able to bring all the FPOs to these conferences to meet with grantees and have one-on-one sessions, but decreases in resources and restrictions on travel now prevent that.

The Partnership Breakfast originated in 1995 and although the format has somewhat changed, the awards by DINAP are an important part of these conferences. We recognize and give credit for the services provided by these programs by sharing our experiences and accomplishments. Through these award, we hope that we are motivating and educating people that may not understand our work, our communities, our clients, and our culture. Most of us are in this line of work because we care about our communities, and people.

### **1. American Indian Community Center Spokane, WA- Nominated by Guy Suetopka, DINAP FPO**

The American Indian Community Center (AICC) of Spokane, Washington serves eastern Washington and the Indian communities in Northern Idaho for over 50 years. The AICC is a consistent performer, identifying, accessing, and leveraging resources locally and regionally for the benefit of their employment and training clientele, and all individuals seeking assistance.

Their on-going success is through the support of the organization's governing body, the Center's Executive, and the experience and skill of their employees, and their continued ability to leverage both internal and local resources. Their program has maintained a level of performance that meets the required standards with full expenditure of funds by the end of each program each year. The Center is active with the Spokane County One Stop and the Eastern Washington Workforce Development Board and are currently re-negotiating the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). They maintain a close working relationship with the Coeur d'Alene, Spokane, Colville, Kalispel and Kootenai Tribes.

Ms. Linda Lauch, with the support of Mr. Francis Devereaux, Executive Director is actively involved with the West Region planning committee and the AICC co-hosted the 2017 West Region Conference in Spokane, Washington. DINAP also relies on Linda's expertise and knowledge and frequently calls on her to assist new grantees.

The Center also receives funding from the State of Washington for the Indian Child Welfare Program, and the United Way along with fee-for-service contracts and donations/grants from tribes and foundations and utilizes many other leveraged resources include Department of Veterans Affairs, Spokane Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation Program, Department of Early Learning, United Way, Spokane Tribal TANF, to name just a few.

### **2. Council of Three Rivers American Indian Center, Inc., Pittsburgh, PA- Nominated by Maria Mendoza, DINAP FPO**

The Council of Three Rivers American Indian Center, Inc., (CTRAICI) was incorporated in 1972. They grew from a grass roots group of Indian families to a multimillion dollar non-profit headquartered on 23 acres of land in Dorseyville, Pennsylvania. They provide a cultural connection to the American Indian community while also providing employment, training and other social services. The Center is open to Indian and non-Indian people alike with programs available to serve both. In 1976, the Center received a CETA grant from the Department of Labor to operate an employment and training program and 40 years later, they are still providing quality employment and training services to the communities. Their service area has expanded over the years and they now serve all of Pennsylvania, Kentucky, Maryland, West Virginia and the District of Columbia. Last year, the Council of Three Rivers served 311 participants and of the 311 participants served, 156 exited the program. Of the participants that exited the program 141 (91%) obtained employment and of the 141 that obtained employment, 133 (95%) retained their employment and had an average annual earnings of \$27,936.00.

The Executive Director (Kerry Jevsevar), not only operates an excellent employment and training program, he also provides financial training at our multi-regional and national conferences, and this past year, Kerry was one of a handful of grant recipients (from all DOL grantees, not just the Native American program) that served as a subject matter expert for the Department in testing and providing feedback on the revised on-line financial reports. It is my honor and privilege to present this grantee award to the Council of Three Rivers.

### **3. Cheyenne Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma, Concho, OK- Nominated by Jennifer Whitmore, DINAP FPO**

The Cheyenne Arapahoe Tribe of Oklahoma administers four programs: the WIOA Comprehensive Services Adult program and the Supplemental Youth Services programs, the Tribal Employment Rights Program, the Health and Human Services' Native Employment Works Program and the Bureau of Indian Affairs Job Placement Program. In addition to their high performance and low cost per participant, the Director is a member of the regional planning committee and participates in the State and local board meetings, representing the tribe. In addition, the Cheyenne Arapaho's program employees has served as a great resource in troubleshooting Beartracks and reporting errors. Finally, Ernie Pahmahanie serves on the Native American Employment and Training Council to the Secretary of Labor.

### **4. United Tribes Technical College (UTTC), Bismarck, ND- Nominated by Craig Lewis, DINAP FPO**

For the last Program Year (2016), the UTTC had an average cost per participant of \$1,377. Under the OMB performance indicators and DOL's performance standards, UTTC had Entered Employment Rate of 100%, a Retention Rate of 99%, and an Average Earnings of \$11,579, exceeding the goals set forth by the Department of Labor. UTTC is very successful at leveraging resources and has been the recipient of numerous grant awards throughout the years including \$18,947,000 through the DOL Employment and Training Administration: "DeMaND" (2011) Initiative/Competitive grant. UTTC served as the administrative entity for a consortium of tribal

colleges that addressed critical workforce shortages in the area while providing training for communities with high unemployment and poverty.

### **Special Recognition**

There is one more person that I would like recognize and thank for his efforts in helping our grantees – that is Terry Clark. He also works behind the scenes and helps ensure that our computer labs are set up, the shipments of computers are complete, the points of contacts are established, computers arrive in one piece, are tested to make sure they work, and when all is done, he packs everything up and makes sure that all is secured and mailed. He has done this for every conference, and DINAP wants to acknowledge him and to let Terry know that we appreciate him and the work that he does for all of us.

### **DINAP CHIEF’S AWARD**

Today especially, I'd like to honor someone that has contributed a lot of time and effort throughout the years in helping our section 166 grantees for as long as I can remember, but would venture to say over 30 years! He quietly goes about his work—but his actions are significant -- “read me, understand me, and use me!” He knows and understands the value of data, he can run tables, perform analytic equations and he is the master commander of all things data driven, but yet modest and humble. In this world that we live in, where everything seems to be so data driven, and focused on performance, his knowledge and understanding of our program is invaluable. He understands that data is only a part of the picture. He is often a phone call away when DINAP needs help and is always responsive. We respect him for his knowledge of our programs and he is what I refer to as the “seeker” of wisdom, of truth, and of the secrets and stories that our programs “show and tell” by their performance. The person that I would like to recognize today with the Chief’s Award is Ron DiAmico—the performance wizard! Ron is retiring and we will miss him, but hope that we can still keep in contact. Thank you Ron.